

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

CMST 4 - Small Group Communication

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is the study of theory and research findings and their application to communication in small group contexts. It emphasizes group discussion for problem solving, leadership, listening, information gathering, analysis and public speaking. This class is designed to be experiential and exposes students to small group communication theory and public speaking fundamentals within the context of their own small group interactions, activities and presentations in classroom settings and real-world environments. (C-ID COMM 140).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Use creative and critical thinking techniques to effectively solve problems.
- B. Demonstrate understanding of conflict management.
- C. Recognize and develop communication competencies that contribute to effective leadership and followership.
- D. Organize a variety of public presentations.
- E. Conduct research and analysis to formulate effective small group presentations in public settings.
- F. Demonstrate appropriate verbal and nonverbal delivery including the use of presentational aids.
- G. Demonstrate effective listening.
- H. Analyze and adapt group presentations to the communication situation, audience, occasion and purpose.
- I. Practice ethical and mindful communication.
- J. Identify, describe and apply appropriate small group theory and concepts used in group interactions.
- K. Present their views with persuasive force.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Course Overview/Communication Competence	3.00
2. Importance of Small Group Communication	3.00
3. Small Group Development	3.00
4. Providing and Receiving Feedback for Content and Form	3.00
5. Organizing, Evaluating, and Reporting Information Orally and in Writing	6.00
6. Effective Listening	3.00
7. Communication and Leadership	3.00
8. Problem-solving	3.00
9. Decision Making	3.00
10. Persuasion	3.00

11. Conflict Management	6.00
12. Oral Group Presentations	12.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussions
- C. Guest Speakers
- D. Collaborative Group Work
- E. Class Activities
- F. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- G. Demonstrations
- H. Problem-Solving Sessions
- I. Reading Assignments
- J. Multimedia Presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Research Projects
- D. Oral Presentation
- E. Homework
- F. Group Participation
- G. Written Assignments
- H. Class Discussion

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 1. Read the textbook chapter on Communication Competence in Groups and be prepared to discuss communication myths, communication defined, and achieving effective competence in communication group situations.
 2. Read and analyze "hard copies" or online versions of at least 3 brochures and pamphlets from local non-profit organizations. Bring to class examples of the mission statements and vision statements you found most appealing. Be prepared to work in your small groups to define your group's mission and vision.
- B. Writing Assignments
 1. Each student will prepare a report based on research presented in a scholarly journal. Using the Butte College online databases, locate and read a study that is relevant to the material being covered in class. After reading the study, each student will prepare a 3-4 page report that should be approximately evenly divided into the following sections: a summary of the study, a section relating the study to class material, and a section relating the study to personal small group experience. Cite and reference the journal article using current APA guidelines.
 2. View and analyze a full-length, feature film that relates to some aspect of small group communication. Based on your analysis, write a 3-4 page paper that should: 1. Summarize the film. Give a brief overview of the setting, the plot, and any other relevant information necessary to describe the context for understanding the small group communication dynamics in the film. 2. Relate the film to class and textbook material. Does the film confirm or contradict information from our text? Discuss at least three (3) specific small group communication concepts from our text and relate them to the film. Be sure to

directly connect specific examples from the film with the concepts from the text. 3. Provide an overall assessment of the film. Argue whether the film portrays positive or negative representations of small groups. Cite and reference all work using current APA guidelines.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. The purpose of this assignment is to create a group identity and help you get acquainted with the members of your semester-long small group. The assignment requires your group to meet socially outside of class for at least an hour. Your group will also need to decide on a name for your group, a logo, and plan a presentation explaining your name, logo and social activity to the class. Groups should also explain some of the differences and similarities among group members. Groups also need to explain how groups can be helpful in engaging in civic engagement and civil discourse. Group members will receive a group grade for this assignment.
2. Each student will attend a real-world small group meeting such such as a city council meeting, and prepare a brief 2-3 page analysis paper of the group dynamics using small group concepts discussed in class and in the text book. Cite and reference all work using current APA guidelines. Be prepared to discuss your findings in class.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Dan Rothwell. In Mixed Company. 8th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage, 2010.
- B. Adams, K., & Galanes, G. J. . Communication in groups. 8th Edition. McGraw Hill, 2012.

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