

Group Processes

SPCM 374-01 | T/Th. 1-2:15 p.m. | Freeman 01A

Office Location: Life Hall 231C

Office Hours: 1-2:30 M; 2:30-4 T/Th; 3-4:30 W; and by appointment

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Course Description: Small Group Communication is an introductory course designed to expose students to the basic principles and theories involved in small group communication. The practice of small group communication requires skills in a variety of areas including: leadership, conflict management, decision-making, and planning. Small Group Communication also familiarizes students with the interpersonal and public communication skills that are essential to effective group communication.

Objectives

- To learn about basic theories and principles of group communication.
- To learn skills in decision making, conflict negotiation, leadership, and planning.
- To learn to critically diagnose flawed group activity and implement corrective practices/procedures.
- To learn to critically evaluate the performance of group members including one’s self.
- To learn how to conduct effective group presentations and meetings.

Academic Dishonesty: The University is an academic community of scholars. Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense against the integrity of this community and will not be tolerated. All academic work submitted by you is assumed to be your own original work and to contain your own thought, research, and self-expression. Work that borrows the ideas, organization, or wording, from others must be properly acknowledged.

Plagiarism is the unauthorized or inappropriate use of the words or ideas of others. Plagiarism occurs when written or spoken material is borrowed (even from oneself), in whole or in part, and passed off as original by a writer or speaker. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, presenting someone else’s speech, presentation, essay, or news release as original. It also includes failing to document the source of word-for-word or paraphrased material in oral presentations or papers.

It is my policy to pursue plagiarism vigorously, to fail students who plagiarize, and to report cases of plagiarism to the university administration.

Texts/Readings (Required)

- **Rothwell, J. Dan** (2001). In Mixed Company: Small Group Communication [4th edition]. New York: Harcourt College Publishers. **ISBN:** 0-15-507000-2

Participation & Attendance

Active participation and regular attendance go hand-in-hand. Attendance is more than just having warm bodies in the classroom. Attendance must be coupled with active participation if you are to maximize your educational experience. Regular attendance is expected in all classes for a variety of reasons including professionalism, information gathering, demonstration of educational commitment, learning by example, participation in discussions, providing a supportive atmosphere for peers, learning how theories and ideas interrelate, and for keeping up-to-date with classroom policies and procedures. See the “Professionalism/Grades/Attendance Policy” handout for more information.

Professionalism Policy

Since you are in college to become professionals, I like to foster an attitude of professionalism in my classroom. Missing class(es), not participating in classroom discussion, turning assignments in late, reading the newspaper, sleeping, and holding side-conversations during lectures, presentations, or speeches are examples of unprofessional behavior. See the “Professionalism/Grades/Attendance Policy” handout for more information.

- **Please come to class prepared to participate and contribute to class, and please submit all work in a professional “final-draft-looking” form.**
- **Note Carefully:** “draft,” dot-matrix-printed, or typed documents will not be accepted for grades.
- **Late assignments will be discounted 10% per calendar day.**

For “perfect” attendance (including being on time for each class) you will gain an additional 3% on your final grade. No exceptions to bonus will be made for any reason.

Assignments†	Points
Presentation I Historical (P/NP)	150
Presentation II Informative	250
Presentation III Fact/Value/Policy	350
Group Process Analysis Paper	200
Three Exams (150 each)	450
Total	1,400

† **NB:** All group presentation grades are group grades.