



WACO, TEXAS

DISCUSSION AND SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION
SPCH 2333
COURSE SYLLABUS

REVISED: 09/10

DISCUSSION AND SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

SPCH 2333

Course Description:

Introduces discussion and small group theories/techniques, emphasizing leadership and participation in routine professional meetings, business conferences, and community groups. Includes units on problem-solving agendas, interpersonal communication, and small group presentational styles. Semester Hours 3 (3 lecture)

Required Text & Material:

To access updated information on textbooks, please visit www.bkstr.com

Course Objectives:

Overview and Purpose of the Course

This course is designed to provide an overview of communication processes involved in small group interactions. We will focus on theoretical and practical applications of group dynamics, decision-making, and problem solving. We'll spend half of our time discussing material from the text and outside sources and the other half applying it.

Learning Objectives

Course Goals and Objectives

The primary goal is to develop competencies for current and future group communication experiences through (1) exposure to theory, (2) engaging group processes, and (3) identifying and evaluating behaviors that facilitate and/or impede group processes.

To Understand: We will learn about communication in groups by:

- *Studying* group and team communication theory, and
- *Informing* ourselves about research findings in group communication

To Apply: We will build our understanding by:

- *Relating* group communication processes to the real-world contexts in which they occur,
- and *Applying* our understandings to events and situations in our own lives

To Practice: We will personalize and enrich our understandings through activities and opportunities to make what we learn more concrete by:

- *Experiencing* the enactment and outcomes of using the concepts we are studying through participation in project groups,
- *Reflecting* on our experiences in the group process
- and *Evaluating* group processes and outcomes

Course Outline:

Course Topics/Units

The following topics and units may be covered during the semester:

- Defining small group communication
- Why we join groups
- Ethics and groups
- Characteristics of small groups
- Types of small groups
- Communication in small groups
- Norms
- Roles
- Cohesiveness
- Groupthink
- Phases of group development
- Diversity in groups
- Verbal and nonverbal communication
- Listening and feedback' group0 evolution
- Decision-making and problem-solving
- Presentation in groups
- Conflict management
- Leadership
- Computer mediated group communication

Major Assignments/Exams/Presentations

Specific assignments will vary for each instructor. However, you may expect the following types of assignments and activities.

- Various small groups activities, including problem-solving groups
- Case studies
- Team presentations

- Conflict management activities
- Conducting and participating in meetings, including virtual meetings
- Exams

MCC Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades. In the case of online and hybrid courses, attendance will be determined in terms of participation, as described in the course syllabus.

Absence from 25 percent of scheduled lecture and/or laboratory meetings will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course, and the student will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. The instructor may reinstate the student if satisfied that the student will resume regular attendance and will complete the course. If the student's 25 percent absences are reached after the official drop date, the instructor may assign a W, if the student is passing and requests to be withdrawn. However, if a student who is not passing reaches the 25 percent point after the official drop date, the student will receive an F. In extenuating circumstances, the instructor may assign a W to a student who is not passing.

Each absence will count toward attendance requirements in each course.

Students will be permitted to make up class work and assignments missed due to absences caused by (1) authorized participation in official College functions, (2) personal illness, (3) an illness or a death in the immediate family, or (4) the observance of a religious holy day. Also, the instructor has the prerogative of determining whether a student may make up work missed due to absences for other reasons. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of the reason for an absence and to do so in a timely fashion.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

McLennan Community College shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities including examinations for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students are required to file a written request with each instructor for an excused absence. A student whose absence is excused for this observance may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the

student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under the Texas Tax Code. McLennan Community College may not excuse absences for religious holy days which may interfere with patient care.

Note: Students interested in seeing the class attendance policy in its entirety should check the Highlander Guide or the MCC policy manual.

ADA Statement:

In accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the regulations published by the United States Department of Justice 28 C.F.R. 35.107(a), MCC's designated ADA co-coordinators, Mr. Gene Gooch - Vice President, Finance and Administration, and Dr. Santos Martinez - Vice President, Student Services, shall be responsible for coordinating the College's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under ADA. Students with disabilities requiring physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact Mr. Marcus Sweatt, Disabilities Specialist, at 299-8122 or msweatt@mclennan.edu.