

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY
CST 304 (section 1) Small Group Communication
M W F 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. (3 credit hours)
Briggs 33
Course Syllabus
Term I 2004-2005

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Office hours:
M W F 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
M W F 12:00p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
*****or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To create an awareness of the importance of small group communication within our society.
2. To familiarize students with the psychological and behavioral phenomena of small group communication.
3. To acquaint students with the concept of leadership within small group.
4. To provide information about specific principles and experience with communication techniques and strategies for use in small group situations.

COURSE DESCRITPION

This course is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to acquire a basic understanding of the theory behind purposive discussions and who desire some practical, personal experiences in participating in or leading small groups. Theory and its applications are both considered important to this course. While the course covers a wide scope of material relevant to small groups, the focus is on the group as a vehicle for solving problems, reaching decisions, and making recommendations of policy. The emotional and interpersonal undercurrents of discussion will also be considered.

TEXTBOOK

Barker, Larry L., Kathy J. Wahlers, and Kittie W. Watson. Groups in Process: AN Introduction to Small Group Communication, 6th edition. Needham Heights, Massachusetts: Allyn & Bacon, 2001.

The textbook reading assignments should be completed by the date indicated on the class schedule. Examinations will be given covering both the reading assignments as well as classroom lecture material.

ATTENDANCE

Because it is felt that one can learn from interacting in small groups and by participating in classroom exercises, **YOUR ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**.

Any absences in excess of two (2) will be determined to your participation and attendance grade through the reduction of five (-5) points for each absence. (Tardies will be considered partial absences.) There is **NO MAKE UP** for any missed assignments (papers, exams, or group presentations).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Detroit Mercy 2003-2005 Undergraduate Catalog states, “As members of the academic community in the pursuit of truth and with a special concern for values, students are expected to conform to a high standard of honesty and integrity in their academic work. The fundamental assumption under which the university operates is that work submitted by a student is a product of his/her own efforts.” (p. 285)

The attached sheet (“Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty”) defines plagiarism and addresses the consequences of academic dishonesty.

CONFRENCES

Take advantage of time available to you and your group members for conferences. This is a time to receive personal guidance and suggestions for improving the quality of your work and small group communication skills.

GROUP OBSERVATION PAPER

A six-page typed/word-processed paper is due: _____.
Each student should observe a work group in a afield setting (e.g., student government meeting, corporate/local meeting, business operations work group meeting, etc.). The student should **not** be a member of the group being observed for this particular assignment.

SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION LOG ANALYSIS

A small group communication log should be kept as a basis for writing an eight-page typed/word-processed paper which analyzes the communication in our group using any of the theories discussed in this course.

SMALL GROUP PRESENTATION

Each student will select their own group members in order to prepare a presentation which creatively presents small group communication concepts and theories based on a service learning experience. Any format may be used including either live or video presentations. In addition, standard discussion formats can be used to present a relevant body of small group research.

EXAMINATIONS

A midterm and a final examination will be given covering both the textbook and classroom lecture material. Exam questions will be objective in nature. Each exam will consist of 50 questions (30 multiple choice and 20 true and false). A review sheet will be provided prior to each examination.

GRADES

Each assignment will make up a percentage of your final grade. Attendance and participation will also be taken into consideration.

Group Observation Paper (20%)	100 points
Midterm Examination (15%)	75 points
Group Presentation (20%)	100 points
Small Group Communication Log and Analysis (20%)	100 points
Final Examination (15%)	75 points

TOTAL = 500 points

GRADING SCALE

473-500 A
448-472 A-
433-447 B+
418-432 B
398-417 B-
383-397 C+
368-382 C
348-367 C-
333-347 D+
298-332 D
0-297 F

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty

Among the most serious academic offenses is plagiarism, submitting the words or style of another author or source without acknowledgment or formal documentation. Plagiarism occurs when specific phrases or entire passages, whether a sentence, paragraph, or longer excerpt, are incorporated into one's own writing without quotation marks or documentation. One also plagiarizes by paraphrasing the work of another, that is retaining another writer's ideas and structure without documentation.

Students are advised to always set off another writer's exact words by quotation marks, with appropriate references. Students avoid plagiarism by concentrating on their own ideas and by fully crediting others' work and ideas when they find their way into the writing. Whenever in doubt, cite the source.

Students who purchase essays from other students or agencies or who copy from one another or from prohibited sources, commit the most serious type of academic dishonesty.

The consequences of Plagiarism, or any act of academic dishonesty, may range from failure in a course to dismissal from the University.