

SYLLABUS FOR DISCUSSION AND SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

COURSE NUMBER: SPCH 2333 **DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:** Discussion and small group theories and techniques as they relate to group process and interaction. **TEXTBOOK:** Communicating in Small Groups, Steven A. Beebe and John T. Masterson, Pearson, latest edition **PURPOSE OF COURSE:** To give theoretical background and practical application for group theories and techniques; To help students become better communicators in not only group situations but all communication situations.

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:

INSTRUCTOR'S PHONE NUMBERS:

OFFICE:

EMAIL:

OFFICE HOURS:

COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION:

• Class Participation Grade	100 points
• Activities online	100 points
• Group Assignment #1	100 points
• Group Assignment #2	100 points
• Group Assignment #3	100 points
• Group Assignment #4	100 points
• 4 Exams worth 100 pts. Ea.	400 points
• <u>4 Outlines/Source Cards – 50 pts.ea.</u>	<u>200 points</u>
Total	1,200 points

Your grades will be determined by this scale:

0 - 719 points	= F
720 – 839 points	= D
840 – 959 points	= C
960 -1079 points	= B
1080-1200 points	= A

Note: All four exams and at least three of the group assignments must be completed in order to pass the class.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures in class and on website, class exercises, group assignments and research assignments will be combined for class instruction.

METHODS OF EVALUATION: Instructor will grade individual student's participation in group assignments based on communication principles discussed and taught in class and in the textbook.

PERFORMANCE/LEARNING OBJECTIVES (MINIMUM COMPETENCIES):

After studying the material presented in class and in the textbook, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Name the characteristics essential for defining a group.
2. Describe the dimensions of group activities.

3. Demonstrate the ability to use different speaking strategies to adapt to group members with different listening styles.
4. Choose interaction strategies that optimize or maximize the group task.
5. Sustain ethical practices as a group member.
6. Contribute to developing a supportive group climate.
7. Describe the critical functions needed for effective decision-making.
8. Select the best procedure for a group decision-making situation.
9. Fulfill some of your group's leadership functions.
10. Design and lead an effective group meeting.

DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL and GROUP PROJECTS

CLASS ACTIVITIES (WORTH 100 POINTS) and CLASS PARTICIPATION (WORTH 100 POINTS)

From time to time during the semester, your instructor will ask you to complete various class exercises and forms. You will be awarded up to 100 points for how well you participate in these class activities. Some of them will be due online and others within a class time. Punctuality and thoroughness of completion as well as your attitude and productive class participation will be the main criteria for this subjective grade.

How well you interact with your classmates during the class exercises and assignments and how well you ask and answer questions during class discussions will be the main determinant of your Class Participation grade. Once again, your attitude and overall productiveness will be the main criteria for this subjective grade.

EXAMS:

Each Exam will be worth 100 points. There will be three objective exams given during the semester that will most likely be taken in class in groups. An individual might opt to take them individually. The fourth exam will be taken in class separately. All exams will cover both text and lecture and online material. A thorough review will always be given prior to the exam day – usually online.

GROUP PROJECTS:

The class will be assigned four group projects during the semester. Each person in each group will be responsible for researching and preparing for the discussions. Source Cards will be required from each individual for each discussion assignment. The source cards and/or a detailed outline of research will be worth 50 points for each discussion. The person's individual contribution to each discussion is extremely important. However, the groups will be graded as a group on some assignments and individually on others. (Students will know in advance which method of grading will be used.) Each discussion will be worth 100 points.

DISCLAIMER ABOUT FILMS AND FLIM CLIPS:

During this class the instructor MAY assign for you to rent and view OR show clips or entire films during class. Some of the films MAY contain scenes of partial nudity, suggested sex, violence or profanity. These films will be used to offer practical application of concepts, theories or ideas discussed in class and textbook. All films/shows will be announced in advance. If you feel as though you may have a problem with any of these please speak with the instructor PRIOR to the day of the film to arrange for an alternative artifact for your use.