

***Communication 8 – Small Group Communication –Spring 2020***

**(58160) M 6:00-9:05 SOC-39**

**INSTRUCTOR: Helen Chavez Office hours:** Appointment Only

**Email address:** helen.chavez@reedleycollege.edu **Final drop date**: March 13th (F)

**Required Materials:**

**1)TEXT **

Rothwell, J. Dan (2019). *In Mixed Company: Communicating in Small Groups and Teams* (10th Edition). Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.
ISBN#9780190919900

**2)Recommended Materials**: MLA/APA Style Guide

***COURSE ADVISORY*:**

**It is recommended that you are eligible to take English 1A** (already completed English 125) at the time you take this course. This course involves research and organization skills which may be a challenge for you if you are not eligible for this English level.

***COURSE DESCRIPTION, OUTCOMES, AND OBJECTIVES*:**

**Course Description**

Group communication is a course that introduces students to how communication can be used as a vehicle for solving problems, and making decisions. Students will study and practice theories, behaviors and the process of group interaction. As a result of taking this course students will develop skill in the use of communication in small group contexts. Specifically, students will enhance their competency in the production and management of communication behavior in task oriented groups. Additionally, students will enhance their ability to construct and deliver informative and persuasive public presentations. Students will develop a conceptual understanding of small group principles and concepts and putting this knowledge into action through a variety of experiential activities. Speech (Communication) 8 fulfills the General Education Requirement in Oral Communication (G.E. Foundation A1), provided the student completes the course with a grade of “C” or better.

*Student Learning Outcomes are statements about what the discipline faculty hope you will be able to do at the end of the course.  This is NOT a guarantee: the ultimate responsibility for whether you will be able to do these things lies with you, the student.  In addition, the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes is done by the department in order to evaluate the program as a whole, and not to evaluate individual faculty performance.*

**Student Learning Outcomes**:

 Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and apply effective communication strategies that are grounded in group theories.

2. Construct/deliver dynamic, competent and ethical presentations adapted to the purpose and

 the audience.

3. Utilize organizational patterns and research materials that incorporate sufficient, credible,

 relevant evidence.

4. Explain the principles of human communication by critically evaluating public speeches

 through constructive critique and self-analysis.

**Objectives**:

 In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Identify roles individuals play in groups and understand how those roles relate to the group

 goals.

2. Utilize team-building strategies to strengthen group dynamics, leadership skills, reasoned

 decision making.

3. Analyze and employ effective conflict management strategies that will assist with problem

 solving

4. Identify barriers to listening and incorporate effective strategies.

5. Learn and apply key aspects of verbal and nonverbal communication to small group

 situations.

6. Learn how perceptions, values and culture can affect communication.

7. Incorporate goal setting, planning, decision making and implementation into group projects.

8. Develop skill in extemporaneous speaking for informative, and persuasive presentations.

 (may also include ceremonial presentations)

9. Utilize practical assignments and exercises that will reinforce theoretical group concepts.

10. Present a variety of speeches and will be expected to present for approximately 25 minutes

 each during the course of the semester.

***COURSE REQUIREMENTS:***

**Attendance (required):** Attendance is crucial in a communication course. Not only does attendance count toward your Peer Evaluation grade, but it shows respect for the speaker and regular attendance has been shown to increase overall course grades. Roll will be taken at the start of each class. Excused absences are allowed for verified school events, documented illness only, documented jury duty or military service connected with proof. Verification must be submitted immediately! Absences for doctor’s appointments, work schedules, vacations, car trouble, etc. will not be excused. It is *your* responsibility to notify me in person.

**Computer Access:** Since you will be spending considerable time researching and collecting sound evidence, you **must** have access to a computer (either in the RC library or at home). You should also have a basic knowledge of Word and Power Point.

**Canvas:** You will be able to find the course syllabus, course documents, quizzes, student examples of assignments, a place to ask questions and more. It would be wise to become familiar with Canvas early on in this class.

***It is your responsibility to check Canvas for instructor absences, announcements, schedule changes, grades, etc.***

To log in, go to http://www.reedleycollege.edu and click on the "instructions for using Canvas link"

or go to [https://scccd.instructure.com](https://scccd.instructure.com/) and log in using the same credentials you use for Blackboard:

          **Username**: Your 7-digit student ID number.

          **Password**: If you have not previously changed your password, it is:
              *First name initial* (upper case) + *last name initial* (lowercase) + *date of birth* (mmddyy)
              **Example**: John Smith born on July 9th of 1988     Password =Js070988

          **If you do not know your password and need assistance**: (559) 499-6070

***COURSE POLICIES:***

**Electronic Devices**: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away before class. Each time I see/hear your phone or electronics, earplugs, etc. you will lose points per offense. At the instructor’s discretion, points will be deducted from the Peer Evaluation section. No exceptions, No warnings.

Use of laptops or tablet computers is permitted for notetaking only! You must remain engaged with the class. This means no surfing, games, IM, e-mail or work for other classes. If you abuse this, your laptop privileges will be revoked.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**: Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of cheating or plagiarism, whether large or small, will be treated the same. Students who are caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an “F” on the assignment in question, will be reported to the proper authorities, and will be required to drop the class.

**Changes to the Syllabus**: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus throughout the course. Any changes made to the course syllabus will be done in the best interest of the students. Changes may be announced verbally or online. It is your responsibility to make sure you are informed about any changes that occur.

**Students with Disabilities**: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

**E-mail Policy:** Student emails are answered Sunday afternoons/evenings and please know that I am happy to answer questions via email. I am also happy to review outlines and other written assignments in advance and give feedback as needed. Please let me know who you are and the class you attend, e.g., “This is Jane Doe from your Comm. 8 class on Mondays at 11am …”

**Drop Date:** Be advised that after the drop date (end of 9th week for semester-length class) you will be issued a letter grade “A” through “F” if you are still enrolled in class. It is *your responsibility to drop* the course, it is *NOT MINE*! However, I might drop you from the course if you miss more than three nonconsecutive days/nights of class.

**Classroom Deportment:** Students are expected to be polite and courteous to both the instructor and fellow classmates. Students will refrain from speaking during presentations, using cell phones, or engaging in private conversations when others are lecturing or presenting. Also, on presentation days, students may not enter/leave the room while a student is speaking. Violations will result in a deduction of participation points and/or be asked to leave the classroom.

**FYI:** It is your responsibility to monitor your progress in this class, and to know when class assignments are due. I am capable of making mistakes, so you need to be aware of dates, times, grade points, etc. Let me know of any errors and problems that might arise so keep a watchful eye on Canvas. If I failed to mark down your points or incorrectly marked down your points in Canvas, you must show me the graded assignment if you want me to make any corrections. Therefore, keep every graded assignment that is returned to you as proof of your status in class at least until you receive your final grade at the end of the semester. No proof, no points.

Also, I cannot and will not re-teach a lesson. My PowerPoint presentations are for students who come to class and take notes. Students who are not in class will have to rely on the textbook and/or notes from a classmate. In addition, you are NOT allowed to take photos of my Power Point Presentations and I will NOT email them to students!

**Group Responsibility**: It is essential that each group member take his or her responsibility seriously. Everyone needs to be aware a student cannot pass this class without a group. It is imperative that each group has rules, everyone in the group follows those rules and do your share of the work in order to avoid losing a group because members of the group may remove unproductive, uncooperative members.

The instructor also reserves the right to disband groups and place responsible members in the other groups or create new groups. I do not need a group’s permission. This action can be done at any time including right before a presentation. In addition, the instructor reserves the right to adjust responsible members’ presentation points. For example, the group may earn 90/100 points but a person or persons in the group may earn additional points; not everyone in the group may end up earning the same points.

Also, the group outline and the individual outlines are due at the beginning of the presentation. I do deduct points for incomplete outlines, unformatted outlines and outlines turned in after the presentation concludes. A SAMPLE of both outlines can be found in Canvas.

***COURSE ASSIGNMENTS and POINTS:***

**Readings (Mandatory):** You are responsible for reading all the chapters in the textbook!

**Chapter Presentations (100):** You are responsible for presenting in class ten chapters. Come to class on time, and the instructor will assign you and a group of students a section of the chapter to be discussed that night. Make sure to bring your textbook to class on lecture nights. If you are very late to class, after chapters have been divided by a group, you will not be allowed to present. You will only watch and take notes. These chapter presentations are worth ten points each.

NOTE: In case there is not enough time to do all the chapters in class, you are still responsible for those chapters. The details for this make up assignment is in Canvas. Click on “Pages” then click on “Make Up Assignment for Chapter Presentations”.

**Resume Presentation (50pts):** You will introduce yourself by interviewing for the “job”. The “job” is trying to get a group to “hire” you. There are NO Make-Ups. Further details will be given in class.

**Presentations (600pts)**: This class fulfills the oral component for general education requirements. Therefore four to five speeches are REQUIRED! Students who miss a speech might earn a 0 on the missed speech. **I do not allow any late speeches due the Group element – they cannot be made up**. If the group is unable to present on the assigned date points may be deducted as much as zero points. Almost all of the time, groups must go on without the absent member. Mathematically, students who miss a speech would have a difficult time passing this course. Keep this in mind and do all of the graded speeches.

**Note: Outlines and Reference Pages:**

You will submit two outlines: the group outline and your individual outline. Both outlines must be typed and submitted to me the day/night of the assigned presentation (dates/schedules will be announced in class and/or posted in Canvas). **You must** give the instructor ***both*** ***outlines*** before presenting; otherwise, points will be deducted at the instructor’s discretion. Both outlines must contain coherent, flowing structure. All outlines must be typed and in the proper format (outline format will be discussed in class).

Reference Pages are required for both outlines. These must be typed and in APA style format. If you do not submit a reference page, points will be deducted at the instructor’s discretion (individual outline and group outline). These speeches are to be properly researched with the use of appropriate sources.

**Quiz #1 (50pts)**: The quiz #1 will cover Chapters 1-6 and will include five multiple choice questions and five T/F questions for a total of ten questions worth five points apiece. The quiz will be in Canvas and available for 24 hours (see pages 7-8 for dates). If you forget to take the quiz, you will receive a zero (0). There will be NO Makeups. I will NOT reopen because “you forgot” or “I started to take the quiz, but then I had to go to the store, and I forgot all about finishing it”. NO, No and NO!

**Quiz #2 (50pts):** The quiz #2 will cover Chapters 7-12 and will include five multiple choice questions and five T/F questions for a total of ten questions worth five points apiece. The quiz will be in Canvas and available for 24 hours (see pages 7-8 for dates). If you forget to take the quiz, you will receive a zero (0). There will be NO Makeups. I will NOT reopen because “you forgot” or “I started to take the quiz, but then I had to go to the store, and I forgot all about finishing it”. NO, No and NO!

**Peer Evaluations, In-Class Activities, and Everything Else (150pts)**: You are expected to actively participate in all classroom activities, assignments, discussions, presentations (participate or audience member). Class participation is essential in a course of this nature where we work in groups, pairs, etc. You are expected to listen to both the instructor and your fellow classmates. You will also be asked to give peer evaluations on speech days; both oral and written. Therefore, plan on arriving to class on time and remaining until class is dismissed.

You are allowed to miss one (1) Prep Night. After that, twenty-five (25) points will be deducted for each additional absence. Also, you are allowed one (1) night to be late to class **OR** leave early during a presentation night. After that, twenty-five (25) points will also be deducted for each additional offense.

NOTE: If you are late on a speech night, please wait outside until the presentation is finished. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of Peer Evaluation points.

Also, disruptive and rude behavior will not be tolerated. Also, **please turn off all phones for the class period.** Anyone seen texting in class will have a LOT of points deducted. This also applies to homework, laptops, and any other devices or materials you may have with you. When you are in the classroom, you are expected to be here physically as well as mentally. **When students are presenting, your desk must be cleared of all other materials.**

**Extra Credit**: Nope.

**Final note from the Instructor**

As your instructor, I am always happy to meet with you. Please feel free to meet with me if you are confused about any of the information covered in class or in the textbook. If you have questions regarding an upcoming assignment or presentation, I recommend you contact me before the last minute. I am here to help you in any way I can and my goal is for you to have a rewarding experience. Nonetheless, remember it is your responsibility as the student to:

1. Ask questions when confused and seek help (Emails are read Sundays and make sure you identify yourself and the class in the email)
2. Come see me before it is too late
3. Be responsible for your grades
4. Read and understand this syllabus

**GRADE TRACKING SHEET**

I have provided you with this sheet so you can keep track of your grades as the semester progresses. By recording your grades on this sheet, you will always know what grade you are currently achieving. To figure out your grade, add up the total points possible at any given time and then multiply that number by 90%, 80%, 70%, and so on. Then add up your actual points and see where you fall on the grading scale. For example, if by mid semester there are 50 points possible, 90% (A) would be 45-50; 80% (B) would be 40-44;etc. If you had 42 points, you would be in the “B” range.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignments** | **Points Possible** | **Your Score** |
| Chapter Presentations  | 10 x 10=100 |  |
| Resume Presentation | 50 |  |
| Famous Speech | 100 |  |
| Events That Impacted World | 110 |  |
| Social/Political Problem Analysis | 120 |  |
| Social/Political Problem-Solving Analysis | 130 |  |
| Why\_\_\_Can NOT Work… | 140 |  |
| Quiz #1 | 50 |  |
| Quiz #2 | 50 |  |
| Peer Evaluations, etc. | 150 |  |
| Total Points Possible  | 1000 |  |

*Additional class rules, policies, conditions, assignment details, etc. will be stated in class during the course of the semester.*

The following numerical guidelines will be used in the assignment of final grades.

A=1000-900

B=899-800

C=799-700

D=699-600

F=599 or less

**NOTE:** I (the instructor) reserve the right to adjust a student’s final points/grade; for example, I can change your 899 points to 900 points. This is absolutely at the teacher’s discretion.

**Proposed Schedule**

**Monday Night**

JANUARY 13: Introduction to the class and Assignment Packet Discussion

JANUARY 20: **Holiday-No Classes Held**

JANUARY 27: Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

FEBRUARY 03: **Resume Presentation & Outline Due** and Meet-N-Greet (Select Group Members)

FEBRUARY 10: *PREP NIGHT*

FEBRUARY 17: **Holiday-No Classes Held**

FEBRUARY 24: **Famous Speech Presentation & Outline Due**

MARCH 02: Chapters 5 and 6 and **Quiz#1 (Midterm) in Canvas**

MARCH 09: *PREP NIGHT*

***Last week to drop a full-term class; letter grade assigned after this week?!***

MARCH 16: **Events That Impacted the World & Outline Due**

MARCH 23: Chapters 7, 8 & 9

MARCH 30: *PREP NIGHT*

APRIL 06: **SPRING RECESS-NO CLASSES HELD**

APRIL 13: **Social/Political Problem & Outline Due**

APRIL 20: Chapters 10, 11 & 12 and **Quiz#2 (Final) in Canvas**

APRIL 27: *PREP NIGHT*

MAY 04: **Social/Political Problem-Solving Analysis & Outline Due**

MAY 11: *PREP NIGHT*

***FINAL:*** **MANDATORY ATTENDANCE REQUIRED (BE ON TIME & NO LEAVING EARLY)!**

* MAY 18 (M) at 6:00-7:50pm
* **“Why \_\_\_\_ can NOT work is because…” Outline**

GOODBYE AND ALL THE BEST ☺