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Communication ~~ Reedley College ~~ Summer 2015

**Communication 8: Group Communication**

Instructor:  Maricela Sanchez

Office: Social Science 38

E-mail: maricela.sanchez@reedleycollege.edu

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| Young-et-al | Required Materials:   * Textbook: Pedersen, D.J., Philllips, G. M., Wood, J.T., young, K. S. (2007). Group Discussion: A Practical Guide to Participation and Leadership.   4th Edition.  **ISBN10:** 1577664752  **ISBN13:** 9781577664758 |

**Group Communication Class 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. (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.

***(Note: subject advisory eligibility for English 1A)***

**Student Rights**

Students are encouraged to become familiar with the “Campus Policies” section of the Schedule of Courses.  This material includes information regarding cheating and plagiarism, disruptive classroom behavior, and other instructional issues. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing in my class will receive a zero on the assignment and any assignment connected to that assignment (e.g. cheating or plagiarism on a speech will result in a zero on the speech, the outline, the reference page, the reflection and on all audience evaluations). Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will also forfeit all participation points, all audience evaluation points and will not be allowed any extra credit points.

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

**Classroom Deportment**

Students must respect the rights of the other students in the class.  The exploration of controversial ideas is an essential component of this class. Students who are not respectful will be asked to drop the class.  When presentations are in progress, students arriving late are to stay outside until the presentation is complete. Interrupting a presentation for any reason other than a severe emergency is inconsiderate and will not be tolerated. Cell phones should be turned off before coming to class. If a student interrupts a speech for any reason other than a severe emergency (this includes cell phones ringing/buzzing or entering the room during a speech) they will be confronted by the instructor. **IF YOUR PHONE GOES OFF DURING CLASS, YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE A 3-MINUTE IMPROMPTU SPEECH AT THE TOPIC OF MY CHOICE.**

**Group Responsibility**

Members have the right to remove a group member for irresponsible behavior. Problems must be documented and both the group member and instructor must be informed of the problem. It is essential that each group member take his or her responsibility seriously. Procedures will be discussed in class as to how a group member can be “*voted off the island*” – everyone needs to be aware that a student cannot pass this class without a group. It is imperative that you follow the rules and do your share in order to avoid losing your group. The instructor will dismiss any group member who does not have their work completed when an assignment is due from the group.

Due to the nature of this course your work is due to the instructor on the due dates not to each other. If your group has to assemble the work prior to submitting, then the group will have to set due dates PRIOR to the instructor due dates. Group members can turn in the work that is done by responsible members to save their grades and the instructor will eliminate the members who did not give their work to the group.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Identify and apply effective communication strategies within the context of group process.
2. Construct and deliver dynamic and competent presentations that are adapted to the purpose and audience.
3. Utilize research materials that incorporate sufficient, credible, and relevant evidence.
4. Choose appropriate organizational patterns.
5. Analyze the effectiveness of communication through constructive critique.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of 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.

3. analyze and employ effective conflict management strategies.

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, and implementation into group projects.

8. develop skill in extemporaneous speaking for informative and persuasive

presentations.

9. utilize practical assignments and exercises that will reinforce the theoretical concepts taught in this course.

**Assignments**

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| **Graded Item** | **Points Possible** | **Score** |
| Individual Ceremonial Speeches | 25 |  |
| In-Class Group Activity | 50 |  |
| Group Commercial \*\* | 100 |  |
| Special Topics Group Presentation\*\* | 100 |  |
| Final Research Group Presentation\*\* | 100 |  |
| Midterm\*\* | 100 |  |
| Final Individual Reflection Paper\*\* | 100 |  |
| Attendance | 25 |  |
| Total Points Possible | 600 |  |

***\*\*If you miss a group presentation, the midterm, or the final paper, you will fail this course.***

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

540-600 (90%-100%)   =    A  
480-539 (80%-89%)    =    B  
420-479 (70%-79%)   =    C  
360-419 (60%-69%)   =    D  
359-0 (59% or below)   =    F

The instructor reserves the right to increase points for students who are on the margin; this will be done on the basis of attitude and participation throughout the semester and is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

**Academic Support**

“Per Title V Regulation 58170(e), students must be referred to academic support services by counselors or instructors. With this statement on my course syllabus, I am referring any students in my class in need of academic support to tutorial services. Tutorial services may include: the tutorial center, writing center or the communication lab. Referral reason: Mastering the content, study skills, and basic skills of this course is aided by the use of trained peer tutors.”

**Late and Missed Assignments**

***I will NOT accept any emailed or handwritten papers.***

***I have a very strict policy on late work.***

***ALL WORK IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS.***

Attendance**:** Due to the nature of this course, attendance is important. Roll will be taken at each class session.  Class points will be drastically reduced by absences. Understanding that perfect attendance can only happen in a perfect world **each student is allowed 2 excused absences**. These points will come from your participation points first. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of their absences. If you know in advance that you will be absent please inform the instructor so that accommodations can be made **prior** to your absence. Also understand that notifying the instructor does not excuse the absence and any assignment due during that absence MUST be made up **prior** to, not after the fact.

**Please be aware that I WILL enforce this policy and will not make exceptions!**

It is your responsibility to keep track of your absences.   
**I will not give warnings.**

Speeches/Group Presentations**:** This class fulfills the ORAL component for the general education requirements –Missing a speech means A BIG FAT ZERO. I do not allow any late speeches due to the Group element – they cannot be made up. If a group is unable to present on their assigned date the entire group will be given a 0 on that assignment, which will result in failure of the entire class. Group members absent on the day of presentations will receive a 0 unless some prior arrangement has been made with me. The group however, must go on without the absent member. ***There will be 1 individual speech; one at the end of the semester which will serve as a ceremonial speech. As for the group speeches, there will be three (3) major group presentations this semester, which include the Group Commercial Presentation, Special Topics Group Presentation, and the Group Research Presentation.* Students must dress professionally for the three main group presentations. There are absolutely no makeups for a missed group presentation/speech.**

In Class Activities**:** Will be assigned in class at random. That is why it is important for you to show up to class. If for some reason you are unable to show up to class and I assign an activity that day, you will automatically ***forfeit your 50 points*** for that particular assignment.

Midterm: The Midterm and Final are held in the same classroom but not necessarily at the same time. Please note schedule on calendar so that you are aware of the time and date of your final. DO NOT BE LATE on the day of the midterm/final. I will NOT allow anyone to take the midterm/final prior to finals week without a documented medical excuse. Accommodations will not be made for vacation or travel reasons. Again students are required to bring their own scantron to the final. Finals will not be given to anyone who has been caught plagiarizing or has exceeded the absences for this course as detailed in the attendance portion.

Final-Individual Reflection Essay: Instructions regarding this writing assignment will be described thoroughly in class. Further instructions will be available via Blackboard.

**My Teaching Philosophy**

**I understand there will be a time in which you will have to miss class: this does not mean you can approach me after class or during my office hours and have me reiterate what lesson that was just taught. It is your responsibility as a COLLEGE STUDENT to get class notes from a peer and study the chapter/content that was assigned for that specific day.**

**CELL PHONE POLICY**

**As stated earlier, cell phone usage during class will result in a loss of participation points**. **IF YOUR PHONE GOES OFF DURING CLASS, YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE A 3-MINUTE IMPROMPTU SPEECH AT THE TOPIC OF MY CHOICE.**

**COMM 8: SUMMER 2015 SCHEDULE**

\*\*Note: Some changes to schedule throughout the semester may occur.

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|  |  | **Week 1** | **Required Reading** |
| 6/22 | Monday | Course Introduction/Group Establishment |  |
| 6/23 | Tuesday | Intro to Group Discussion & the Standard Agenda/ Goldberg Exercise | Chapter 1 |
| 6/24 | Wednesday | **Group Commercial Assigned/Group Prep Day** |  |
| 6/25 | Thursday | Understanding the Group as a System | Chapter 2 |
|  |  | **Week 2** |  |
| 6/29 | Monday | Exploring the Group System | Chapter 3 |
| 6/30 | Tuesday | Individual Choices that Affect the System | Chapter 4 |
| 7/1 | Wednesday | Making Effective Choices When Leading | Chapter 5 |
| 7/2 | Thursday | **Group Commercial Presentations** |  |
|  |  | **Week 3** |  |
| 7/6 | Monday | Creating a Constructive Climate and Managing | Chapter 6 |
| 7/7 | Tuesday | **Special Topics Group Presentation/Prep Day** |  |
| 7/8 | Wednesday | Review for Midterm/ Group Prep Day |  |
| 7/9 | Thursday | **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Midterm\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*** | Chapters 1-6 |
|  |  | **Week 4** |  |
| 7/13 | Monday | Standard Agenda Step 1: Understanding the Charge | Chapter 7 |
| 7/14 | Tuesday | **Special Topics Group Presentation** |  |
| 7/15 | Wednesday | Standard Agenda Step 2: Understanding and Phrasing the Question | Chapters 8 |
| 7/16 | Thursday | Standard Agenda Step 3: Fact-Finding  **Final Group Presentation Assigned** | Chapter 9 |
|  |  | **Week 5** |  |
| 7/20 | Monday | Standard Agenda Step 4: Settling Criteria and Limitations | Chapter 10 |
| 7/21 | Tuesday | Standard Agenda Step 5: Discovering and Selecting Solutions | Chapter 11 |

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| 7/22 | Wednesday | Standard Agenda Step 6: Preparing and Presenting the Final Report | Chapter 12 |
| 7/23 | Thursday | **Final Group Presentation Prep Day** |  |
|  |  | **Week 6** |  |
| 7/27 | Monday | Final Group Presentation |  |
| 7/28 | Tuesday | Final Group Presentation |  |
| 7/29 | Wednesday | Fun Individual Ceremonial Speeches |  |
| 7/30 | Thursday | Final Individual Reflection Papers Due |  |