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***Communication 8 – Group Communication – FALL 2021***

***55522 (MW 8-9:15) SOC 39, 55523 (MW 11-12:15) SOC39***

**INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Jenny Peters**

**Office: ZOOM SOC38 or Zoom**[**https://scccd.zoom.us/my/j.peters**](https://scccd.zoom.us/my/j.peters )

**Office Hours:**Monday thru Thursday, 9:30-10:30 am (Fridays, afternoons/evenings by appointment)

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**Last Drop Days:** w/Refund: 8/20 w/o a W: 8/27 (in person) or 8/29 (online) Final drop date: 10/8

**Required:**

1) TEXTS: Open Educational Resource (OER) provided on Canvas

2) Note cards

**\*PLEASE TAKE NOTE**: **Since this course fulfills the Area A1 requirement for Oral Communication, you should be aware you will be presenting several speeches (Signature Assignments) which must be completed in order to pass the class.**

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

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.

**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 POLICIES:***

**Attendance/Drops:**

Attendance is crucial in a communication course. Not only does attendance count toward your participation grade, it also shows respect for other speakers and has been proven to increase your overall course grades. Roll will be taken at the start of each class. Absences will be excused for extenuating circumstances only.  Please send me a message explaining the reason for your absence and together we will determine the best course of action. If you are a member of a team or club on campus that will take you away from class, you must make arrangements with me prior to your absence. Please plan in advance and sign up for a speech date you know you are able to attend.  A grade of “0” will be assigned if you miss a speech (without an acceptable excuse) or miss a quiz, which may lead to you failing the class (see “Speeches” section).

Knowing that sometimes “life happens,” you will receive **one free absence**. Each unexcused absence after that will result in a reduction of 5 participation points. More than four days of unexcused absences may result in you being dropped from the course.

You will be considered a **No Show** if you do not complete week 1 activities and **will be dropped from the course** to make room for students on the waitlist. You will be considered a **Non-Participant** if you fail to complete all assignments in Modules 1 and 2 by week 2 and **will be dropped from the course**.  If there are extenuating circumstances for non participation, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Late Work**:

Due dates are clearly indicated for each assignment. I understand that sometimes things happen and will allow up to two late assignments. You must send a message requesting a late pass and will receive up to a 20% reduction in points. Quizzes are posted ahead of time online and must be completed by the assigned due dates. If you do not take the quiz by the due date, you will forfeit your points.

**Communicating With You**:

**Canvas Inbox** – I will send you a direct message through the Canvas Inbox if I need to speak with you. Please make sure your Canvas notification settings are set to send an email to your school account.

**Announcements** – I will be posting Announcements on Canvas often. Announcements will remind you of what is due, what we are covering in the lecture discussions, and various other topics that are for the entire class. Make sure your settings are configured to notify you of new announcements.

**Course Modules** – There will be a course module for each week which contains everything you need to know; links to assignments, quizzes, videos and more.

**Communicating With Me:**

**Canvas Inbox** – If you need to contact me directly, please use the Inbox first. I will respond to your messages within 24 hours during the weekdays; but usually within the hour. I only check my Canvas Inbox regularly during the weekdays between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm.  If you message me over the weekend, I may not get back to you until Monday.

Canvas messages automatically forward to my email and I will be notified when you have sent a message; you do not need to send a message through both Canvas and Email. **When sending a message, clearly state your question, and include your name and class section.**

Email - If Canvas is down, you may send an email to [jenny.peters@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:jenny.peters@reedleycollege.edu).

**Canvas Cafe - Q & A** – You can ask questions here that you think might be of interest to other students. All students are encouraged to respond if they know the answer and can be of assistance. If a student has not responded to you in 24 hours, I will reply here as well.

**Office Hours** – You can stop by my office or visit me on Zoom Monday thru Thursday, 9:30-10:30 am or Fridays, afternoons/evenings by appointment.

**Communicating With Each Other:**

**Group meetings:** You will meet with groups throughout the semester. You will have time in class to meet with your group to work on group projects, but may also have to arrange one or two meetings outside of class (either face to face or on zoom).

**Canvas Cafe - Q & A -** see comments above

**Peer/Audience Evaluations** - You will have the opportunity to help your classmates prepare and analyze their speeches. More details to come.

**Participation**:

In addition to attending class, you are expected to actively participate in all classroom activities and group discussions. 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 audience evaluations on speech days; both oral and written. Therefore, **plan on arriving to class on time and remaining until class is dismissed**. If you arrive late or leave early, you will have participation points deducted for the day. If you arrive late or leave early on a day an assignment is due, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. If you have a job or other commitment that will regularly make you late or require you to leave early, please take a class at another time.

Disruptive and rude behavior will not be tolerated. **Please silence all phones for the class period and leave in your bag** unless otherwise directed. Earphones/ear buds should also be removed before class. When you are in the classroom, you are here to learn principles of Public Speaking. **When someone is speaking, your desk must be cleared of all other materials**; including homework, laptops, etc. Students may not take pictures of slides or record (audio or video) in this class except in accordance with ADA accommodations or with permission of the instructor.

**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. Using someone’s outline/speech as your own, sharing answers to an online test with another student, and not properly citing research are all examples that should be avoided. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an “F” on the assignment in question, may fail the class, and will be reported to the dean. This is a serious offense and could ruin your academic and/or athletic standing. If you are struggling, please do not consider cheating/plagiarizing as an option. Contact me and I will do my best to work something out with you.

**Changes to the Syllabus**:

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus throughout the course of the semester. Any changes made to the course syllabus will be done in the best interest of the students. Changes will be shared in the announcements. 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.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Introduction-Pick Me Speech**: You will introduce yourself to the class in a fun way. You will record this speech and submit by 8 pm on Thursday, of week 2. There are NO Make-Ups.

**Readings**: Daily reading assignments are posted on the class schedule and **should be read before coming to class.** The Text for this class is an Open Educational Resource (OER) and will be provided for you for free on Canvas. As you read, take notes on anything that stands out or is unclear.

**Quizzes**: You will take three true/false, multiple choice, short answer quizzes. **Quizzes will be taken on Canvas** and must be completed before the due date and in the time allotted. Each quiz will cover information from the readings and lectures. No make-ups will be granted.

**Peer Evaluations:** Before each group presentation, you will submit a "peer evaluation" that discusses how each group member participated. More details to come.

**Speeches:** As with anything, “Practice may help you make perfect!” Therefore, you will be given several opportunities to master your skills at Group Communication (with both recorded and live assignments).

As a reminder:

This class fulfills the oral component for general education requirements. **Four speeches are REQUIRED!**

I take this very seriously. **Students who miss a speech will deplete ALL participation points and will not be allowed to complete extra credit or the final quiz; this means the highest grade you may possibly earn in the course is a D.**

**I do not allow any late speeches due to the Group element – they cannot be made up**. Groups must go on without the absent member.  Mathematically students who miss a speech would have a difficult time passing this course. If you are more than 15 minutes late on the day you are scheduled to speak you will not be allowed to give your speech.   After you complete your speech you are required to stay until the group speeches have finished.  If you give your speech and leave, you will receive a 0 on the speech.

In addition, no student will receive points for any of the other assignments connected to the speech they missed such as outlines, reference pages, or reflection papers.  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. Prompts with specific requirements for each speech are on Canvas.  **Your group must turn in an outline (some with references) for every speech on the due date in order to give your speech.** If you fail to turn in an outline with references on the due date you will not be allowed to give your speech and will therefore earn a 0 on that speech.

**GROUP RESPONSIBILITY**: It is essential that each group member take his or her responsibility seriously. Groups will create rules early on and group members will have the right to remove another group member for not adhering to the rules. Problems must be documented, and both the group member and instructor must be informed of the problem. Procedures will be discussed 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 to avoid losing your group. Any group member who does not have their work completed when an assignment is due will be dismissed from the group by the instructor.

**Outlines/References**: You are required to turn in one group outline with references for each speech (unless otherwise noted) which **MUST be submitted on the due date.** Plan ahead and be responsible for your work.

**Reflection paper**s: After the Informative and Persuasive Speeches you will spend some time reflecting on both the content and delivery of your performance. Then you will type a 1-page self-evaluation discussing what you did well, what you could improve upon, and specific ways you can make improvements in the future.

**Extra Credit:** There may be opportunities to make up for missed points. Further details will be provided. Remember, extra credit means “extra effort, extra work, and extra care.” ***Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason.***

**Final note from the Instructor**

As your instructor, I am always happy to meet with you.  If you have questions regarding an upcoming assignment or presentation, I recommend you read the syllabus/schedule first. If you still have a question, contact me in Canvas Inbox. I am here to help you in any way I can, and my goal is for you to have a rewarding experience in Communication 8.

**This syllabus serves as a contract between you and me. By reading and discussing this syllabus, you agree to knowing what it contains and abiding by my student “ABCs”:**

**A-Ask questions** about assignments or policies early on.

**B-Be responsible** for your grades, for knowing the syllabus, for attendance, etc.

**C-Come to class**

**COMM8-GRADE TRACKING SHEET**

I’ve provided this sheet so you can keep track of your grades as the semester progresses. 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** |
| Syllabus annotation and pre quiz | 10 |  |
| **SA** Introduction Speech-Pick Me | 20 |  |
| **SA** Teamwork Infographic Speech | 40 |  |
| **SA** Informative Speech | 150 (50 individual / 100 group) |  |
| …Proposal | 25 (one per group) |  |
| …Outline/References | 50 (one per group) |  |
| …Note Cards | 10 |  |
| …Peer Evaluation | 20 |  |
| …Reflection Paper | 20 |  |
| …Audience Evals | 20 |  |
| **SA** Persuasive Speech | 200 (100 individual /100 group) |  |
| …Proposal | 25 (one per group) |  |
| …Outline/References | 50 (one per group) |  |
| …Note Cards | 10 |  |
| …Peer Evaluation | 20 |  |
| …Reflection Paper | 20 |  |
| …Audience Evals | 20 |  |
| Participation | 40 |  |
| Quiz 1 | 75 |  |
| Quiz 2 | 75 |  |
| Quiz 3/FINAL | 100 |  |
| Extra Credit | (Each is worth up to 20, points/Maximum of 60 pts) |  |
| Total Points Possible | 1000 |  |

***SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENTS are indicated with “SA” - these assignments are REQUIRED in order to earn any extra credit, take the final quiz and pass the class***

Final Grading Scale:

900-1000 = A

800-899 = B

700-799 = C

600-699 = D

599 or less = F