

COMM-1210: SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: COMM-1210 : Small Group Communication

Board of Trustees:

MAY 2025

Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

COMM - Communication Studies

Course Number:

1210

Title:

Small Group Communication

Catalog Description:

This course examines the theoretical and practical application of communicating effectively within small group settings. Emphasizes decision-making, problem-solving, conflict management, leadership, tasks, roles, and group discussion.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

None.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize the elements of small group interaction and apply skills to improve communication in small groups.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Define small groups.
2. Explain the nature of Open Systems.
3. Practice effective verbal and nonverbal communication in a group context.
4. Practice effective listening skills in a group context.
5. Describe and discuss the process of team building.
6. Explore the issues of culture and diversity in a small group context.

Course Outcome(s):

Incorporate learned decision-making and problem-solving strategies to communicate effectively within groups.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Recognize elements of problem solving and decision making.
2. Apply effective strategies to accomplish group goals.
3. Distinguish between models of decision making and problem solving.

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize effective leadership styles and group and conflict management strategies to lead small group discussions.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

Objective(s):

1. Recognize and manage conflict in small groups.
2. Identify group roles and explain their importance to group functioning.
3. List the elements of small group interaction.
4. Identify task, maintenance, and self-oriented roles in a small group.
5. Identify and manage conditions of group think.

Course Outcome(s):

Identify the various theories about group formation and maintenance.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Recall and discuss the theories and models of small group interaction.
2. Identify the characteristics of small group and team formation and development.

Course Outcome(s):

Learn to work within diverse groups: race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, class, ability, etc.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.
Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Learn to collaborate across cultures.
2. Engage in small group critical learning, listing, and writing circles to gather a wide range of perspectives different from their own.
3. Define, explain, and provide rich examples of worldviews from an intercultural context.
4. Discuss world events and how such events impact small group dynamics.
5. Identify, understand, and explain how the world has become more interdependent through globalization and technology.
6. Help to remove cultural barriers and understand the importance of forging relationships across borders.
7. Encourage open and supportive class discussions/dialogue to foster authentic group cooperation.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Examinations
2. Quizzes
3. Essays
4. Written peer evaluation
5. Group project

- 6. Group presentation
- 7. Group case study paper

Course Content Outline:

- 1. Introduction to small groups
 - A. Defining small groups
 - B. Functions of small groups
 - C. Characteristics of small groups
 - D. Characteristics of small group communication
- 2. Groups as open systems
 - A. Systems approach to small group communication
 - i. Systems theory
 - ii. Open systems
 - iii. Complex systems
- 3. Foundation of small group communication
 - A. Communication principles for members of groups
 - B. Verbal and nonverbal communication in groups
 - C. Listening and feedback
 - i. Elements of listening in groups
 - ii. Active listening
 - iii. Feedback and responding to messages
 - D. Communication and technology in small groups
- 4. Group formation and development
 - A. Becoming a group
 - B. Challenges in group development
 - C. Norms & roles
 - D. Cohesiveness and groupthink
 - E. Development of group climate
- 5. Culture and diversity in small groups
 - A. Defining diversity in small groups and teams
 - B. Diverse member characteristics
 - C. Cultural diversity
 - D. Making diverse groups work
- 6. Creative and critical thinking in small groups
 - A. Defining creativity
 - B. Barriers to creativity
 - C. Enhancing creativity
 - D. Defining critical thinking
 - E. Improving critical thinking in groups
- 7. Decision making and problem solving
 - A. The stages of decision making and problem solving
 - B. Patterns of decision making and problem solving groups
 - C. Effective decision making and problem solving
- 8. Managing conflict in small groups
 - A. Defining conflict
 - B. Myths about conflict
 - C. Types of conflict
 - i. Task conflict
 - ii. Role conflict
 - iii. Process conflict
 - D. Strategies to manage conflict
 - E. Power in group conflict
- 9. Leadership in small groups

- A. Defining leadership
 - i. Sources of power and influence
 - ii. Types of leaders and leadership characteristics
- B. Myths about leadership
- C. Theories of leadership
- D. Choosing a leader
- E. Leadership styles

Resources

Isa N. Engleberg, Dianna R. Wynn, & Kay Kyungah Yoon. (2025) *Working in Groups: Communication Principles and Strategies*, Pearson. <https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/working-in-groups-communication-principles-and-strategies/P200000011561/9780138276034>

Jasmine R. Linabary; Moon Castro. (2021) *Small Group Communication: Forming & Sustaining Teams*, Jasmine R. Linabary. <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/1049>

Teresa M. Patterson , Cynthia Luna. (2023) *Small Group Communication: Principles in Action*, Kendall Hunt Publishing. <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/small-group-communication-principles-action>

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Transfer Assurance Guide OCM003

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