



South Central College

COMM 120 Small Group Communication

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description	This course helps students develop or improve their participation in small groups and teams using effective communication and critical thinking. Content of the course includes both knowledge and skills components. Students can develop an understanding of communication and group theory while applying their knowledge in small group discussions, cooperative projects, and other activities. The course curriculum emphasizes reflection and growth. (Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of "C" or higher or a score of 78 or above in reading comprehension on the Accuplacer). (MNTC: Goals 1 and 2).
Total Credits	3
Total Hours	48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3/48

Pre/Corequisites

Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of "C" or higher or a score of 78 or above in reading comprehension on the Accuplacer.

Institutional Core Competencies

Communication - Students will be able to demonstrate appropriate and effective interactions with others to achieve their personal, academic, and professional objectives.

Course Competencies

1. Manage the interpersonal dynamics of small group communication.

Learning Objectives

- Monitor the nonverbal messages of self and others.
- Listen actively to content and to relationship messages.
- Practice constructive discussion skills with group members.
- Manage potential and active conflicts with professionalism.
- Deliver clear and succinct messages that are also sensitive to the potential interpretations made by group members.

2. Demonstrate principles of leadership in the group process.

Learning Objectives

Compare the role of leader with the characteristics of leadership.
Contrast the types of leaders and their strategies for leading.
Examine types of power and their relationship to leaders and to leadership.
Determine the most effective leadership practices for small groups.

3. Develop skill sets in group problem-solving and decision-making to achieve desired goals.

Learning Objectives

Solve problems through a process of inquiry, discussion, and the application of research.
Practice creative thinking for use in solving problems, making decisions, and adapting to group circumstances.
Compare the process and outcomes of different decision making strategies.

4. Develop skill sets in applying principles and practices of small group communication.

Learning Objectives

Determine the best circumstances for utilizing groups of varying kinds.
Explain group development using one or more models for understanding this process.
Describe the development of group norms, rules, and trust.
Practice a variety of roles so you may adapt to the needs of the group.
Identify and avoid patterns of behavior that lead to groupthink.
Strategize to reduce instances of social loafing behavior within your group.

5. Critically analyze small group communication.

Learning Objectives

Describe the usefulness of theory for advancement of knowledge and for application.
Use different small group theories (e.g., from systems perspective, social exchange, symbolic convergence) to examine group processes.
Monitor group processes and communication practices in the groups to which you belong.
Examine the components of a high-functioning team.

6. Gather and apply credible information from diverse points-of-view to problems that require discussion and decision making.

Learning Objectives

Use varying methods for finding credible information from different sources and points-of-view.
Evaluate resources for relevancy, recency, authorship, and credibility of evidence.
Read and appropriately synthesize information in order to apply it to a problem at hand.
Identify biases in the written and spoken work of self and others.

7. Think strategically and critically with special attention given to the assumptions, interpretations, and evaluations we and our teammates make during group processes.

Learning Objectives

Read and/or listen critically to the arguments made by others.
Examine the worth and quantity of evidence applied to arguments.
Question assumptions and the influence of values on those assumptions.

8. Write and/or speak with attention to the development, organization, and delivery of messages.

Learning Objectives

Analyze the communication context prior to speaking/writing.
Make thoughtful and appropriate communication choices to the wording and delivery of messages.
Monitor communication feedback to determine the success of your messages to others.

9. Work collaboratively with diverse groups of people.

Learning Objectives

Challenge personal biases held towards others.
Listen with patience and open-mindedness to diverse points-of-view.
Articulate the strong influence cultural values, thought patterns, and identities have on our perceptions of problems and solutions.
Practice effective intercultural communication in interpersonal and small group settings.

SCC Accessibility Statement

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: www.southcentral.edu/disability

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