

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Speech 103 (C-ID Number: COMM 140) Group Discussion (C-ID Title: Small Group Communication)**

#### **I. Catalog Statement**

Speech 103 is an introductory course focusing on the principles and practices of human communication in various group contexts. This course is designed to help students become familiar with the major theories and research regarding group communication. Students experience the challenge of learning how to improve their group communication skills through participation in a variety of group activities. The course focuses on self-discovery and developing skills in the areas of language, listening, leadership, conflict management, problem solving and decision making, nonverbal behaviors, and cross cultural communication in family, social and professional group settings. Knowledge gained through group discussion helps students to become more comfortable and competent participants in the group communication process.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0**

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL101. ESL 155 for ESL students.

#### **II. Course Entry Expectations**

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays which meet the standards for English 101 entrance;
2. use organized, detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;
3. critically analyze selected works that deal with important contemporary issues;
4. summarize, analyze and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
5. gather and organize information through library research;
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax and mechanics sufficient for English 101 entrance: communicating (both orally and in writing) in standard English, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation.

### **III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. analyze and explain group communication principles from the text, and apply this information to their particular communicative situation;
2. gather and explain information in a logical, confident, friendly and fluent manner during formal and informal class group discussions;
3. synthesize and evaluate, orally and in writing, information from the class and current events;
4. demonstrate research and writing skills commensurate with college class standing;
5. demonstrate through class discussions and examination an understanding of group dynamics and discussion methods.

### **IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| A. Introduction to Group Discussion   | 6 hours |
| 1. Orientation and overview   |         |
| 2. Function of groups   |         |
| 3. Nature of groups   |         |
| 4. Communication and the group process (dyads, small and large groups, and public settings) |         |
| 5. Organizing, evaluating, and reporting information  |         |
| <br>  |         |
| B. Methods of Group Discussion  | 6 hours |
| 1. Communicator responsibilities  |         |
| 2. Definition of discussion methods   |         |
| 3. Discussion methods   |         |
| 4. Procedures for problem solving   |         |
| 5. Persuasion   |         |
| <br>  |         |
| C. Verbal Messages in Group Communication   | 3 hours |
| 1. Nature of language   |         |
| 2. Functions of verbal messages   |         |
| 3. Communication styles and effects   |         |
| 4. Barriers to communication  |         |
| 5. Effective listening skills   |         |
| <br>  |         |
| D. Nonverbal Messages in Group Communication  | 3 hours |
| 1. Overview of nonverbal communication  |         |
| 2. Categories of nonverbal messages   |         |
| 3. Functions of nonverbal messages  |         |
| 4. Effects of nonverbal messages  |         |

E. Symposium Forum Presentations	6 hours
F. Leadership in Groups	3 hours
1. Defining leadership	
2. Expectations and need	
3. Leadership styles and communication techniques	
4. Choosing a leadership style	
5. Decision making	
G. Rules and Roles in Groups	3 hours
1. Rules	
2. Roles	
3. Norms	
4. Goals	
H. Panel Presentations	6 hours
I. Communicators in Groups	3 hours
1. Credibility	
2. Attitudes	
3. Personality	
4. Intelligence	
5. Psychological, social, and cultural factors within various group settings	
J. Cohesiveness and Conflict in Groups	6 hours
1. Definitions	
2. Member satisfaction	
3. Causes of conflict	
4. Conflict management/resolution	
K. Group Problem Solving Presentations	3 hours

V. **Methods of Instruction**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. classroom lecture and discussion;
2. collaborative group learning (role playing, problem solving and decision making exercises, conflict resolution exercises, panel discussions, and symposium forum discussions);
3. educational technologies including word processing, Internet, and electronic presentation.

## **VI. Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. essays that respond, explain, analyze, argue, and/or evaluate a communication principle (e.g. explain groupthink and develop strategies for responding to its symptoms);
2. reading assignments from textbooks and/or journal articles;
3. quizzes;
4. journaling.

## **VII. Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. discussions;
2. group and individual oral presentations;
3. self and peer evaluation papers;
4. oral and written assignments of sufficient length and complexity to require students to demonstrate independent research, organization, critical thinking and communication skills;
5. quizzes;
6. comprehensive final exam.

## **VIII. Textbook**

Engleberg, Isa and Wynn, Dianna. *Working in Groups*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson, 2012. Print.  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN-13:290-0205029371

Rothwell, J. Dan. *In Mixed Company: Communicating in Small Groups*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Harcourt Brace, 2012. Print.  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-1111346850

## **IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate appropriate and effective communication within various group settings;
2. demonstrate the ability to analyze a problem, devise and discuss a course of action, and communicate a solution in a group setting;
3. identify and model effective group communication practices.