

**Northwest Arkansas Community College**  
(Communication and Arts Division)

**Discipline Code**

COMM

**Course Number**

2503

**Course Title**

Small Group Communication

**Catalog Description**

This course is an in-depth study of small group communication principles, theories, and processes within the context of personal and professional interactions. The seminar/workshop format utilizes discussions, individual research, group interaction, and hands-on activities. The course is structured to promote the exchange of ideas and strategies to resolve problems and make ethical decisions.

**Prerequisites**

None

**Credit Hours**

3 credit hours

**Contact Hours**

45 contact hours

**Load Hours**

3 load hours

**Semester Offered**

Fall, Spring

**ACTS Equivalent**

N/A

**Grade Mode**

A-F

**Learning Outcomes**

- Differentiate between types and purposes of groups in various settings.
- Examine factors affecting the communication climate within groups.
- Apply ethical decision-making processes in various communication contexts.
- Demonstrate inclusive strategies to promote group interaction in cross-cultural environments.
- Engage in collaborative activities to complete group project.

## **General Education Outcomes Supported**

- Students develop higher order thinking skills
- Students gain greater awareness of cultural perspectives
- Students can employ a variety of sources to locate, evaluate, and use information
- Students can write clear, coherent, well-organized documents, which are substantially free of errors

## **Standard Practices**

### **Topics List**

Topics for course activities will be drawn from the following:

- Communication types, principles, and purposes
- Models and theories of small group communication
- Ethics in communication
- Mindfulness
- Perception
- Cultural and environmental factors
- Goal-oriented behaviors & roles
- Cultural and environmental factors
- Conflict resolution
- Critical thinking and listening
- Research and organization
- Verbal and nonverbal behaviors
- Logical reasoning

## **Learning Activities**

Students will:

- Work individually and collaboratively
- Engage in weekly discussions to explore small group concepts and theories
- Research varied sources as needed
- Explore cultural and environmental factors affecting group communication
- Practice conflict resolution strategies applicable to varied group context

## **Assessments**

- Participate in weekly class discussions with classmates
- Develop individual assignments as appropriate, focusing on topics as directed
- Collaborate to demonstrate competency in learning outcomes

## **Grading guidelines**

- Quizzes and exams may be offered as untimed, open-book assessments
- Participation grades may be assessed based on overall quality of weekly engagement
- Individual research work may be assessed using a rubric where appropriate

**Revision Date** January 28, 2021