

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 demonstrate information literacy.
- 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

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