

COMM 3303: Group Dynamics
Spring 2015
Dr. Kristopher Copeland
Northeastern State University

TEXTBOOK:

Engleberg, I. N., & Wynn, D. R. (2012). *Working in groups* (6th ed). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

COURSE PURPOSE AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Groups are essential in both your professional and personal lives. This course is designed to be very interactive in order to help you learn how to effectively communicate within a group setting. At the conclusion of the Group Dynamics course, students will be able to:

1. Execute group meetings using effective scheduling, meeting times and spaces, agendas, and minutes. (Measures: Agendas and minutes for every first meeting of a group)
2. Explain and evaluate basic group concepts. (Measures: Concept Presentation; movie application; group games)
3. Construct personal communication goals for a small group meeting. (Measures: 'How am I doing?'; journaling)
4. Produce and discern information that meets ethical standards of intellectual inquiry and discovery. (Measures: outlines and references for every presentation; oral source citations during group presentations)
5. Create and deliver a minimum of three (3) group presentations which will be evaluated with the NSU Communication Studies general education criteria. (Measures: Concept Presentation, Chapter Presentation, Symposium)
6. Explain and differentiate group theories in an applied setting. (Measures: Chapter Presentation, Community Group Observation report)
7. Apply information learned from an external critique to a group presentation. (Measures: Comm Lab report; journaling; audience feedback)
8. Select a problem facing the community and argue solutions as part of a group symposium open to the public. (Measure: Symposium)
9. Appraise a work group using basic group concepts learned in class. (Measures: Community Group Observation report; journaling; audience feedback)
10. Use strategies to reduce speech anxiety and communication apprehension. (Measure: pre and post PRCA)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Concepts Presentation (10% of final grade): This small group assignment will allow students to set up Chapter 1 and provide a firm base for group understanding. Students will be assigned to small groups that will decide on a topic to be presented to the class. Topics can include, but are not limited to Group Diversity, Virtual Groups, Types of Groups, Group Behavior, Group Motives, or Group Conflict. Students will give a 17-20 minute presentation of the concept. The first meeting agenda must be turned in to the instructor within a week of the formation of groups. Groups are expected to visit the Communication Lab (CL) at least 24 business hours before presenting to the class and bring the CL report on the presentation day, along with an outline, reference page, agendas, and minutes.

Journaling (10% of final grade): Students are invited to journal about their group experiences after the Concept presentations, Chapter presentations, and symposium. Go to the Journal tab in BB; the journal is private and confidential because only the student and the instructor can see the entries. After each presentation, students are expected to write personal evaluations, evaluations of his/her team members, and set personal goals.

Movie Application (10% of final grade): This assignment is designed to allow students to apply the information learned during the Concepts Presentations to a major motion picture that features a group attempting to complete a task.

Chapter Presentation (20% of final grade): As a small group, students are asked to lead/facilitate a discussion (45-50 minutes in length) on a chapter from the textbook. Student can choose any chapter from Chapters 3-10. At least 3 concepts should be presented from the chapter and at least one must be a theory. The format for the discussion is open, so please do not simply use a PowerPoint presentation. You are encouraged to be creative and use innovative formats, such as creating games, debates, role-playing, video clips, and other original learning techniques.

Community Group Observation Report (15% of final grade): This assignment is designed to allow students to apply the information learned during Chapter Presentations to a community work group. Students will observe a group meeting (can be a student organization, faculty council, school board meeting, etc.). Additionally, students should NOT choose a group in which they are members. Students will write a minimum two-page report (2 FULL page) and discuss relevant findings to the class.

Symposium (25% of final grade): Students will present a problem-solution symposium centered on an issue that relates specifically to NSU or to students in general. Your group will define a problem, provide alternative solutions and ultimately suggest the proper solution to an audience composed of members outside of the class. Each group is expected to get at least 10 people to attend their seminar. Students will be evaluated on their preparation, contribution, delivery, research, and visual aids along with peer reviews. Each group will have 20 minutes total for the presentation. A memo should be written by each group to sent to key decision makers on campus concerning their issue. This memo is due before the symposium and should be sent directly to the instructor.

Participation/Attendance (10% of final grade):

Participation: Your presence in class, both mentally and physically, is necessary for success. The Group Dynamics course by its nature is highly participatory. Students are expected to engage in discussion, participate in learning activities, provide audience feedback, and otherwise be active listeners. A student who comes to class late, is unprepared, is disruptive, or decides to text or play on his/her phone in class, will see these decisions reflected within the Participation/Attendance grade. Additionally, students will earn an overall attendance grade. You can earn up to 100 points that will factor into the participation/attendance percentage.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week	Tuesday Class	Thursday Class
1	Course Orientation Assignments due next class: 1. Syllabus Quiz 2. Read Appendix: Group Delivery	Discuss Appendix: Group Delivery Syllabus Quiz Due by Class PRCA due
2	Ch. 11 Class Discussion Assignment: Agenda and Minutes Assignment	Ch. 11 Discussion Continued Agenda and Minutes Assignment
3	Concept Presentation Discussion – Chapter 1 & 2; Break into Concept Groups	Concept Group Meeting 1 Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Concept Journal 1 due
4	Relevant Group Activities	Concept Group Meeting 2 Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Concept Journal 2 due
5	Concept Presentations	Concept Presentations Concept Journal 3 due Fri. by 11:59 p.m.
6	Follow Up Discussion/Lecture: Chapter 1 and 2	Chapter Presentation Discussion Group Formation (Ch. 3-10)
7	Chapter Presentation Discussion Group Leadership Lecture Group Observation Report Assigned	Chapter Presentation Group Meeting 1 Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Concept Journal 1 due
8	Movie: Groups in Action	Ch Presentation Group Meeting 2 Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Ch. Presentation Journal 1 due Movie Application Assignment 1 due
9	Movie: Groups in Action	Ch Presentation Group Meeting 3 Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Ch. Presentation Journal 2 due Movie Application Assignment 2 due
10	Chapter Presentations Group Meeting 3 Agenda/Minutes due Wed. by 11:59 p.m. Ch. Presentation Journal 3 due	Chapter Presentation 1
11	Chapter Presentations 2	Chapter Presentation 3
12	Chapter Presentation 4 Break into Symposium Groups	Chapter Presentation 5
13	Relevant Group Activities Symposium Groups Group Observation Report Due	Symposium Group Meeting 1 Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Symposium Journal 1 due Invite appropriate audience for

		Symposium
14	Symposium Work Group-Outline, Agenda, and Minutes due in class Discuss Memo; Work in Symposium Groups	Symposium Group Meeting 2 Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Symposium Journal 2 due Memo Draft Due in class
15	Relevant Group Activities Revised Memo Due in Class	Symposium Work Group- Rehearsal Agenda/Minutes due Fri. by 11:59 p.m. Symposium Journal 3 due
16	Group Symposium Public Presentation	