

CMS 112
Small Group Communication
Spring 2008

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This course will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6pm-10:30pm.

Course Description:

A practical course in the theory and practice of small group problem solving. Small group processes and procedures are examined and practiced. Students will focus on leadership which fosters effective teamwork by a group and how effective leaders adapt to the competencies and needs of their members as well as the situations in which they work.

Course Topics:

This course will focus on four major topics:

1. Basic Group Processes: Group information, conflict, structure, and performance.
2. Social Influence Process: Power, leadership, conformity, deviancy, and the group environment.
3. Problems in groups: de-individualization, group think, and inter-group conflict.
4. Applications: business and industry, classrooms, family, social, and therapeutic settings

Course Objectives:

Through discussion and examination of and practice with various concepts and processes of communication within small groups, each student should:

1. Gain an understanding of role and personality development and how these factors, brought into a group setting can influence the processes of the group, and develop personal skills for effective group leadership/facilitation.
2. Gain an understanding of the theories and models that serve as a basis for the study of groups. A concept of "group think," effectiveness of group leadership and how different leadership styles affect the group.
3. Develop knowledge and the ability to identify the stages of group development as they occur. Impact of nonverbal communication and practice critical listening and speaking skills.
4. Gain an awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which can cause a group to become dysfunctional.
5. Develop and have an opportunity to practice problem solving skills and approaches to conflict resolution with groups. Transfer learning from the classroom to any small group setting.

Text:

There is not a text book for this course.