COMMUNICATION 4385/6385: SMALL GROUP INTERACTION
Instructor: Dr. Robin Williamson
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Office: 102 Communication Building (Guadalupe House)
Office Hours: 3:30-4:30 MW; 11:30-12:30 & 2:00 to 4:00 T; 11:30-12:30 & 2:00-3:00 TH; and by appointment.

Course Purpose: This course has four goals: (1) to acquaint students with the theories and variables which affect small group interaction and decision-making; (2) to discuss traits and styles of leadership; (3) to study and practice bargaining and negotiation techniques; and (4) to analyze the behavior of groups in action.


Additional readings will be distributed.

Requirements:

- Midterm: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Case Study: 15%
- Group Project: 10%
- Participation (cases): 5%

EXAMS—Each exam will cover material from the text, the additional readings, and the lectures. Types of exam questions will include identification, multiple choice, matching, short answer and essay. If you miss an exam, the make-up exam will be taken to Career Services located on the second floor of Crooker Center. Students must take the make-up exam within one week. Academic honesty is expected. Graduate students will have additional take-home questions added to their requirement.

QUIZZES—Four quizzes will be given throughout the semester over key concepts in the text and in the lectures. These tests will be objective and will feature multiple choice, true and false or matching questions. The dates and material covered are noted in your syllabus.

CASE STUDY—Choose a group for observation (real, fictional or media-related.) Using the Rosenfeld Model and as many course theories that are applicable analyze the group members (eg. roles, personality type) communication and attraction networks, procedures and rules, conflict resolution techniques, problem-solving methods, social and physical climates. Undergraduate papers should be between 6-8 pages while graduate papers, 10-12 pages. Be sure to cite any source material using MLA or APA styles.

GROUP PROJECT—You will be assigned material to present to the class through power point and other illustrative methods. Skits, media examples, games, power point visuals are all appropriate illustrators.
Your presentation should be approximately 30 minutes. An outline of your presentation materials should be distributed to the other class members.

ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED! AFTER TWO ABSENCES, THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ABSENCE WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR FINAL GRADE. SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF THEORY AND PRACTICE ARE COVERED EACH WEEK!

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE CROOKER TESTING CENTER ARE REQUIRED.

SCHEDULE:

8/24: Overview; exercises
8/31: Introduction to Small Groups (Ch. 1); Systems (Ch. 2); Exercises
9/7: QUIZ (Ch. 1-2); Communication Principles and Theories (Ch. 3); Case Study
9/14: Verbal and Nonverbal cues (Ch. 4); Case Study
9/21: QUIZ (Ch. 3-4); Becoming a Group (Ch. 5); Case Study; Review
9/28: MIDTERM (CHAPTERS 1-5)
10/5: Working With Diversity (Ch. 6); Exercises
10/12: Creative Thinking (Ch. 7); Group Problem Solving (Ch. 8); Exercises
10/19: QUIZ (Ch. 6-7); Group Problem Solving (Ch. 8) continued; Case Study
10/26: Film: “Twelve Angry Men”
11/2: Conflict (Ch. 9); discussion
11/9: QUIZ (Ch. 8-9); Leadership; Case Study
11/16: Explain and Work on Group Projects
11/23: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
11:30: GROUP PROJECTS; Review for Final
12/7: FINAL EXAM (Ch. 6-10); TIME: 4:30-7:00 PM