COMM 3600: Small Group Communication

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

This class allows students an opportunity to discover, through participation in small groups, how to negotiate membership, resolve conflict, and maintain order through a variety of means and in a variety of venues. The academic material will be accompanied by practical, prescriptive guidance to help students become more productive members and/or leaders of small groups.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/09/2022 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Models of Group Processes
2. General Systems Theory
3. Primary and Secondary Groups
4. Types of Group Tensions
5. Input
6. Learning Styles
7. Cognitive Complexity
8. Rhetorical Sensitivity
9. Communication Apprehension
10. Culture
11. Race & Ethnicity
12. Throughput
13. Structuration & Symbolic Convergence
14. Leadership
15. Communicating in Groups
16. Verbal Signals
17. Nonverbal Signals
18. Discussion Techniques
19. Problem Solving and Problem-Solving Models
20. Area of Freedom
21. Conflict Management and Resolution
22. Output
23. Presentations and Reports
24. Feedback
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)
   1. explain the importance of groups in society and in organizations.
   2. identify the components of systems theory as applied to the small group communication process.
   3. recognize the communication variables that are essential for properly functioning small group systems.
   4. describe task, maintenance, and self-serving role-related functions and behaviors.
   5. solve a problem, as a group, by using the Procedural Model of Problem Solving (P-MOPS).
   6. analyze possible conflicts, recognize the conflict styles involved, and describe an appropriate method for resolving specific conflicts.
   7. evaluate group member roles within the framework of "distributed leadership".

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted