COMM 6308: Small Group Communication

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Course Objectives

This class teaches the concepts, theories, and decision making techniques involved in small group communication.

Student Learning Objectives from the IDEA checklist:
• Understand fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories concerning small group communication
• Apply course material (to improve thinking, planning, problem solving, and decisions) for group discussion dilemmas
• Develop creative capacities in problem solving, decision making, advising, planning, organizing, and leading others within the small group context

Materials

• Access to blackboard - Readings and assignments will be posted here.
• Access to Microsoft PowerPoint (Microsoft Office can be downloaded for free from ASU’s website)
• Angelo State E-mail - You should have access to your Angelo State E-mail account. You are responsible for reading and, if necessary, responding to e-mails from me. I send e-mails through Blackboard to the class regarding assignments, readings, etc.

I also recommend that you purchase or secure regular access to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th edition*. Brief online guides are also available, but be sure to choose a reliable one. APA style will be used for all course assignments.

Assignments

Reflection Papers (50%) Four reflection papers will assess your understanding of the reading and your ability to apply the concepts to real life. Point values are as follows:

Reflection Paper 1: 10%
Reflection Paper 2: 10%
Reflection Paper 3: 10%
Reflection Paper 4: 20%

Final Project (50%): As a small group, the class will work together throughout the semester to complete the final project. Specific details can be found on Blackboard under the “Final Project” tab. Point values of the project are as follows:

Presentation: 35%
Outline: 5%
Peer Evaluation: 10%

Grading

A numerical grade will be provided for each assignment, allowing calculation of grades as you go along during the term. Your final grade for the course is calculated according to the percentage score scale listed below. Grades will not be rounded up, and there are no curves and no extra credit.

90%-100% = A   90%-89% = B   70%-79% = C   60%-69% = D   59% and lower = F
Honor Code
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/misconduct.php
You do not want to end your graduate career by attempting a shortcut. If you have any questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, please consult Dr. Bailey to discuss it further.

Academic Disability Statement
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191. See this webpage for more information: http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/ If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see the Student Handbook, accessed at: http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

Email/Telephone Policy
Your concerns are important to me, but understand that I also have other responsibilities to Angelo State and personal obligations. Although I will try to respond to email requests and telephone messages as quickly as possible, it may take up to 24 hours for me to draft a response during the week (longer in certain cases and on weekends). Please take this into consideration when you contact me, though I will try to respond to emergencies, etc., as quickly as possible.

Title IX at Angelo State University
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:
Michelle Miller, J.D.
Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.miller@angelo.edu
You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form. If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic at 325-942-2171, Counseling Services at 325-942-2371 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.