Small Group Dynamics

Recommended for Communication Studies, Business, Education majors & individuals interested in participating effectively in groups in work or community settings. C-ID COMM 140.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

GE AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS MET:

CSU GE Area A: Communication in the English Language and Critical Thinking
   A1 - Oral Communication

COURSE LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:
1. demonstrate at least two major group communication formats in class (panel discussions, symposium presentations, forum presentations, task groups, social groups, and committee meetings).
2. research, evaluate, and present a solution to a current, relevant problem using one of the problem-solving techniques.
3. describe communication situations using discipline specific terms.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. tbd

COURSE CONTENT:

LECTURE CONTENT:

A. Nature and Development of Small Group Discussion
   1. Basic variables
      a. Goal or task
      b. Time
      c. Member status
      d. Networks of communication
      e. Norms and expectations
      f. Cohesiveness vs. groupthink
      g. Group size
      h. Role functions
      i. Power
   2. Environment
      a. Setting
      b. People

B. Group Communications Formats
   1. Panel discussion
      a. Problem solving
      b. Information exchange
   2. Symposium presentations
      a. Preparation of material
      b. Audience role
   3. Forum presentations
      a. Leadership styles
      b. Audience role
   4. Committee meetings
      a. Leadership styles
      b. Standing/ad hoc committee

C. Presentation Skills
   1. Delivery
   2. Content
   3. Research Techniques
   4. Written Reports

D. Leadership Styles and Behavior
   1. Autocratic, democratic, and laissez-faire
   2. Functional and situational
   3. Development of roles
      a. Confrontation and nourishment
      b. Attending behaviors/active listening
      c. Managing--traffic directing
      d. Perception checking

E. Decision making and Problem Solving
   1. Approaches to decision making
      a. Decision by consensus
b. Decision by majority vote
c. Decision by expert
d. Decision by leader

2. Approaches to problem solving
   a. Reflective thinking
   b. Brainstorming
   c. Standard agenda
   d. Quality circle
   e. Parliamentary procedure
   f. Impasse
   g. Postponement

F. Managing Conflict in Discussions
   1. Conflict styles
   2. Characteristics
      a. Functional
      b. Dysfunctional
      c. Skills for managing conflict

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lecture:
B. Independent Study:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:
   Reading Assignments
   TBD
   Out-of-class Assignments
   TBD
   Writing Assignments
   TBD

METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:

Demonstration of Critical Thinking:

All behavioral objectives include critical thinking skills.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration:

1. In-class discussion of case studies
2. Problem-solving and conflict management exercises
3. Participation in panel, symposium, forum presentations, and committee presentations
4. Written analysis of group processes in and out of class
5. Listening evaluations of the small group communication skills of classmates

TEXTS, READINGS, AND RESOURCES:

TextBooks:

LIBRARY:

   Adequate library resources include:
   Comments:

Attachments: