GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 04/20/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 05/18/2021

COMMUNICATION 137 – CRITICAL THINKING IN GROUP COMMUNICATION

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

COMM 137 Critical Thinking in Group Communication 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This course is designed to assist students in the development of critical thinking and decision making skills in the small group communication context. There is an emphasis on the basic elements of critical thinking, such as evidence, reasoning, and language. In addition to examining these basic elements, students become familiar with leadership strategies, problem solving techniques, discussion plans and conflict management as applicable in groups.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Investigate, analyze, and integrate evidence pertaining to contemporary social problems.
2. Integrate evidence and reasoning in order to engage in critical thinkingin group problem solving contexts.
3. Implement a number of problem-solving methodologies.
4. Distinguish differences among problem solving methodologies, determine and apply the most effective one to a specific problem.
5. Demonstrate the ability to effectively prepare for, participate in, and lead a group discussion.
6. Investigate and analyze communication through observation of and participation in small group discussions.
7. Identify and apply the principles of small group discussion (e.g. group roles, decision-making, leadership and conflict management).
8. Demonstrate successful conflict-management strategies within a small group context.
9. Analyze and implement various group leadership strategies and principles.
10. Utilize communication strategies to adapt to group members and the context in which a meeting takes place.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Electronic storage media (optional)

7. Course Content

1. Elements of critical thinking in a small group context.
   1. Evaluation and use of evidence.
   2. Patterns and application of reasoning.
   3. Semantic factors in critical thinking.
2. Theories of problem solving.
3. Decision making methods and use of evidence.
4. Use of research to support reasoning.
5. Organizing, evaluating, and reporting information.
6. Persuasion.
7. Principles of small group communication.
   1. Group formation and development.
   2. Group roles.
   3. Leadership and participation.
   4. Conflict management.
   5. Verbal and nonverbal dynamics.
   6. Listening.
8. Group planning, including agendas and minutes.
9. Group presentation(s)
10. Context, audience, and purposes of small-group communication: Dyads, small and  
    large groups, public settings, and group dynamics and/or roles within groups.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture.

b. Group discussion.

c. Assigned group projects.

d. Feedback on student discussions.

e. Video examples

f. Instructor evaluation of supplementary assignments.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Written examinations including a written final exam.

b. Written assignments that demonstrate mastery of concepts.

c. Oral group presentations that apply critical thinking strategies.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Assigned reading.

b. Selection, research and analyses of topic for discussion.

c. Preparation for group discussions and video recording.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative Texts:

1) Engleberg, Isa N. and Dianna P. Wynn. *Working in Groups: Communication Principles and Strategies.* 7thedition. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2017.

2) Beebe, Steven A. and John T. Masterson. *Communicating in Small Groups: Principles and Practices.* 10thed. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2012.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

As assigned by the instructor.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

Prepare an agenda for a group meeting.