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Speech (SPCH) 1507 Group Discussion (3 Units) CSU:UC  
[formerly Speech 7]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course covers the structure and function of informal/formal group processes, the role of the individual participant and leadership functions, and provides study and practice in various group activities.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Lumsden, Gay, Donald Lumsden, & Carolyn Weithoff. *Communicating in Groups and Teams*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2010. Print.

Additional Instructional Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to

1. lead small group discussions and talk before others,
2. communicate within a group setting,
3. present short oral reports,
4. identify personal strengths and weaknesses and set short and long term goals with regard to their personal and professional lives,
5. understand the concept of personal responsibility in the area of attitudes and leading to a more constructive life,
6. develop skills in active listening, and
7. identify ways of acquiring positive mental attitudes toward self and others; have a greater respect for individual differences.

Course Scope, Content, and Student Learning Outcomes:

- Unit I            Orientation to Small Group Systems
- A.     Small groups as the heart of society
  - B.     Groups as structured open systems
- Unit II            Foundations of Small Group Communicating

- A. Communication principles for group members
- B. Using Verbal and nonverbal messages in small group communication
- C. Creative and critical thinking in the small group
- D. Group problem-solving procedures

Unit III Understanding and Improving Group Throughput Processes

- A. Becoming a group
- B. Celebrating diversity in the small group
- C. Managing conflicts productively
- D. Applying leadership principles

Unit IV Small Group Public Presentations

- A. Planning and organizing small group oral presentations
- B. Presenting small group oral presentations

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Answering questions
3. Skill practice
4. Completing required reading
5. Written work
6. Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lecture/demonstration
2. Practice in group discussion techniques
3. Practice in summarization skills and short reports
4. Practice in oral reading
5. Completion of individual inventories, questionnaires, and analysis
6. Use of audio tapes and other pertinent audiovisual materials

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
  1. essay exam
  2. written homework
2. Computational or non-computational problem-solving demonstrations, including:
  1. homework problems
  2. quizzes
3. Skill demonstrations, including:
  1. class performance
  2. performance exam

4. Other examinations, including:
  1. multiple choice
  2. matching items
  3. true/false
  4. definitions
  5. completion