Stephen F. Austin State University
SPCH 2333.001 Teamwork & Group Communication
Fall 2023: BOYNTON 212
Stephen F. Austin State University
Communication Studies
www.sfasu.edu/commstudies

Professor: R. Tyler Spradley, Ph.D.
Professor of Communication
Leadership Minor and Certificate Coordinator
Risk and Crisis Communication Coordinator

Office: BOYNTON 204
Hours: TR: 9:30am-12:15pm and other appointments available via Zoom
Phone: 936-468-1381
Classes: TR: 12:30pm-1:45pm; Online

Course Description: Theories, principles and skills involved in group communication. Experiential focus upon problem analysis, problem solving, and decision-making in teams and groups.

SPCH 2333 “Teamwork and Group Communication” (3 credits) meets once, twice, or three times a week for a total of 150 minutes per week for a total of 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Online delivery contains extensive written content as well as audio-visual presentations and exercises that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least three hours per week. Activities include group discussions over assigned readings, problem analysis, decision making and conflict management exercises, high performance team development, presentations, and written exams. These various activities average a minimum of 6 hours of work each week to be prepared to engage in face-to-face class meetings or online activities.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Understand and demonstrate leadership in teamwork and group communication.
2. Understand what constitutes, challenges, and characterizes a teams and groups.
3. Understand different types of teams and groups and the dynamics and functions of each.
4. Understand and demonstrate teamwork and group communication competencies related to discussion, problem solving, decision making, and presenting.
5. Understand and demonstrate membership roles within teams and groups.
6. Understand the role of diversity in teamwork and group communication.
7. Understand and demonstrate competencies in virtual teamwork and group communication.

UNIVERSITY PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. Teamwork - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
4. Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
Communication Studies Program Learning Outcomes:
1. **Applied Theory in Communication**: Students majoring in Communication Studies will apply the major theories in the field to demonstrate their comprehension.
2. **Research Methods in Communication**: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to use and demonstrate understanding of appropriate methodology in critical, humanistic, or social scientific paradigms in examining research questions in communication.
3. **Diversity and Freedom of Expression**: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to recognize the central role of diversity and freedom of expression in a global community.
4. **Constitutive Nature of Communication**: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the constitutive nature of communication, which includes forces that enable and constrain communication such as technology, ethics, and organizational life.
5. **Higher Order Thinking**: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate oral and written competence in logical and critical thinking.
6. **Presentational Skills**: Students majoring in Communication Studies will demonstrate the ability to present various topics in a professional manner that includes researching, planning, organizing, and presenting with visual aids and/or multi-media technology.

**Governing Policies**: The following policies will apply toward classroom decorum.
1. **ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.
    Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
2. **MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS**: SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources**:
- SFASU Counseling Services: www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
- SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic: www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
- 3rd Floor Rusk Building, 936-468-2401
- Human Services Room 202, 936-468-1041

**Crisis Resources**:
- Burke 24-hour Crisis Line: 1(800) 392-8343
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-7412

3. **COURSE ADAPTATIONS**: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
4. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**: The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.
Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

5. **D2L/ONLINE COURSEWORK:** ALL students are expected to use D2L in this course to perform and keep up with graded activities and scheduled readings. Students should sign in at [http://d2l.sfasu.edu](http://d2l.sfasu.edu) using the same username and password as MySFA. *All graded activities will be turned in or completed via D2L/Brightspace.*

6. **GRADE WITHHELD POLICY:** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

6. **ABSENCE POLICY:** ONLY absences verified by Student Affairs will be considered for make-up work.

**Evaluation:** In addition to attendance, students will be evaluated using exams and written work. Each evaluated activity must be completed and turned in by the scheduled class meeting time. Your professor throughout the semester will provide additional instructions. You may earn up to **1000 points** total. The following indicates which letter grades correspond to earned points:

- 1000 – 900 points **A**
- 899 – 800 points **B**
- 799 – 700 points **C**
- 699 – 600 points **D**
- 599 and less **F**

**Tests:** There will be two exams throughout the semester. Exams will be completed via D2L on the assigned dates. Each exam will have 50 multiple-choice questions and student will have 60 minutes to complete the exam. Questions must be responded to before moving to the next question and cannot be returned to after moving forward. **Tests will be worth a total of 300 points.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test 1 – Modules 1-4</th>
<th>Test 2 – Modules 5-7</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>150 points</strong></td>
<td><strong>150 points</strong></td>
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**Graded Activities:** Graded Activities will include discussions, surveys, and assignments. Points per activity will vary in each learning module; however, all modules will include activities that factor into the final grade for the course. Assignments are detailed in the learning modules and indicate the point value. **Activities will be worth a total of 700 points**

- **Survey** completed as a part of Module 1.
- **Class Activities** are interactive assignments that require students to interact in teams or groups based on the unique instructions for each graded activity. When work is written, APA Style Guide formatting, including in-text citations and a reference list, must be used.
- **Dropbox Assignments** are a more robust application of course concepts that are predominantly multiple page papers. Each assignment’s instructions are unique and provided in each related module. APA Style Guide formatting, including in-text citations and a reference list, must be used on all assignments.

**Students should always contact me using @jacks.sfasu.edu email or personal email at rspradley@sfasu.edu.** Using D2L will result in delayed replies.
**Tentative Course Calendar:** The course calendar should be used by students to see when daily readings, activities, and exams are scheduled. The calendar is subject to change based on student learning progress and unforeseen occurrences. In the event the calendar changes, announcements will be emailed to the student's SFA email and posted on D2L announcements.

See COURSE TIMELINE in the Welcome and Getting Started Module.