**SPC 307 Group Communication**

**Credit Hours:** 3  
In-Class Instructional Hours: 3  
Labs: 0  
Field Work: 0

**Catalog Description:**  
Prerequisite. COM 205

Interdisciplinary approach to examination of theoretical and practical dimensions of communication in small group decision-making and problem-solving situations.

**Reasons for Revision:**  
(Fall 2005) This course (formerly COM 307, Communication and Group Processes) was last revised in 1985. This new proposal is part of a general program review, through which Communication seeks to update its courses in light of departmental experience with the previous program version, evolving departmental needs, and expanding scholarship in the field. Additionally, the department is undertaking this revision to position itself for accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Note: As part of this overall revision, speech and criticism courses are being re-labeled as SPC rather than COM to distinguish between the humanistic base of the newly labeled SPC courses and the applied nature of the courses that will retain the COM prefix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Course Content References:</th>
<th>Assessment:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Explain theoretical and practical dimensions of communication in various small group settings and situations</td>
<td>I, II, VI</td>
<td>1. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Demonstrate understanding of the communication process in decision-making and problem-solving group situations or contexts</td>
<td>I, V, VI</td>
<td>2. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations</td>
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<td>3. Discuss a theoretical framework for group concepts such as conflict, consensus, leadership and groupthink</td>
<td>I, II</td>
<td>3. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations</td>
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<td>4. Exhibit leadership abilities in group settings</td>
<td>I, III, V</td>
<td>4. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Participate effectively in group activities</td>
<td>I, III, IV</td>
<td>5. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations</td>
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Course Content:

I. Communication in Small-Group Settings
   A. Role
   B. Policy recommendations
   C. Decision making
   D. Problem solving
   E. Evidence and tests of evidence
   F. Research and preparation

II. Theoretical Foundations

III. Managing Conflict in Small Groups
   A. Barriers
   B. Group think
   C. Conflict and conflict styles
   D. Consensus

IV. Listening and Group Process
   A. Barriers
   B. Skills
   C. Techniques

V. Leadership and Small-group Discussion
   A. Orientation
   B. Norm emergence
   C. Brainstorming and other techniques
   D. Win-win and win-lose strategies

VI. Applications
   A. Family
   B. Workplace
   C. Social groups
   D. Decision-making groups
Resources:

Current Scholarship in the Field.


Periodicals:

- Applied Communication Research
- Communication Education
- Communication Quarterly
- Communication Monographs
- Communication Studies
- Critical Studies in Mass Communication
- Quarterly Journal of Speech
- Small Group Research