



COURSE OUTLINE : SPCH 103
D Credit – Degree Applicable
COURSE ID 003223
APRIL 2020

COURSE DISCIPLINE : SPCH
COURSE NUMBER : 103
COURSE TITLE (FULL) : Group Discussion
COURSE TITLE (SHORT) : Group Discussion

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM C-ID : COMM 140 – Small Group Communication

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

SPCH 103 is an introductory course focusing on the principles and practices of human communication in various group contexts. This course is designed to help students become familiar with the major theories and research regarding group communication. Students experience the challenge of learning how to improve their group communication skills through participation in a variety of group activities. The course focuses on self-discovery and developing skills in the areas of language, listening, leadership, conflict management, problem solving and decision making, nonverbal behaviors, and cross cultural communication in family, social and professional group settings. Knowledge gained through group discussion helps students to become more comfortable and competent participants in the group communication process.

Total Lecture Units: 3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.00

Total Course Units: 3.00

Total Lecture Hours: 54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

Total Contact Hours: 54.00

Total Out-of-Class Hours: 108.00

Recommended Preparation: ENGL 100 or ENGL 120, or ESL 151, or equivalent.



ENTRY STANDARDS

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	Read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories to identify topic, thesis, support, transitions, conclusion, audience, and tone;	No
2	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories for the comprehension of difficult content and the identification of main ideas and (topic-based) evidence;	Yes
3	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate student compositions for unity, development, use of evidence, interpretation, coherence, and variety of sentence form;	No
4	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write a summary of a contemporary article or story with correct citation techniques;	No
5	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that has an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, demonstrating a basic understanding of essay organization;	No
6	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that addresses the topic, is directed by a thesis statement, uses appropriate textual evidence, develops logical interpretations, and concludes with some compelling observations;	No
7	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that integrates the ideas of others (i.e., authors) through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting with correct citation techniques;	No
8	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that generates novel ideas (those that add to the conversation rather than repeating the author's ideas) related to the topic and the readings;	No
9	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write compositions (e.g., summaries and argumentative essays) that are easy to read and follow, though some errors in grammar, mechanics, spelling, or diction may exist;	No
10	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	proofread and edit essays for content, language, citation, and formatting problems;	Yes
11	ENGL	120	Composition and Reading	compose thesis-based essays at a first-year college level;	Yes
12	ENGL	120	Composition and Reading	use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;	Yes
13	ENGL	120	Composition and Reading	critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues;	Yes



COURSE OUTLINE : SPCH 103

D Credit – Degree Applicable

COURSE ID 003223

APRIL 2020

14	ENGL	120	Composition and Reading	summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;	Yes
15	ENGL	120	Composition and Reading	gather and organize information through library research;	Yes
16	ENGL	120	Composition and Reading	demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation;	Yes
17	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	read and critically analyze various academic readings;	No
18	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	summarize readings;	No
19	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	organize fully-developed essays in both expository and argumentative modes;	Yes
20	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	compose a 500 to 550-word essay which: summarizes and cites appropriately a reading passage; includes a clear thesis statement; uses evidence to support the thesis; shows clear organization into an introduction, body, and conclusion;	Yes
21	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	revise writing to eliminate errors in syntax, and grammatical constructions;	No
22	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	employ basic library research techniques;	Yes
23	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	compose one research paper (1,000 words) or two short research papers (500-700words each) with citations.	No

EXIT STANDARDS

- 1 Analyze and explain group communication principles, and apply this information to their particular communicative situation;
- 2 gather and explain information in a logical, confident, friendly and fluent manner during formal and informal class group discussions;
- 3 synthesize and evaluate, orally and in writing, information from the class and current events;
- 4 demonstrate research and writing skills commensurate with college class standing;
- 5 demonstrate through class discussions and examination an understanding of group dynamics and discussion methods.



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 demonstrate appropriate and effective communication within various group settings
- 2 demonstrate the ability to analyze a problem, devise and discuss a course of action, and communicate a solution in a group setting
- 3 identify and model effective group communication practices

COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	Introduction to Group Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation and overview • Function of groups • Nature of groups • Communication and the group process (dyads, small and large groups, and public settings) • Organizing, evaluating, and reporting information 	7	0	7
2	Methods of Group Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicator responsibilities • Definition of discussion methods • Discussion methods • Procedures for problem solving • Persuasion 	7	0	7
3	Verbal Messages in Group Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature of language • Functions of verbal messages • Communication styles and effects • Barriers to communication • Effective listening skills 	4	0	4
4	Nonverbal Messages in Group Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of nonverbal communication • Categories of nonverbal messages • Functions of nonverbal messages • Effects of nonverbal messages • Symposium Forum Presentations 	4	0	4



COURSE OUTLINE : SPCH 103

D Credit – Degree Applicable

COURSE ID 003223

APRIL 2020

5	Leadership in Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining leadership • Expectations and need • Leadership styles and communication techniques • Choosing a leadership style • Decision making 	4	0	4
6	Rules and Roles in Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules • Roles • Norms • Goals 	4	0	4
7	Panel Presentations	7	0	7
8	Communicators in Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credibility • Attitudes • Personality • Intelligence • Psychological, social, and cultural factors within various group settings 	4	0	4
9	Cohesiveness and Conflict in Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions • Member satisfaction • Causes of conflict • Conflict management/resolution 	8	0	8
10	Group Problem Solving Presentations	5	0	5
				54

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 1 essays that respond, explain, analyze, argue, and/or evaluate a communication principle (e.g. explain groupthink and develop strategies for responding to its symptoms);
- 2 reading assignments from textbooks and/or journal articles;
- 3 quizzes
- 4 journaling



METHODS OF EVALUATION

- 1 discussions
- 2 group and individual oral presentations;
- 3 self and peer evaluation papers;
- 4 oral and written assignments of sufficient length and complexity to require students to demonstrate independent research, organization, critical thinking and communication skills;
- 5 quizzes
- 6 comprehensive final exam

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Lecture
- Laboratory
- Studio
- Discussion
- Multimedia
- Tutorial
- Independent Study
- Collaboratory Learning
- Demonstration
- Field Activities (Trips)
- Guest Speakers
- Presentations

TEXTBOOKS

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	ISBN	Date
Working in Groups	Required	Pearson	7	print	Engleberg, Isa	978-0134415529	2016
In Mixed Company: Communicating in Small Groups	Required	Harcourt Brace	10	print	Rothwell, J. Dan	978-0190919900	2018
An Introduction to Group Communication	Required	OER online: https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/an-introduction-to-group-communication/			Schmitz, Andy (editor)		2012

