

Comm 2333 – Small Group Communication
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am-10:45am
Brisco Administration Building (BAB 305)

Contact Information

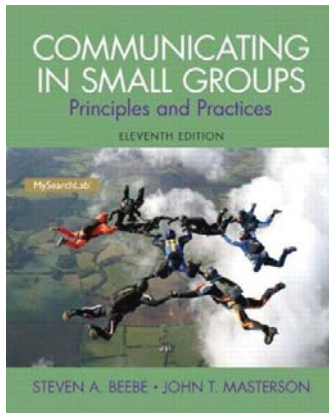
Instructor: Dominique Sanchez

Email: dvargas@sulross.edu

Phone: 432.837.8019

Office: Fine Arts Building 202

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 1:30-3:00pm, or by appointment



Textbook

Beebe, S. A., & Masterson, J. T. (2015). *Communicating in Small Groups: Principles and Practices*, 11th edition. Pearson Publishing: Boston. ISBN-13: 978-0205980833.

Course Description

This course combines practical experience with application of theoretical perspectives to provide the student with an understanding of the role of communication in group processes. The emphasis is on effective group interaction in task-oriented situations with a focus on elements of small group structures and processes. The course will cover elements of small groups (such as roles, rules, norms and culture) and communication styles that influence the group problem-solving process. The course includes small group participation and analysis of group communication.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course the student should develop:

- an ability to discriminate between those situations in which group members should work together or independently
- an understanding of the forces at work within a small group
- skill in the behavior most helpful to groups
- knowledge of the strategies groups can use and the circumstances under which each is most helpful
- understanding the role of theory and research in facilitating group processes

Program Learning Outcomes (Communication BA)

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. competency for appropriate oral communication in public presentations.
2. competency for appropriate use of presentation software – specifically power point.
3. the ability to analyze arguments including identification of the major elements of the argument such as claims, warrants, data and backing
4. competency in appropriate discipline specific written communication.
5. the ability to apply communication theory to the analysis of communication situations.
6. competency in the use of media technology including video, audio and web technologies.
7. general knowledge of communication concepts and terminology

Class Attendance and Expectations

Attendance is required. If you must miss a class for a school-related activity, the absence must be discussed (and arrangements made regarding coursework) prior to the absence. If you must miss a class for an emergency or illness, please contact me by email or phone as soon as possible. Excessive absences may result in you being dropped from the course with a grade of "W" or "F" as per Sul Ross State University policy. Arriving to class on time is also essential - arriving late more than two times will be counted as one absence.

While I strongly encourage you to exchange cell phone numbers within your group to stay in contact outside of class, cell phones should not be used in the classroom. Please turn off your cell phone completely when you enter the classroom, that way you won't be tempted to accept a call or respond to a text message during class. If your phone disturbs the class (by ringing or by distracting from your participation in class discussions, or in any other manner) you may be asked to leave the class and receive a zero for participation for the day. If you are experiencing some kind of emergency that requires you to have your phone, please notify your instructor before the start of class.

Late work will not be accepted, without prior discussion and approval.

Plagiarizing, cheating, or any other dishonest behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated. Rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in the University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook. This course will abide by these established policies. A student found to be engaging in these activities will be penalized to the full extent of Sul Ross State University policy.

Grades

This semester you will be able to obtain up to 1000 points, based on the allocations below. All assignments and grade distribution are subject to change as the semester continues, at the instructor's discretion.

Participation	200 (in class and homework exercises)
Quizzes	100 (always unannounced)
Group Presentation	200 (small group chapter topic presentation)
Presentation Group Assessment	100 (individual assessment of group pres. exp.)
Group Project	200 (small group community project)
Project Group Assessment	100 (individual assessment of group project exp.)
Final Exam	<u>100</u> (comprehensive – multiple choice and true/false)
Total Semester Points Available	1000

900-1000 = A

800-899 = B

700-799 = C

600-699 = D

0-599 = F

ADA

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M.Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. Email: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Basic Course Schedule

(Subject to change at any time during the semester)

Tuesday, January 20

Introductions, Syllabus, Current Groups

Thursday, January 22

Group Exercise, Group Presentation Group Selection and Explanation

Tuesday, January 27

Chapter 1 – Introducing Group Principles and Practices

Thursday, January 29

Chapter 2 – Understanding Small Group Communication Theory

Tuesday, February 3

Chapter 3 – Facilitating Group Development

Thursday, February 5

Chapter 4 – Preparing to Collaborate

Tuesday, February 10

Group Exercise

Thursday, February 12

Appendix A – Principles and Practices for Effective Meetings

Tuesday, February 17

Appendix B – Principles and Practices for Communicating to an Audience

Thursday, February 19

Chapter 5 – Relating to Others in Groups

Tuesday, February 24

Group Presentation Work Day

Thursday, February 26

Group One Presentation – Chapter 6 – Improving Group Climate

Tuesday, March 3

Group Two Presentation – Chapter 7 – Enhancing Communication Skills in Groups

Thursday, March 5

Group Three Presentation – Chapter 8 – Managing Conflict

Tuesday, March 10
Group Four Presentation – Chapter 9 – Leading Groups

Thursday, March 12
Group Presentation Assessment Due
Discussion Group Project

Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20
Spring Break, No Classes

Tuesday, March 24
Group Exercise

Thursday, March 26
Chapter 10 – Making Decisions and Solving Problems

Tuesday, March 31
Chapter 10 Continued

Thursday, April 2
Chapter 11 – Using Problem Solving Techniques

Tuesday, April 7
Chapter 11 Continued

Thursday, April 9
Chapter 12 – Enhancing Creativity in Groups and Teams

Tuesday, April 14
Chapter 12 Continued

Thursday, April 16
Group Exercise

Tuesday, April 21
Group Exercise

Thursday, April 23
Group Exercise

Tuesday, April 28
Group Project Work Day

Thursday, April 30
Group Project Due

Tuesday, May 5
Group Project Assessment Due
Review for Final

Thursday, May 7
No Class, Dead Day

Tuesday, May 12
8:00am – Final Exam

Spring 2015 – Final Exam Schedule

Final examinations in Laboratory and Physical Education activity courses will be given during the last class period of the semester. For times not listed, consult with your instructor.

For Classes Meeting on:

Exam Date and Time will be:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Monday, May 11

8 a.m.

8 a.m.

10 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

1 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

3 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

3 p.m.

Monday Night Classes

6 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday

Tuesday, May 12

9:30 a.m.

8 a.m.

11 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

2 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m., 4 p.m.

3 p.m.

Tuesday Night Classes

6 p.m.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Wednesday, May 13

9 a.m.

8 a.m.

11 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

12 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

2 p.m.

3 p.m.

Wednesday Night Classes

6 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday

Thursday, May 14

8 a.m.

8 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

10:15 a.m.

1 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

Thursday Night Classes

6 p.m.