

# COMMUNICATION 5852

## Group Communication Theory & Practice

Prerequisite: COMM 1530 and 2653

3 semester hours credit

### Course Syllabus - Fall Semester 2001

*Instructor:* Dr. Lawrence W. Hugenberg

*Office:* 2027 Bliss Hall

*Office Hours:* To be announced.

*Phone Number:* 941-3633

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*Room Location:* Williamson 214

*Meeting Times:* M, W, F 1100-1150

*Course Code:* 6453

#### **Textbooks: [required]**

Frey, L. R. (Ed.). (1994). *Group communication in context*. Hillsdale, NY: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Macleay, N. (1992). *Young men and fire*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

#### **Resource Guide: [optional]**

American Psychological Association. (1995). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D. C.: American Psychological Association.

#### **University Course Description:**

Analysis of communication variables influencing communication practice in groups. Includes the study of relevant literature, observation and participation in group situations, and application of theory to practice.

#### **Department Course Description:**

COMM 5852 is an extension of COMM 2653. COMM 5852 focuses on contemporary views of interpersonal communication and leadership and how to apply them to their current and future work in social and work groups. COMM 5852 is organized as an interaction of theory, practice, and analysis. Students will study and analyze group communication and group leadership from theoretical, practical, and ethical foundations.

This course examines the more traditional structures and functions of group communication and leadership. The interdependence of communication, leadership and the goals of participants in groups are emphasized. The importance of using theories of group communication and leadership to achieve the individual goals of group members and the goals of the group are discussed.

### **Course Goals and Objectives:**

The objective of “Small Group Communication Theory and Practice” is to help students understand, at a higher cognitive level, communication and leadership in group situations. Specifically:

- a. To help students understand historic and contemporary theories of group communication;
- b. To help students understand contemporary leadership;
- c. To help students use current theories of group communication to improve their skills as group members and leaders;
- d. To help students understand how group leaders use communication strategies to be competent.

### **Course Policies**

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance in class, just like work, is mandatory. Attendance will be taken each scheduled class period. If you are late or if you leave early, you will be marked as absent for  $\frac{1}{2}$  a class.

Attendance in class affects your final grade in the following ways: [a] Zero absences = +50 points; 1 absence = +30 points; 2-4 absences = +/- no points; 5 absences = - 70 points; -70 points for each additional absence. The instructor does not and will **NOT** listen to excuses for your absences. The only excused absence is one necessitated by academic work within a course sponsored by an academic department at Youngstown State University or a court-ordered appearance. If you think your attendance during class sessions is a problem or might cause a problem, talk with the instructor.

The instructor cannot *and* will not re-teach a class you missed. A student who misses a class must assume total responsibility of informing themselves of class notes, announcements, and assignments.

Failure to turn in an assignment at the beginning of class on the date assigned by the instructor will result in the lowering of your grade on that assignment one letter grade per calendar day (including weekends and holidays). If you turn in a second assignment late, you will receive a “O” (no points) for that assignment. A student’s absence (excused or not) does not excuse an assignment from being late. This policy applies until the instructor has the assignment in his hand -- turning it in to the office or placing it in the instructor’s mailbox does not constitute receipt of the assignment.

Exams must be taken on the date assigned by the instructor. No make up exams will be given regardless of excuse.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** All work is to be original for this course. Your work may not be used to meet course requirements in any other class. See the University *Student Code of Responsibility* for additional information about plagiarism. The most severe

penalty will be imposed on students violating this important aspect of professional behavior.

**PARTICIPATION:** The nature of this class requires students to attend and participate regularly. Students are expected to attend classes and *actively* participate in class discussions. Participation includes reading assigned materials **before** class discussions and contributing relevant information. It is important to understand that attending class and participating in class discussions are two different things. Class participation is intended to encourage students to participate in a qualitative and quantitative way to class discussions. Class participation is intended to discourage students from carrying on side-conversations with other classmates not intended for everyone's ears.

Participation is the instructor's subjective evaluation of each student's contributions to class discussions.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There is no extra credit in COMM 5852.

## Assignments

**1. LITERATURE REVIEW:** Students will prepare a review of literature on a student-selected line of research in leadership and group communication to facilitate the development of their research project. Overall, the student is expected to analyze pertinent literature related to leadership. More specifics about this assignment will be provided during the term. Students are required to turn in a draft of their literature review one week before the final due date. The instructor will read the drafts and offer comments to improve.

**2. RESEARCH PAPER:** Each student is expected to take concepts and theories from class discussions to develop a term paper, of no less than 12 pages on how successful leadership and communication in groups is important to individual member and group success. Students should feel free to use appropriate research in the communication, education, psychology, and/or business literature to help in their preparation.

The more comprehensive the research and discussion, the better the paper. If a student limits research to course materials, it will be difficult to receive a "B" on this final paper.

Students must turn in a draft of their research paper at least a week before the due date for instructor review. Students are permitted to rewrite their graded paper if they are turned in their draft and paper on time within a week of their return. The highest grade you can receive on your rewritten paper is a B+.

**3. EXAMS:** The exams will cover both text and class discussion materials. After receiving tests back from the instructor, the student has one class period to prepare a written defense for responses marked by the instructor. The written defense and exam must be returned to the instructor for the defense to be considered. The instructor will

not listen to verbal arguments regarding the grading of the exam.

**4. APPLICATION PAPERS:** Each student will prepare two application papers integrating one research article on group communication and/or leadership from recent communication journals (1995-present) and apply it to *Young Men and Fire*. Students must turn in a draft of their application papers a week before the due date for instructor review. Students are permitted to rewrite their graded papers if the drafts and papers are turned in on time within a week of their return. The highest grade you can receive on your rewritten paper is a B+.

## Grading

**PERCENTAGE:** The following scale will be used in determining your final grade in COMM 5852:

Exam 1	10%	100 points
Exam 2	20%	200 points
Research Paper	20%	200 points
Literature Review	10%	100 points
Application Paper 1	10%	100 points
Application Paper 2	10%	100 points
Class Participation	<u>20%</u>	<u>200 points</u>
	100%	1000 points

**FINAL GRADES:** The following scale will be used in recording your final grade in COMM 5852 (final totals include attendance points):

A	=	900 - 1000 points
B	=	800 - 899 points
C	=	700 - 799 points
D	=	600 - 699 points
F	=	< 600 points

**INCOMPLETE GRADES:** The only valid reason for an incomplete grade (I) in COMM 5852 is with medical or other tragic reason so extreme to cause the student to be unable to complete the course. The final determination of issuing a grade of incomplete rests with the instructor. Part of this decision includes all applicable rules of the University policy for issuing a grade of incomplete.

## Announcements

1. All assignments handed in for this course must be double-spaced and typed.

Computer printouts must be dark enough to read. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.

2. Typographical, spelling, and grammatical errors are to be corrected prior to turning in any assignment. A paper judged to have too many errors (usually three) will be reduced in grade accordingly -- depending on the number of errors (usually a letter grade for each three errors).

3. Assignments must be STAPLED in the upper left corner (*No Paper Clips!*). Papers will not be accepted in plastic or paper folders.

4. All reference materials must follow the latest APA (American Psychological Association) guidelines for both in-text citation and listing. The University bookstore has copies of this important resource material. Failure to use the APA Style will result in a two (2) letter grade penalty on the assignment.

6. Grades are a private matter between you and your instructor. As such, they will not be discussed during class time or out in the hall before or after class. See your instructor during his office hours or make a special appointment.

7. Final grades in COMM 5852 will not be posted or e-mailed to students at the end of the term. If you want your final grade ahead of receiving the University Grade Report, give your instructor a self-addressed, stamped envelope at the end of the quarter. Do not call the Department office to inquire about your final grade in the class.

**TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR - COMM 5852 \***

Week 1 (8/27-8/31)	Introduction Frey (Introduction & Chapter 1) - 8/31
Week 2 (9/3-9/7)	University Closed (Monday, 9/3) Frey (Chapter 2) - 9/5
Week 3 (9/10-9/14)	Frey (Chapter 3) - 9/10 Frey (Chapter 4) - 9/14
Week 4 (9/17-9/21)	Frey (Chapter 5) - 9/17 Maclean (pp. 1-13) - 9/19 Maclean (Part 1) - 9/21
Week 5 (9/24-9/28)	Frey (Chapter 6) - 9/26 Exam 1 - 9/28
Week 6 (10/1-10/5)	Application Paper 1 Due - <b>Wednesday, 10/3</b> Frey (Chapter 7) - 10/5
Week 7 (10/8-10/12)	Frey (Chapter 8) - 10/12
Week 8 (10/15-10/19)	Frey (Chapter 9) - 10/15 Frey (Chapter 10) - 10/19
Week 9 (10/22-10/26)	Frey (Chapter 11) - 10/24 Frey (Chapter 12) - 10/26
Week 10 (10/29-11/2)	Frey (Chapter 13) - 10/29
Week 11 (11/5-11/9)	Frey (Chapter 14) - 11/5 Frey (Chapter 15) - 11/7 Frey (Chapter 16) - 11/9
Week 12 (11/12-11/16)	University Closed, Monday (11/12) Literature Review Due - <b>Wednesday, 11/14</b> Frey (Chapter 17) - 11/16
Week 13 (11/19-11/23)	University Closed, Thursday & Friday (11/22 & 11/23) Frey (Chapter 18) - 11/19 Maclean (Parts II and III) - 11/21
Week 14 (11/26-11/30)	Application Paper 2 Due - <b>Monday, 11/26</b> Frey (Chapter 19) - 11/30
Week 15 (12/3-12/7)	Frey (Chapter 10) - 12/3 Research Paper Due - <b>Friday, 12/7</b>
Week 16	Exam #2 - Friday, 12/14, 1030-1230

\*Subject to Change with Advance Notice