

LOS/SBS 301

Group Dynamics

Spring 2007

Dr. Tara Grey Coste
Office: 162G
Office phone: 753-6596
E-mail: tgcoste@adelphia.net
Office hrs: T 11:30-1:00
W 4:00-5:30
M/R/F by appt.

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with key issues in group behavior and to provide you with tools to make your work in groups more effective. Through assessments, exercises, and discussions, you will examine how groups function and the factors that influence the quality of group performance. In order to help you articulate your ideas about the concepts we will be exploring, you will be asked to do many formal and informal writings about content topics and to actively participate in class discussions.

Texts

Required

Engleberg, I., & Wynn, D. (2007). *Working in groups: Communication principles and strategies*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

Hacker, D. (2006). *The Bedford handbook*. Boston, MA: Bedford.

Course Outline

Week One Jan. 22	Course Orientation <i>Orientation to primary sources</i>
Week Two Jan. 29	Introduction to Group Communication <i>Group exercises assigned</i> <i>It was the best of groups; it was the worst of groups exercise</i> Readings: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpt. 1 Assignment Due: Chpt. 1 assessment – Essential group elements
Week Three Feb. 5	Group Development <i>Classroom norms exercise</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpt. 2 Assignment Due: Chpt. 2 assessment – Group attraction survey
Week Four Feb. 12	Group Member Diversity <i>Personality Preferences exercise</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpt. 3 Assignment Due: Chpt. 3 assessment – Identifying cultural dialects
Week Five Feb. 26	Confidence in Groups <i>Sorting the symptoms exercise</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpt. 4 Assignment Due: Chpt. 4 assessment – Personal report of communication apprehension
Week Six Mar. 5	Verbal and Nonverbal Communication in Groups & Listening in Groups <i>Context, context, context exercise (Group 1) &</i> <i>Practice paraphrasing exercise (Group 2)</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpts. 5 & 6 Assignments Due: Chpt. 5 assessment – Auditing team talk (use project group) Chpt. 6 assessment – Shafir's self listening test Chpt. 13 assessment – Presentation rating scale (Group 1) Chpt. 13 assessment – Presentation rating scale (Group 2)

Week Seven Mar. 12	<p>Conflict and Cohesion in Groups & Group Leadership <i>Win as much as you can exercise (Group 3) &</i> <i>Least preferred-co-worker scale exercise (Group 4)</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpts. 7 & 8 Assignments Due: Chpt. 7 assessment – Ross-Dewine conflict management message style Chpt. 8 assessment – Are you ready to lead? Chpt. 13 assessment – Presentation rating scale (Group 3) Chpt. 13 assessment – Presentation rating scale (Group 4)</p>
Week Eight Mar. 19	<p>Group Project Workshop Assignments Due: Group Project Tasks</p>
Week Nine Apr. 2	<p>Structured and Creative Problem Solving in Groups <i>Game building exercise (Group 5)</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpt. 9 Assignments Due: Chpt. 9 assessment – Problem solving competencies (use project group) Chpt. 12 assessment – Post meeting reaction form (3/19 group meeting) Chpt. 13 assessment – Presentation rating scale (Group 5)</p>
Week Ten Apr. 9	<p>Argumentation in Groups & Goal Setting and Motivation in Groups <i>Got water? exercise</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn - Chpts. 10 & 11 Assignments Due: Group exercise paper Peer evaluation form for each member of your group Chpt. 10 assessment – Argumentativeness scale Chpt. 11 assessment – Group motivation inventory</p>
Week Eleven Apr. 16	<p>Informed Groups & Parliamentary Procedure Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Online Chpts. A & B Assignments Due: Two copies of final report draft Print Chpt. A assessment – Information checklist Print Chpt. B assessment – Parliamentary procedure assessment instrument</p>
Week Twelve Apr. 23	<p>Planning and Conducting Meetings <i>Meet the people problems exercise</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpt. 12 Assignments Due: Peer edit of two of your classmates' reports Peer edit form</p>
Week Thirteen Apr. 30	<p>Making Presentations in Groups & Technology and Virtual Groups <i>Computer and teleconference simulation exercise</i> Reading: Engleberg & Wynn – Chpts. 13 & 14 Assignment Due: Final report</p>

At any point in the semester, if you encounter difficulty with the course or feel you could be performing at a higher level, consult with me. Students experience difficulties in courses for a variety of reasons. For problems with writing skills, visit the Writing Center (room 163A, 753-6513), and with other academic skills, see Margaret Park (room 129, 753-6573). For help with computer skills, see the computer tutors in the computer lab (room 118, 753-6562). To receive personal counseling, see Pauline Pierre (USM administrative office, 753-6552). For academic support for students with disabilities, see Mary Sylvain-Leonas (room 127, 753-6561).

Grading

In order to pass the course **all** work must be completed.

20 pts. Participation

Attendance is extremely important. Missing class is *not* recommended. Classroom discussions will focus on developing your ability to use the material we will be covering in meaningful ways. Also, please note that participation is 10% of your grade. If you *must* miss class, contact me in advance to make arrangements to get handouts, announcements, etc. If you miss three or more classes, you will lose *all* points for attendance and will be expected to do additional work

Most class periods we will reserve class time for **student led discussions**. When you are selected to lead discussions, you will be expected to engage the rest of the group in lively exchanges about the topics we are exploring that day.

60 pts. Group Exercise teamwork, presentation, and paper

The class will be divided into teams during the second week to prepare creative and engaging **group exercises** for the rest of the class. As a team, you will do a thorough analysis of the exercise you are assigned and prepare to lead the class in this activity. You will be expected to keep track of people's responses during the exercise so that you can write a 4-6 page paper detailing what was learned through this experience. This paper is due April 9th. Also due on this date is the participation assessment instrument found on the class website under the name peer evaluation form. Please note that you need to do an assessment for each member of your team. Your presentations will be videotaped so that you may review your presentation style. You will be expected to view the tape after it is placed on reserve at the library.

80 pts. Assessments

You will be expected to hand in **assessments** from most of the chapters in your Engleberg and Wynn text.

40 pts. Final assignment

As your final assignment, you will write a 4-5 page **report** on a group work skill you would like to strengthen. Two copies of a well-developed draft of your report are due April 16th. On this date, you will be giving your paper to two of your classmates for their comments. These peer edits are due April 23rd. Your final report will be due April 30th. I will reserve some time during classes at the end of the term to answer questions you may have about your reports. In addition, I encourage you to meet with me during office hours or with the tutors in the Writing Center if you wish more input while you are writing the final. Finals will be evaluated not only for content, but also for structure, grammar, spelling, etc. After reports are returned, students who wish to may revise their work. All revisions will be due at the end of finals week.

Grading Scale

A	186 to 200 pts.	C	146 to 153 pts.
A-	180 to 185 pts.	C-	140 to 145 pts.
B+	174 to 179 pts.	D+	134 to 139 pts.
B	166 to 173 pts.	D	120 to 133 pts.
B-	160 to 165 pts.	F	0 to 119 pts.
C+	154 to 159 pts.		

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.