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**Ohio Articulation Number (OAN)  
Course Submission Form  
2005-2006**



College/University Miami University

Course(s) Submitted(Title & Course #) Small Group Communication  
COM 231  
Ohio Articulation Number OCM003

Date 3/13/2006

Name and title of individual submitting on behalf of the college/university

Name Donna Rohlfer Title Assistant Registrar

Address 301 S. Campus Avenue

E-mail rohlfedm@muohio.edu

Phone (513) 529-8795

Fax (513) 529-8755

Credit Hours 3 qtr \_\_\_\_\_ sem X

Lecture Hours \_\_\_\_\_

Laboratory Hours \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

Pre-Requisites(s) Course work (if applicable)

-- See catalog/course description --

Placement Score (if applicable)

(Name of test)

(Domain) (Score)

Catalog/Course Description (Includes Course Title and Course #)

231 Small Group Communication (3) Theoretical issues that affect communication between members of work teams, discussion groups, and decision-making bodies. Students study these theories and related research studies and work as members of student teams to analyze critically both the theoretical and practical implications of the theories and research studies. (Speech communication)

Texts/Outside Readings/Ancillary Materials

Text Info

Title: Group Dynamics

Author(s): Forsyth, D.

Date of Publication: 2006

Publisher: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company

Outside Readings (if any)

Course Objectives and/or Plan of Work

This course is concerned with the dynamics of communication in the small group context. The primary goals of the course are knowledge of small group communication theory and research, awareness of personal and others' behaviors in small groups, and the development of skills for enhancing your own functioning in groups and analyzing/improving the functioning of other groups.

Description of Assessment and/or Evaluation of Student Learning

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. The 2 in-class exams will consist entirely of short-essay questions. The tests will cover material from class and the textbook. We will review for both tests prior to the test date.
2. The group project will involve observing 3-4 meetings of an ongoing outside group. You will form 5 work groups early in the semester. The groups will be trained in observation techniques beforehand and will be expected to use these tools, along with outside reading, in their observations and analyses. Each group will make an in-class presentation of approximately 30-35 minutes and will submit a 15-20 page typewritten paper (graded) summarizing their observations and conclusions. More information, in the form of a handout, will be provided at the appropriate time.
3. Case Study Papers - Based on events reported in The Cincinnati Enquirer on October 4, 2003, September 1, 2005 and October 12, 2005, you will choose 2 of the 4 questions and write 2-3 pages in each instance. These papers involve applying relevant course concepts to this event.
4. Final Examination - will involve the same format as the in-class examinations and will not be comprehensive. The final is on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at 9:45 - 11:45 AM in 256 BAC.
5. Participation - This grade is intended to reinforce the learning value of participation and to reward students who actively contribute to the learning

value of the class. Participation includes discussion, involvement in class activities and promptness.

6. Attendance - in order to obtain the greatest educational benefit from this class, attendance is expected/required. Please be advised that 4 points will be deducted for any unexcused absence (above three absences for any reason, with any excused absences counted first, regardless of temporal order). It is your responsibility to inform me of any legitimate reason for missing class within one week of the absence for me to determine whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

## Syllabus

Current, Representative Syllabus  
COM 231

Spring, 2006

### SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

Instructor:

Office:

Office Hours:

Office Phone:

Home Phone:

E-mail Address:

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The following general areas will be covered:

1. Theories of small groups and group formation
2. Task and social dimensions of groups
3. Structural elements of groups
4. Communication in groups
5. Group observation techniques/measurement
6. Group decision making processes
7. Phases of group problem solving interaction
8. Norms, roles, rules, conformity, and deviance
9. Status, power, and leadership
10. Group conflict
11. Deindividuation

Grading:

	No.	Value	Total
In-Class Examinations	2	100	200
Final Exam	1	100	100
Group Project	1	100	100
Case Study Papers	2	30	60
Participation	1	40	40
		500	

A: 450-500  
B+: 440-449  
B: 410-439  
B-: 400-409  
C+: 390-399  
C: 360-389  
C-: 350-359  
D+: 340-349  
D: 310-339  
D-: 300-309  
F: 0-299

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#### Notes

1. Extra credit will not be permitted under any circumstances.
2. All course requirements must be completed-otherwise, a failing course grade will be assigned.
3. Any student who misses more than one-third of all class meetings will receive a failing course grade.
4. Requests for the advancement of the final examination in this course will be approved by the instructor and the chair of the department only for compelling reasons. Personal convenience is not a compelling reason. Therefore, you should schedule your travel plans, interviews, or other such activities as if you were going to have an examination at the latest slot on the Friday of examination week. Please convey this information to your parents or any other people who might be involved in these plans.
5. Dropping/Withdrawing Policy - Student Handbook

01.203.E. Dropping a Course. Dropping a course is a formal administrative procedure; merely ceasing to attend class is not the same as dropping a course. Before dropping a course, a student should consult with his or her instructor and academic adviser. A student may drop a course within three calendar weeks of the date classes begin, in which case no grade or other designation will appear on the student's official record.

01.203.F. Withdrawing from a Course. Withdrawing from a course is a formal administrative procedure; merely ceasing to attend class is not the same as withdrawing from a course. Before withdrawing from a course, a student should consult with his or her instructor and academic adviser. A student may withdraw from a course after the third calendar week and, ordinarily, before the end of the ninth calendar week of the semester. A grade of W will appear on the student's official record; a W is not calculated in the student's grade point average.

203.F.1. Before the end of the ninth calendar week, a student may withdraw from a course with a signature of acknowledgment from the instructor.

203.F.2. After the end of the ninth calendar week, a student may no longer withdraw from a course unless a petition is approved by the Interdivisional Committee of Advisers. The petition must include the signatures of the course instructor and the student's academic or divisional adviser. The petition must also describe and document the extenuating circumstances (extraordinary circumstances usually beyond the student's control) that form the grounds of the petition. If the petition for withdrawal is approved, the student will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. If the petition is not approved, the student will be expected to remain in the course.

203.F.3. Only in rare circumstances will a petition to withdraw from a course after the ninth calendar week be approved for reasons of academic performance alone.

203.F.4. When possible, a student should continue to attend class until the Interdivisional Committee of Advisers has acted on his or her petition. Non-attendance does not void financial responsibility or a grade of F.

203.F.5. If a student is found guilty of academic dishonesty in a course and withdraws from the course, the student will receive the grade W(AD) for the course, and the grade of F will be calculated in the student's grade point average (refer to Section 01.504.A of The Student Handbook).

## Reading

Forsyth, D. (2006). Group Dynamics. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.

SYLLABUS  
COM 231  
SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

DATE	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES READING/ASSIGNMENTS	
1-9	Introduction to Course	Forsyth (F), 1
1-11	Structure of Small Groups	F, 3
1-13	Group Formation Processes	F, 4
1-18	Small Group Theories (CS) Assignment,	Case Study
		F, pp. 297-304
1-20	Small Group Theories, Assign Groups	F, 5, pp. 352-
	369, 285-297	
1-23	Task Dimensions of Groups, CS 1 due	F, pp. 348-
	352	
1-25	Social Dimensions of Groups	F, pp. 499-
	521	
1-27	Structural Elements of Groups	F, 14
1-30	Broken Squares	
2-1	Finish Structural Elements	F, 2
2-3	Functional Elements of Groups	
2-6	Group Observation Techniques	
2-8	Observation Techniques, Group Project Assignment	
2-10	Observation Techniques	
2-13	Work in Groups, Review for Test 1	Study for
	Test 1	
2-15	Test 1	F, pp. 325-348
2-17	Group Decision Making Processes	F, 7
2-21	Decision by Consensus	
2-22	Delphi Technique	F, pp. 316-324
2-24	Brainstorming	
2-27	Phases of Group Interaction	F, 6
3-1	Group Roles	
3-3	Group Norms	
3-6	Conformity and Deviance	
3-8	Conformity and Deviance, CS 2 due	F, 8
3-10	Power and Leadership	F, 11
3-20	Leadership	
3-22	Leadership, Review for Test 2	Study for Test 2
3-24	Test 2	F, 12
3-27	Win As Much As You Can	F, 13
3-29	Work in Groups	
3-31	Conflict in Groups, CS 3 due	
4-3	Coalition Formation	
4-5	Coalition Formation	F, pp. 304-
	309	
4-7	Group Composition	F, pp.
	309-316	
4-10	Group Size	F, 16

4-12	Deindividuation	
4-14	Deindividuation	
4-17	Group Presentation - A, CS 4 due	
4-19	Group Presentation - B	
4-21	Group Presentation - C	
4-24	Group Presentation - D, Group Papers due	
4-26	Group Presentation - E	F, pp. 546-553
4-28	Review for Final, Course Evaluations	Study for Final

OBR Use

Action

Approved	
Additional Information Requested	
Rejected	
Date	