

# COMM 312 – Group Process

## Spring 2018

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## Catalog Description

Prerequisite: COMM 201. Studies communication processes in group settings; emphasizes empirical research findings in leadership, interpersonal bargaining, and problems of group problem-solving.

## Course Description

This course takes an applied approach to group process and communication, examining the relationships between group communication and larger cultural issues, such as technology, diversity, and democracy. For example, as organizations move increasingly to team-based ways of functioning, online communication takes center stage in coordinating members. In addition, the internet has changed the notion of groups from people who only meet face-to-face, to individuals who meet in mediated as well as traditional environments. Support groups, neighborhood groups, activist groups, social clubs, and work groups make use of new communication technologies to stay connected. Class activities, discussions, readings, and assignments are designed to develop effective group communication skills in a digital, diverse, mediated environment.

## Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptations because of a disability or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, please contact me as soon as possible.

## Academic Integrity

By enrolling in this class, students agree to uphold and practice academic honesty and integrity in all activities associated with this class. All the work you complete for this class must be your own and may not be work completed for another class. In practical terms, this means that you will not:

- accept assistance or give assistance to others on quizzes.
- submit any work that is not your own without full and complete citation of all sources.
- submit the same work for this class as for another class.

Academic misconduct includes activities such as plagiarism, forging an instructor's signature, stealing quizzes (including downloading, except for purposes of completing the quiz), copying papers or tests from other students, or giving others quiz answers. For this class, academic

misconduct, at a minimum, will result in a failing grade ('F') in the course. (More information about UofL's [Code of Student Conduct](#).)

## Required Reading

Harris, T. E., & Sherblom, J. C. (2011). *Small group and team communication*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Allyn & Bacon / Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780205692989. Available at the campus bookstore as well as online booksellers. Be sure you buy the 5th edition.

## Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will:

1. Identify communication patterns, norms, and roles as they develop and change within a group's structure.
2. Choose among a greater range of roles, communication methods, and strategies in effectively and equitably achieving personal and group goals.
3. Identify and implement ethical and appropriate approaches in the group decision-making process.
4. Recognize the ways in which larger issues, such as new communication technologies, diversity, and democracy influence small group processes.
5. Effectively observe, analyze and evaluate small group interaction.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

Detailed assignment descriptions are on the class website. ***I will not accept late assignments. The class calendar below lists assignment due dates.***

**Quizzes.** Open-book, open-note, multiple choice, covering assigned readings. Each quiz is worth 28 points.

Total possible: 420 pts.

More Info: [Quiz Requirements and Quiz Tips](#)

Chapter Notes: [Chapter Notes folder in the class website's Files](#)

Take a Quiz: [Quizzes](#)

**Discussion.** You will earn points based on your participation in online discussions.

Total possible: 280 pts.

More Info: [Discussion Requirements](#)

Access Discussions: [Discussions](#)

**Group Analysis Papers.** You'll participate in group problem-solving and decision-making sessions and analyze the group's interactions.

Total possible: 300 pts.

More Info: [Group Analysis Paper 1](#), [Group Analysis Paper 2](#)

## Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following point system:

Quizzes	420
Online Discussion	280
Group Analysis	300
TOTAL	1000

## Grading Scale

950-1000	A	740-769	C
900-949	A-	700-739	C-
870-899	B+	670-699	D+
840-869	B	640-669	D
800-839	B-	600-639	D-
770-799	C+	< 600	F

# University Policies

## TITLE IX/CLERY ACT NOTIFICATION

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain **confidential** support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111).

Disclosure to **University faculty or instructors** of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is **not confidential** under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer.

For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide

(<http://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexual-misconduct-brochure>).