**Course Title and Description**
Teamwork and Leadership is a three-credit course that focuses on the study of small groups. This course will include instruction on various theories of small group communication, research about leader and group member behaviors/roles, and the various outcomes associated with small group communication.

**Course Objectives**
The course is designed to expose students to the art and science of persuasion through enriching discussions and reading of classic and contemporary texts. This course is in partial fulfillment of the following Communication and Media Department outcomes. Specifically, students should be able to perform the following by the conclusion of the Summer 1 2016 session:

- Define small group communication based upon the literature provided.
- Differentiate between the various theories of small group communication.
- Describe the different processes and outcomes of small group communication.
- Become familiar with empirical research studies and scholars associated with the study of small group communication.

**Required Texts**


Washington: APA.

Reading material for selected topics from other sources will be distributed in class and/or Blackboard.

**Attendance**
Student attendance in class is essential to learning. Assignments are expected to be delivered on the day assigned. Exceptions will be made only in extreme circumstances at the discretion of the instructor. When absences are due to a University activity, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor of these absences at least one (1) week in advance of the occurrence to allow adequate time for rescheduling. Definitions of excused and unexcused absences will reflect university guidelines. **Only formally documented, “university excused” absences will be allowed.**

*More than 1 unexcused absences will result in automatic failure of the course*

**Grading Procedure**
Grades will be based on the following scale:

- 100-90% - A
- 89-80% - B
- 79-70% - C
- 69-60% - D
- Below 60% - E
Grading
Grades are comprised of classroom engagement activities, position papers, and a small group project. There will be no opportunity to makeup in-class activities. Assignments submitted late will receive a 10-percent deduction for every day it is late.

Classroom Engagement Activities
During various class periods, students will complete classroom engagement activities that will be used for direct application and discussion of course topics, lecture material, and reading content. There will be ten classroom engagement activities in this course, each worth 5 points, for a total of 50 points.

Position Papers
There will be two position papers in this course, each worth 25 points, for a total of 50 points. The purpose of Position Papers is to encourage reflection, critical thinking, and argumentative skills. Position papers allow students to learn about an issue in the Small Group Communication discipline, take a stand on the issue, and then effectively argue their viewpoint with relevant supporting evidence. Grading will be based upon the quality of information presented to defend one’s viewpoint. Further directions and rubric for the Position Papers will be distributed and discussed in class at the appropriate time.

Small Group Project
Groups will be formed in the course and they will put together a project that will make use of the concepts, theories, and principles discussed to fulfill an objective. Groups are expected to facilitate the entire class session (6-9:45pm) with an engaging, creative, and thought-provoking discussion. As part of the Small Group Projects, groups will distribute an annotated bibliography of key sources about the theory that they are presenting about to their classmates and professor, provide a handout of key information discussed in the presentation, and submit an evaluation of group members. The group will receive one grade worth 150 points. Further directions and rubric for the Small Group Project will be distributed and discussed in class at the appropriate time.
**Academic Advising**

Students pursuing the Master of Arts in Communication will be paired with a graduate faculty member advisor in their first semester. Students should contact their advisors within the first two weeks of a semester to arrange a meeting during which degree plans, tracks, and opportunities for professional development should be discussed. If there is any question regarding whom a student’s academic advisor is, the student should contact Dr. David Gurney, Graduate Coordinator, for assistance (david.gurney@tamucc.edu; 361-825-5991). To finalize your degree plan and register for graduation, you must also meet with the Graduate Student Academic Advisor in the Academic Advising Center for the College of Liberal Arts. This office is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at (361) 825-3466.

**Disabilities Accommodations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christie Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disabilities Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Grade Appeals**

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**Expectations of Graduate Students**

1. Ability to contribute engaging and thoughtful discussion points during class.
2. Demonstrated completion of all assigned reading material prior to class.
3. Proficiency in academic writing and use of APA Style.
4. Focus on learning instead of focus on grades.

**Student Conduct**

1. **Know the syllabus:** Be informed on what is to be read, discussed, and submitted for each class meeting.
2. **Islander Email:** Correspondence from the instructor will take place through the TAMUCC email system. Regularly check your Islander email for updates and information.
3. **Respect:** Be courteous of the professor and fellow students and refrain from talking amongst yourselves during lecture and discussion. This also means that proper professional communication is also required.
4. **Preparation:** Attend class ready to contribute and interact with material presented in class.
5. **Punctuality:** Please make best effort to arrive to the classroom before class begins.
6. **Electronic Devices:** Items such as cell phones, and IPods should be put away during class.
7. **Listening:** It is absolutely essential and expected for students to pay attention to class discussions and lectures because the information is vital toward successfully completing the course.
8. **Effort:** This class will be fun and enlightening, yet challenging. Please put forth your best effort each day in the course.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue May 31</td>
<td>Welcome; Introduction to Small Group Communication</td>
<td>Forsyth &amp; Burnette (2005); Frey (1996)</td>
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<td>Thu Jun 02</td>
<td>Socializing into Groups</td>
<td>Poole &amp; Baldwin (1996); Anderson, Riddle, &amp; Martin (1999)</td>
<td>Position Paper 1: Legitimacy of Small Group Communication Discipline</td>
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<td>Tue Jun 07</td>
<td>Leading Small Groups</td>
<td>Barge (1996)</td>
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<td>Thu Jun 09</td>
<td>Group Member Roles</td>
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<td>Tue Jun 21</td>
<td>Small Group Conflict</td>
<td>Garner &amp; Poole (2013)</td>
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<td>Thu Jun 23</td>
<td>Influence in Small Groups</td>
<td>Seibold, Meyers, &amp; Shoham (2010)</td>
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<td>Thu Jun 30</td>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
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<td>Group Presentations</td>
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Reference Information for all Required Reading Material