



# Syllabus



## Syllabus

COM 209: Small Group Communication

Written By: Henry Smith, Ph.D.

### Course Description

Provides background and skills related to small group communication theory and practice. Students participate in virtual group projects. Topics include leadership, discussion, roles, consensus, organization, decision-making, and persuasion. Standards for ethical conduct are considered.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

**Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge:** None

### Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Articulate an understanding of the formation and development of groups in society.
2. Formulate a framework that places the role of groups in a greater context.
3. Demonstrate a more deliberate participation in and analysis of groups outside the classroom.
4. Recognize the ethical implications of group processes and decisions.
5. Articulate an understanding of and the skills necessary to utilize groups for shalom – building community.

### Course Textbook

Beebe, Steven A. & Masterson, John T. (2015). Communicating In Small Groups (11th ed.) Boston, MA: Pearson.

### IWU Diversity Statement

IWU, in covenant with God's reconciling work and in accordance with the Biblical principles of our historic Wesleyan tradition, commits to build a community that reflects Kingdom diversity. We will

foster an intentional environment for living, teaching and learning, which exhibits honor, respect, and dignity. Acknowledging visible or invisible differences, our community authentically values each member's earthly and eternal worth. We refute ignorance and isolation and embrace deliberate and courageous engagement that exhibits Christ's commandment to love all humankind.

## Grading Scale

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit	Percentage	Score
<b>A</b>	4.0	95%–100%	950–1000
<b>A-</b>	3.7	92%–94.9%	920–949
<b>B+</b>	3.3	89%–91.9%	890–919
<b>B</b>	3.0	85%–8.9%	850–889
<b>B-</b>	2.7	82%–84.9%	820–849
<b>C+</b>	2.3	79%–81.9%	790–819
<b>C</b>	2.0	75%–78.9%	750–789
<b>C-</b>	1.7	72%–74.9%	720–749
<b>D+</b>	1.3	69%–71.9%	690–719
<b>D</b>	1.0	65%–68.9%	650–689
<b>F</b>	0.0	0%–64.9%	0–649

## Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the IWU Catalog.

## Letter Grade Equivalencies

Grade	Description of Work
<b>A</b>	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.
<b>B</b>	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
<b>C</b>	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.
<b>D</b>	Quality and quantity of work is below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below acceptable levels.
<b>F</b>	Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

## Course Module Summary

Week	Module	Discussion	Assignment	Test/Quiz	Group Projects	Total Points
Week One	Module One	2/40	-	-	-	40
	Module Two	-	1/90	1/35	-	125
Week Two	Module Three	2/40	-	-	-	40
	Module					

	Module Four	1/40	-	1/35	-	75
Week Three	Module Five	2/40	-	-	-	40
	Module Six	-	-	1/35	1/120	155
Week Four	Module Seven	2/40	-	-	-	40
	Module Eight	-	1/90	1/35	-	125
Week Five	Module Nine	2/40	-	-	-	40
	Module Ten	-	1/90	1/35	-	125
Week Six	Module Eleven	2/40	-	-	-	40
	Module Twelve	-	-	1/35	1/120	155
Course Totals		13/280	3/270	6/210	2/240	1000

\* Number of Activities/Sum Point Totals

## Course Pacing Guide

Modular Weekly Task List

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
<b>Module 1</b>	1.1 Biblical Wisdom 1.2 Discussion 1.3 Group Preview					
<b>Module 2</b>	2.1 Assignment and 2.2 QUIZ 1					

<b>Module 3</b>		3.1 Biblical Wisdom and 3.2 Discussion				
<b>Module 4</b>		4.1 Discussion and 4.2 QUIZ 2				
<b>Module 5</b>			5.1 Biblical Wisdom and 5.2 Discussion			
<b>Module 6</b>			6.1 Group Project and 6.2 QUIZ 3			
<b>Module 7</b>				7.1 Biblical Wisdom and 7.2 Discussion		
<b>Module 8</b>				8.1 Assignment and 8.2 QUIZ 4		
<b>Module 9</b>					9.1 Biblical Wisdom and 9.2 Discussion	
<b>Module 10</b>					10.1 Assignment and 10.2 QUIZ 5	
						11.1 Biblical

<b>Module 11</b>							11.1 Biblical Wisdom and 11.2 Discussion
<b>Module 12</b>							12.1 Group Project and 12.2 QUIZ 6
	<b>Module 1</b>	<b>Module 2</b>	<b>Module 3</b>	<b>Module 4</b>	<b>Module 5</b>	<b>Module 6</b>	<b>Mo</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	1.1 Biblical Wisdom 1.2 Discussion 1.3 Group Preview	2.1 Assignment and 2.2 QUIZ 1					
<b>Week 2</b>			3.1 Biblical Wisdom and 3.2 Discussion	4.1 Discussion and 4.2 QUIZ 2			
<b>Week 3</b>					5.1 Biblical Wisdom and 5.2 Discussion	6.1 Group Project and 6.2 QUIZ 3	
<b>Week 4</b>							Bi Wi an Disc
<b>Week 5</b>							

**Week  
6**

## Week 1

- **Module 1:** 1.1 Biblical Wisdom, 1.2 Discussion, and 1.3 Group Preview
- **Module 2:** 2.1 Assignment and 2.2 QUIZ 1

## Week 2

- **Module 3:** 3.1 Biblical Wisdom and 3.2 Discussion
- **Module 4:** 4.1 Discussion and 4.2 QUIZ 2

## Week 3

- **Module 5:** 5.1 Biblical Wisdom and 5.2 Discussion
- **Module 6:** 6.1 Group Project and 6.2 QUIZ 3

## Week 4

- **Module 7:** 7.1 Biblical Wisdom and 7.2 Discussion
- **Module 8:** 8.1 Assignment and 8.2 QUIZ 4

## Week 5

- **Module 9:** 9.1 Biblical Wisdom and 9.2 Discussion
- **Module 10:** 10.1 Assignment and 10.2 QUIZ 5

## Week 6

- **Module 11:** 11.1 Biblical Wisdom and 11.2 Discussion
- **Module 12:** 12.1 Group Project and 12.2 QUIZ 6

## Module One Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>1.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom:</b> 5 "I Am" Questions	Due by the end of the week one	<b>1 hour</b>	5

<b>Following Christ</b>			
<b>1.2 Discussion: Work Team Analysis</b>	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the first week; two responses due by the end of the first week	<b>5 hours</b>	35
<b>1.3 Exercise: Group Project Overview</b>	A preview of the two group projects is expected to be completed by the end of week one	<b>0 hours</b>	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6 hours*</b>	<b>40</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Two Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>2.1 Assignment: Virtual Group Case Analysis</b>	Due by the end of the first week	<b>10 hours</b>	90
<b>2.2 Quiz: Chapters 1 and 2</b>	Due by the end of the first week	<b>10 hours</b>	35
<b>Totals</b>		<b>20 hours*</b>	<b>135</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Three Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>3.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom: Listening vs Hearing the Words of the Master</b>	Due by the end of week two	<b>1 hour</b>	5
<b>3.2 Discussion: Culture and Group Development</b>	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of week two; two responses due by the end of week two	<b>5 hours</b>	35
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6 hours*</b>	<b>40</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Four Outline



Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>4.1 Discussion: Developing a Discussion Plan</b>	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the first week; two responses due by the end of the first week	<b>5 hours</b>	40
<b>4.2 Quiz: Chapters 3 and 4</b>	Due by the end of the second week	<b>10 hours</b>	35
<b>Totals</b>		<b>15 hours*</b>	<b>75</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Five Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>5.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom: Status Struggles</b>	Due by the end of the module	<b>1 hour</b>	5
<b>5.2 Discussion: Task and Maintenance Roles in Groups</b>	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of week three; two responses due by the end of week three	<b>5 hours</b>	35
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6 hours*</b>	<b>40</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Six Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>6.1 Assignment: Virtual Group Meetings</b>	Due by the end of week three	<b>15 hours</b>	120
<b>6.2 Quiz: Chapters 5 and 6</b>	Due by the end of week three	<b>10 hours</b>	35
<b>Totals</b>		<b>25 hours*</b>	<b>155</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Seven Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>7.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom: Conflict</b>	Due by the end of the module	<b>1 hour</b>	5
<b>7.2 Discussion: Nonverbal in Virtual Groups</b>	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of week four; two responses due by the end of week four	<b>5 hours</b>	35
Totals		<b>6 hours*</b>	40

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Eight Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>8.1 Assignment: Groupthink</b>	Due by the end of week four	<b>10 hours</b>	90
<b>8.2 Quiz: Chapters 7 and 8</b>	Due by the end of week four	<b>10 hours</b>	35
Totals		<b>20 hours*</b>	125

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Nine Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>9.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom: Servant Leadership</b>	Due by the end of week five	<b>1 hour</b>	5
<b>9.2 Discussion: Situational Leadership in Small Groups</b>	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of week five; two responses due by the end of week five	<b>5 hours</b>	35
Totals		<b>6 hours*</b>	40

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Ten Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>10.1 Assignment: Approaches to Problem Solving</b>	Due by the end of week five	<b>10 hours</b>	90
<b>10.2 Quiz: Chapters 9 and 10</b>	Due by the end of week five	<b>10 hours</b>	35
Totals		<b>20 hours*</b>	<b>125</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

## Module Eleven Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
<b>11.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom: Prayer in Decision Making</b>	Due by the end of week six	<b>1 hour</b>	5
<b>11.2 Discussion: Collaborating Ethically</b>	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of week six; two responses due by the end of week six	<b>5 hours</b>	35
Totals		<b>6 hours*</b>	<b>40</b>

\* These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

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### Activity Details

### Completion Summary

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Task: View this topic