Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Communication
Submitted By: Kathy Siskar
Semester Course Prefix and Number: SPCH 1550
Approval Date: February 2004
Old Quarter Course Prefix and Number: SPCH 1457
Revision Date: February 2011

Number of Credits: 3
Number of Lecture Credits: 3
Number of Lab Credits: 
Number of Lab Hours: 
Number of Studio/Demonstration/Internship Credits: 
Class Size: 30

Catalog Description:
This survey course will introduce the student to the basic process of human communication in today's diverse society by balancing scholarship and emphasizing skills. The primary topics covered will be interpersonal communication, public speaking, and small group communication.
(3 credits, MnTC Goal 1)

Prerequisites and/or recommended entry skills/knowledge:
Course Prerequisite(s): None
Reading Prerequisite: None
Composition Prerequisite: None
Mathematics Prerequisite: None

Career Programs and Transfer Majors Accessing this Course:
This course is an excellent General Education course for all technical programs. It is also the required or highly recommended communication liberal education course at a number of Minnesota and Wisconsin colleges (e.g. St. Cloud State University, The College of St. Scholastica, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Minnesota State University Mankato, University of Wisconsin Superior).

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal(s) partially met by this course if applicable:
Notes: No more than two goals may be met by any one course. (Curriculum Committee review and the Chief Academic Officer's approval are required).

0. None 6. The Humanities and Fine Arts
1. X Communications 7. Human Diversity
2. Critical Thinking 8. Global Perspectives
3. Natural Sciences 9. Ethical and Civic Responsibility
5. History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Learning outcomes, including any relevant competencies listed in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand/demonstrate the writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting revision, editing, and presentation.
2. Participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
3. Select appropriate communication choices for specific audiences whether in writing, public speaking, or small group situations.
4. Construct logical and coherent arguments in order to communicate differing views effectively.
5. Employ syntax and usage appropriate to academic disciplines and the professional world in order to ensure effective communication.
6. Understand the development of and the changing meaning of group identities in history and culture and demonstrate this knowledge through effective communication within diverse groups.
7. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
8. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.
9. Identify multiple ways in which language shapes perceptions and reflects attitudes about people, objects, and events.
10. Explain how verbal and non-verbal cues may complement or contradict each other.

Student assessment methods:
Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to: tests, quizzes, assignments, five-minute writes, presentation critiques, reflection papers, peer review, group projects.

Use of instructional technology (includes software, interactive video and other instructional technologies):
Proxima, computers, Video camera, Desire2Learn for the online course,

Outline of the major course content:
II. Interpersonal, Group, and Mass Communication: Personal Relationships, Task Groups and Teams, Media Literacy
III. Public Communication: Planning public speaking, Researching and Developing Support for Public Speeches, Organizing and Presenting Public Speeches, Informative and Persuasive Speaking.

Additional special information (special fees, directives on hazardous materials, etc.) None

Transfer Information: (Please list colleges/majors that accept this course in transfer.)
St. Cloud State University, The College of St. Scholastica, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Minnesota State University Mankato, University of Wisconsin Superior

Approvals:

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Distribution: Original – Administrative Office
Copies: Curriculum Committee Chair, Learning Center, Library, Originating Faculty Member, Records, Student Services, Scheduler, Transfer Specialist
Revised February 10, 2004