

COMM 15 Critical Decision Making in Groups

DeAnza College, Summer Quarter 2022

T TH 12:30pm– 2:55pm This is a synchronous class - we will meet online

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Office Hours: T TH, 11:30pm / 12:30 pm Online

Need help? The Student Success Center offers free tutoring for most De Anza classes. See <http://www.deanza.edu/studentssuccess> for details.

Advisory: EWRT 1A or EWRT 1AH or ESL 5.
Hours: Five hours lecture (60 hours total per quarter).

Course Materials

Various materials will be provided for you on Canvas

Course Description

As participants in this course, you will learn critical thinking and reasoning skills appropriate for effective problem solving in small groups. You will learn how to critically analyze arguments and how to formulate your own arguments through reasoning techniques. You will learn how to operate as a productive member of a problem-solving group. You will learn how to distinguish between questions of fact, value and policy and how to think reflectively about these questions.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Student Learning Outcome:** Develop abilities to effectively facilitate discussions including active listening, nonverbal communication, managing tension, consensus building, and recording group discussion.
- **Student Learning Outcome:** Display increasing confidence in ability to use a range of models and methods for problem solving, decision making, and collaborating.
- **Student Learning Outcome:** Evaluate the effectiveness of group communication and critical decision-making through self-reflection and shared feedback.
- **Student Learning Outcome:** Develop, present, and critically evaluate informative and persuasive group presentations that are personalized to the audience, organized with an effective plan and purpose, and use information supported with quality sources that are accurately documented during the presentations and outlines.

Course Objectives

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- 1) Distinguish between reasoning (e.g. explanation, argument) and other types of discourse (e.g. description, assertion).
- 2) Identify, analyze, and evaluate different types of reasoning.
- 3) Find and state crucial unstated assumptions in reasoning.
- 4) Evaluate factual claims or statements used in reasoning and evaluate the sources of evidence for such claims.
- 5) Locate, retrieve, organize, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information of relevance to the subject matter of the course.
- 6) Analyze, evaluate, and construct arguments/position papers about issues of diversity such as gender, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation both in groups and on your own.
- 7) Present, analyze, evaluate and construct reasoning about other issues appropriate to the subject matter of the course.
- 8) Apply formal and informal methods for determining the validity of deductive reasoning and the strength of inductive reasoning, including a consideration of common fallacies in inductive and deductive reasoning.
- 9) Use qualitative reasoning skills orally and for written assignments. Produce argumentative essays.
- 10) Distinguish among questions of fact, value and policy; specify topoi, stock issues, or agendas suggested by each of the three types of questions.

Online Canvas

You are required to complete the online materials during the quarter. Each week contains different readings, assignments and quizzes. You are to log onto your Canvas for this class to access each week. Each week's assignments will open on the Monday of that week and close Sunday night at 11:59pm of that week. You will need to complete the week's assignments within that time period. Attendance points are rewarded by completing each week's assignments.

Being aware of the grading criteria and knowing how to submit the assignments and discussion questions is an important step to staying on top of things in an online class. I am detailing some important need to know information which will help everyone understand the submission and grading process. Instructions on how to submit are also repeated in all the assignments towards the end of the assignment. Each assignment has clear guidelines to help you submit and not do something wrong. It is very important in the Canvas section to carefully read everything and follow the instructions. Most of the mistakes are committed from hasty or incomplete reading of the assignment and its writing and submission guidelines.

B. Assignments

- 1 As soon as you click on the assignment and scroll down to the bottom of the page, you will see a button which says ' Add Submission'. You will see statements above it let you know the submission and grading status for the assignment.
2. Clicking on this button opens up a text box, (scroll to the bottom of the page. It is going to open right below the assignment) you can type the response to the assignment or if you did it offline, cut copy paste it. Click on 'Saves Changes' button right below the text box. This saves your submission on the server. Please know that you can go back and change this assignment any number of times before the deadline. Each time the assignment will be updated with your changes when you click on 'Save changes'. After the deadline is past the system will still let you paste or type the assignment and submit it but it will be marked as a late submission. For late submission syllabus guidelines apply.
3. If when you paste the assignment and see a change in the formatting, please note that this is due to a compatibility issue with MSWord etc. Just paste the assignment in Notepad first which removes embedded coding and then paste it from Notepad onto the text box in Canvas. You should then be able to format the document without any trouble.

Policies

Participation: Since this is a course in communication competency, your regular attendance and participation is expected. This means that it is in your best interest to attend and actively participate in each and every session. By being present, by listening and reacting to the assigned activities, you contribute to the learning process for yourself and fellow classmates. However, should an emergency arise, please do everything in your power to contact me prior to missing class so that we might try to make alternative arrangements. Please be aware that I will only accept late work in cases of extreme personal emergency; furthermore, such work may be subject to a fifty percent grade penalty or additional, elaborative, assignments.

Attendance: You are expected to be here when class starts and ends. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will probably be able to participate in the activities of that day, but you might be counted as an absence. This is a college course, and I do expect you to be present every class session. It is your responsibility to practice constructive learning and great participation. Note: If you do not show up for the second class, and I have not been notified in advance of your absence, I will drop you and continue taking students from the “wait list.”

Assistance: If you need course adaptations or other assistance because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information you feel you should share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case this building must be evacuated, please arrange to chat with me during office hours.

Plagiarism: You must submit your own, original work for this course. I will uphold DeAnza College policy on academic honesty. Consequently, an instance of academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, taking credit for others' work, submitting work for another course as work for this one, etc.) will likely result in a failing course grade. Please refer to the DeAnza course catalog or make arrangements to chat with me to discuss this further if you have questions.

Format: Please format all assignments as follows: Typed or word-processed (using a dark ink) in APA/MLA citation style, double-spaced, 10 or 12 point font, one inch margins on all sides. Be sure to include your name, as well as a title for the assignment.

Grading is based on fulfillment of the assignment, grammar, punctuation, and etc, as the quality and organization of the content.

Grade Monitoring Form

Detailed Instructions per assignment will be given in class and online.

Article 1 Response: _____ out of 50 points possible

Web Site Evaluation: _____ out of 30 points possible

Article Evaluation: _____ out of 30 points possible

Project Summery _____ out of 50 points possible

Annotated Bibliography _____ out of 40 points possible

Final Project: _____ out of 100 points possible

Participation: _____ out of 50 points possible

Total: _____ out of 350 points possible

Your final grade is based on the following point scale:

A= 90%-100%

B= 80%-89.9%

C= 70%-79.9%

D= 60%-69.9%

F = 0%-59.9%

Note: In order to receive general education credit for this course, you must earn at least a C

Course Calendar

Wk.	Date	Day	Zoom Meetings	Online Assignment
1	June 28	T	Zoom mtg. 12:30pm	Response Paper
	June 30	TH	Critical Thinking	
			The Process of	
			Thinking	All assignments due by: Mon. July 4 11:59pm
2	July 5	T	Zoom mtg. 12:30pm	Web Site Evaluation
	July 7	TH	The Argument	Article Evaluation
			Perceptions	
			Research	All assignments due by: Mon. July 11 11:59pm
3	July 12	T	Zoom mtg. 12:30pm	Project Summery
	July 14	TH	Persuasion	
			Project Overview	
				All Assignments due by: Mon. July 18 11:59pm
4	July 19	T	Zoom mtg. 12:30pm	Annotated Bibliography
	July 21	TH	Bias	
			Confirmation Bias	
				All Assignments due by: Mon. July 25 11:59pm
5	July 26	T	Zoom mtg. 12:30pm	Final Project Paper
	July 28	TH	Fallacies	
				All Assignments due by: Mon. Aug. 1 11:59pm
6	Aug. 2	T	Zoom mtg. 12:30pm	Final Project Summary
	Aug. 4	TH	Final	Final