

CMST 2655 - Communication in Groups

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 41285,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Molly Burdette

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Molly Burdette

Instructor Professional Qualifications: MBA, Youngstown State University; Graduate Certificate in Instructional Communication, Youngstown State University; MEd, Youngstown State University; BA Psychology, Youngstown State University

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Course Description

2655. Communication in Groups. An introduction to theories and concepts relating to group communication effectiveness with practical career applications. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Small group communication: Forming and sustaining teams		

- Technology: This course will be facilitated through Blackboard and Webex

To successfully complete this course, you will need access to a computer with internet and Microsoft Office Suite (available free). I will be utilizing Blackboard regularly for this course. It is free to use with your YSU login here.

- Textbook: This is a free online textbook. <https://pressbooks.pub/smallgroup/>

Linabary, J.R. (Ed.). (2021). Small group communication: Forming and sustaining teams. Pressbooks

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Syllabus; Ch. 1	Course Introduction; Introduction to Small Group Communication	
8/31	Ch 2	Group Formation & Development; Personality & Group Communication	Group Member Assessment
9/7	ch 3	Roles in Groups	in class activity
9/14	ch 4	Group Norms	Group application activity
9/21	review CH 3 & 4	Applying Group Rules and Norms	Small Group Project
9/28	ch 5	Working in Diverse Teams	Group Application Activity
10/5	Ch 6	Power and Influence in Groups	Group Activity
10/12	Ch 7	Group Climate; Supportive & Defensive Communication	Group Application Activity

10/19	Ch 8	Conflict in Groups; Managing Group Conflict	Small Group Project; Final Project Introduced
10/26		Asynchronous Group Collaboration	Asynchronous Group Assignment
11/2		Virtual Group Communication & Team Development	Group check-ins
11/9	Ch 9 & 10	Social Loafing, Accountability & Group Decision-Making	Group Activity
11/16	Ch 11 & 12	Group Problem Solving and Leadership	
11/23	Ch 14 & 15	Creativity; Effective Group Work	Final Project Work
11/30		Final Group Project Presentations	Final Group Project Presentations
12/7		Course Reflection and Integration	Final Individual Group Reflection

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.