

Bulletin Preview

(ACE 2)[ES] **COMM 210.**
Small Group Problem Solving
(3 cr) Prereq: Sophomore standing.

Theory and practice of the origin, purpose, methods, and procedures in group problem solving (discussion), and the theory of small group processes.

ACE Certification

In its review of requests for ACE certification, the Interim ACE committee (eventually the UCC ACE subcommittee) will use such criteria as:

- Does the course clearly address the Learning Outcome(s) identified?
- Does the course provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge/skills necessary for successful achievement of the Learning Outcome(s)?
- Does the course provide students with opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the Learning Outcome(s)?
- Does the course reinforce at least one of the following as appropriate for the discipline and as identified by the department offering the course: Writing, Oral Communication, Visual Literacy, Historical Perspectives, Mathematics and Statistics, Critical Thinking, Teamwork, Problem Solving, Ethics, Civics, Social Responsibility, Global Awareness, or Human Diversity?
- Have the hosting department/unit and the instructor(s) agreed to follow through with their responsibilities as outlined in the ACE Course Certification Request Form?

Students select which one outcome they will receive ACE credit for. Faculty should indicate which one or two ACE Learning Outcome(s) are satisfied by the course.

SLO1. Write texts, in various forms, with an identified purpose, that respond to specific audience needs, incorporate research or existing knowledge, and use applicable documentation and appropriate conventions of format and structure.

Describe opportunities students should have to learn the outcome. How is the learning objective embedded in the course?

SLO 2B: This course is designed to introduce students to the elements of theory and practice of communication in problem-solving teams. Course objectives include that students will (a) gain practical knowledge the process of group development and process, (b), develop and enact the leadership role in a group, (c), improve group decision-making and problem-solving, (d), facilitate group communication and conflict negotiation to negotiate conflict, (e) apply the concepts and theories of the course across group contexts and cultures, and (f) demonstrate confidence and skill in communicating ideas in small group settings. These objectives are interwoven into all required work in the course— participation in problem-solving groups, in individual and group work (both oral and written), and in course examinations.

Describe student work that will be used to assess student achievement of the outcome and explain how the students demonstrate the knowledge and skills specified by the outcome.

Student achievement of ACE #2b will be assessed through a variety of course activities including: (a) student participation in a semester-long problem-solving team. Students will apply course theories and concepts to their group experience, graded assignments: (a) *journals of group meetings* wherein students report and process (apply theory and concepts) to each team meeting,

(b) *application papers*, wherein the students reflect on their journals, group experiences, and respond to questions designed to give them opportunity to apply the course material and demonstrate mastery of this knowledge and ability to apply it to their team experience, (c) *team problem-solving project*--work as a team to develop a *needs assessment* of a local problem, and to *address this problem* as a group with background research and developing solutions, and develop an *oral presentation* and *written outline* of their work, (d) *case study of their group experience*, applying course theories and concepts and assessing their individual and team performance, and (e) *written exams* designed to test student knowledge of the learning outcomes.

As part of the ACE certification process, the department/unit agrees to collect and assess a reasonable sample of students' work and provide reflections on students' achievement of the Learning Outcomes for its respective ACE-certified courses.

Please comment on your plans to develop a process to collect and evaluate student work over time for the purpose of assessing student success for this ACE outcome.

To verify that the achievement outcome is being met, the course director for COMM 210 will review overall semester grades in the course and will put together a team of three instructors to review sample work from 10% of the students enrolled in a section. This sample work should include, at minimum, the application papers, problem-solving project, and case study project. Student work will be assessed in light of the course objectives.

What Outcome(s) or skill(s) will be reinforced in this course?

According to the ACE document approved by faculty (Structural Criteria, item 9), "Every ACE course will reinforce at least one of the following skills listed below as appropriate for the discipline and as identified by the department offering the course..." Indicate skills that will be reinforced by the course by clicking on as many as apply and describe briefly how those skills will be reinforced.

These areas are those *OTHER THAN* the one or two outcomes for which you seek ACE certification. Students will not receive ACE credit for the reinforced skills, and the reinforced skills do not need to be assessed for ACE purposes.

Writing

Describe briefly how this skill will be reinforced.

Students will write *individual journals of their problem-solving team meetings*, reflecting skills of reporting what they observed and processing (applying class theory and concepts). Students will complete *individual application papers*, reflecting on their journals, group experiences, and respond to questions designed to give them opportunity to apply the course material and demonstrate mastery of this knowledge and ability to apply it to their team experience, students will groups will complete a *written needs assessment* of a local problem, will address this .

Writing Reinforcement continued from page 2

problem as a group with background research and developing solutions, and develop a *written outline* of their work. Groups will research and write a *case study of their group experience*, applying course theories and concepts and assessing their individual and team performance.

Critical Thinking

Describe briefly how this skill will be reinforced.

Students will read about and engage in critical thinking to address relevant problems they have identified. Students will learn skills of critical analysis and needs assessment, and to locate and use credible evidence to develop arguments and solve problems. The teams will develop both written materials and oral presentations reflecting their critical analysis and the outcomes of this process.

Supportive Material

Syllabus (Required)

[COMM 210 DOB ACE.doc](#)

Attach a copy of the sample syllabus that clearly identifies:

- The Learning Outcome(s) that are satisfied by the course.
- A brief description of the opportunities this course provides students to acquire the knowledge or skills necessary to achieve the Learning Outcome(s)
- A brief description of the graded assignments that the instructor(s) uses to assess the students' achievement of the Outcome(s).

Cross-list Memo (Required if applicable)

If the course proposed for ACE certification is cross-listed, include a letter of support from the chair/head of each cross-listed unit.

Additional Documentation (Optional)