NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
CST 110 – INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION (3 CR.)

Course Description

Examines the elements affecting human communication in individual (e.g., intrapersonal, interpersonal), small group, and public communication contexts with an emphasis on the practice of communication skills in each context. The assignments in the course require college-level reading and analysis of scholarly studies and coherent communication through written reports including the production of at least one APA/MLA-formatted individual writing assignment. **This is a UCGS transfer course.** Lecture 3 hours, Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits

General Course Purpose

CST 110 provides the student with a theoretical and practical survey of the field of human communication, including the opportunity to practice competencies with feedback to enhance communication confidence.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Critical Thinking
- Analyze principles of communication
- Articulate the benefits and challenges of communication in present-day society or in their own lives

Civic Engagement
- Critically analyze how communication skills can be used to manage conflicts and improve relational outcomes
- Analyze the relationship between communication and diversity

Professional Readiness
- Orally communicate ideas to a listener with verbal and nonverbal fluency
- Apply specific communication concepts or theories to their personal and professional lives

Written Communication
- Analyze the various components of a public presentation and develop a written outline and/or manuscript

Fundamentals of Communication:
- Explain the role of ethics in various communication situations
- Identify, describe, and compare characteristics of language and explain denotative and connotative meaning
- Identify types of listening and non-listening behaviors and demonstrate appropriate responses in listening situations
- Compare/contrast various communication models
- Define and describe types of nonverbal communication and apply this knowledge to real-life situations
- Illustrate an understanding of the perception process, and make connections between self-concept and interactions with others
- Analyze, select, and explain various aspects of communication situations in relation to appropriate goals, objectives, and techniques

Interpersonal Communication:
- Demonstrate an understanding of assertive communication
- Identify, define, and apply theories of relationship development to real-life situations
- Identify, define, and apply strategies for maintaining relationships to real-life situations
- Identify, describe, and select appropriate strategies for dealing with defensiveness and managing conflict

Small Group Communication
- Explain how groups make decisions, and specify the different decision methods of decision-making within groups
- Identify and describe problem-solving steps, evaluate a problem-solving process within a group, and predict a group's problem-solving success
- Identify and describe leadership behaviors and responsibilities in groups
- Identify and describe group member behaviors and responsibilities
- Define and describe various tasks and maintenance "roles" (communication behaviors) in groups and explain these behaviors as perceived within a group
- Define group norms and explain how groups develop and manage norms

Public Speaking:
- Analyze audience information and adapt speech content and speech delivery to incorporate what was learned through the analysis
- Define and describe various speech delivery styles
- Select and apply appropriate verbal and nonverbal messages to the speech situation and audience
- Determine and develop objectives and goals for presentations given specific audiences and situations
- Prepare robust outlines and deliver logically organized speeches
- Conduct research and evaluate the accuracy, quality, credibility, and appropriateness of supporting materials to provide evidence for and/or enhance speech content

Media Literacy/Mass Media:
- Define media literacy and describe how it can improve one's skills set as a consumer and citizen in an information-based democratic society
- Examine and discuss how the media shapes one's individual perspectives and influences society as a whole
- Apply critical thinking skills to examine and analyze messages for accuracy and credibility

Major Topics to be Included

Fundamentals of Communication
Interpersonal Communication
Small Group Communication
Public Speaking
Media Literacy/Mass Media