NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
CST 115 - SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION (3 CR.)

Course Description

Emphasizes the development of presentational ability in a group, decision-making, group maintenance, and leadership and participant skills. Incorporates a preliminary study of group dynamics. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Enables the student to study group dynamics and improve his/her communication in small group situations through practice and presentations.

Course Objectives

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

- demonstrate an understanding of the principles of small group communication in discussion and decision-making groups
- demonstrate a working knowledge of the elements of the communication process
  - active listening and responding techniques
  - verbal and nonverbal messages in groups
  - communication roles in groups and how the roles emerge
  - phases of group development
  - resolving conflicts in groups
  - functions and responsibilities of leadership
- assess group norms and their relationship to productivity and member satisfaction

Major Topics to be Included

- Small group foundations
- Listening abilities
- Verbal and nonverbal communication
- Roles and norms in groups
- Leadership theories, styles, functions, responsibilities
- Conflict management and group think
- Discussion questions and agendas
- Decision-making and problem-solving techniques
- Defensive and supportive behaviors
- Group presentation formats
- Phases of group development