



# Syllabus

## Name of Course

SPC1420 / 85037 / FA 26

3CR/HRS

## Contact Information

### Instructor

Name: Devin Rings  
Title: Assistant Professor of  
Speech/Communication  
Email: [drings@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:drings@gulfcoast.edu)  
Phone Number: 850-759-2878

Office Location: Language and  
Literature 029

### Office Hours (Days & Times):

Monday- 9AM-9:30AM, 1PM-3PM

Tuesday- 9AM-9:30AM, 1PM-3PM

Wednesday-9AM-9:30AM, 1PM-  
3PM

Thursday- 9AM-9:30AM, 1PM-3PM

Friday- Available for virtual office  
hours from 9:30AM-11:30AM

Also, by appointment virtually.

Response Time: Within 48hrs of any  
email.

### Division Chair

Betty McKinnie  
Division Chair  
[bmckinnie@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:bmckinnie@gulfcoast.edu)  
(850) 769-1551 ext. 2887

### Division Administrative Assistant

Brandon Bowling  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
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## Course Information

### Catalog Description:

Theory and practice in the process and dynamics of group discussion. Emphasis on techniques for the problem-solving or decision-making group. A presentation-based course.

**THIS IS A DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION BASED CLASS.**

## Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will complete the following major group/team assignments for assessment:
  - A. Participant-Led Panel Discussion – students will be organized into groups to discuss information and ideas about the group’s chosen topic
  - B. Debates - Each group will present a debate in which each team will argue both the affirmative and negative position relevant to the group’s topic
  - C. Round-Table Discussion - Using the topic of the panel discussion and team debate, each group will lead their classmates in a round-table discussion; participation grade for classroom audience is associated with this assignment
2. Students will be assessed a grade for participation activities and assignments.
3. Final Exams will be administered at the time published in the GCSC official exam schedule. Alternative exam arrangements must be approved by the division chairperson. The final exam will be a team activity.
4. Instructors may require **other assignments**, such as additional activities, quizzes, tests, self and peer reviews, etc. Instructors are not obligated to accept late assignments.

## Course Materials & Resources:

### **Textbook, other required materials and required proficiency:**

- <https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/an-introduction-to-group-communication/>  
PDF of textbook can be accessed in Canvas
- Additional readings and resources from OpenEd resources will be assigned throughout the semester.
- Students are expected to have adequate proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word and have access to the college’s LMS system outside of class.
- Canvas: We will make extensive use of Canvas, a course management program that allows you to turn in your work and complete online assignments, keep track of your grades, communicate easily with your instructor and other students in the class, etc.

## Delivery Method:

This course meets face to face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

## Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or

Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send out weekly reminders via announcements. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

## Grading

### GCSC Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| A | 90%-100%      |
| B | 80%-89%       |
| C | 70%-79%       |
| D | 60%-69%       |
| F | 59% and below |

## Calculation of Grades

### **GRADES**

**PARTICIPATION, IN-CLASS QUIZZES (5-15pts) DAILY**

**GROUP ASSIGNMENTS:**

**PANEL DISCUSSION(S) (50pts each)**  
**DEBATE(S) (50pts each)**  
**ROUND TABLE (50pts) \*if necessary\***  
**MIDTERM EXAM (50pts)**  
**FINAL EXAM (100pts)**

**GCSC Grading Scale:**

90-100 = A  
80 – 89 = B  
70 – 79 = C  
60 – 69 = D  
Less than 59 = F

## Course Policies

### Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

### Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Make-Up Work Policy: I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK.

## Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

## Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism"

includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism"

occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

## Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Limited Assistive Use Only

*Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPLUS); however, the use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) for generating, rewriting, or enhancing content is not permitted. All work must reflect the student's original ideas and writing. Representing work created by AI as one's own is a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.*

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

## Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

## Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

## Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.

## Course Schedule SPC1420 F2F

### Week 1:

- Syllabus overview/Intro

### Week 2:

- Chapter 1/ Quiz

### Week 3:

- Chapter 2/ Quiz
- Library visit

### Week 4:

- Chapter 3/ Quiz
- Panel discussion -1

### Week 5:

- Chapter 4/ Quiz

### Week 6:

- Chapter 5/ Quiz

### Week 7:

- Chapter 6/ Quiz
- Debate - 1

### Week 8:

- Midterm exam

### Week 9:

- Chapter 7/ Quiz

### Week 10:

- Chapter 8/ Quiz

### Week 11:

- Chapter 9/ Quiz
- Roundtable

### Week 12:

- Chapter 10/ Quiz

### Week 13:

- Chapter 11/ Quiz

### Week 14:

- Chapter 12/ Quiz
- Debate 2

**Week 15:**

- Review/Make-up/Extra credit

**Week 16:**

- Final exam