Department of English
Course Descriptions

COSK1220 - Reading & Writing Strategies

This course introduces the integrated nature of the communications skills program and establishes the importance of communications for a successful life and career. Students are made conscious of the behaviors and communication patterns typical of the groups to which they and other students belong; they learn to see themselves as audiences for others as they explore how different audiences have different patterns of communication and different expectations; they are encouraged to value and respect differences in communication patterns exhibited by others; and they are encouraged to adapt to the patterns of behavior and communication expected in academic and professional life. Though all the communications skills are introduced and practiced, reading, interpreting, and writing are emphasized. **3 credits**

COSK1221 – Argument and Research

This course reinforces the integrated nature of the communications skills program and the significance of communications for a successful life and career. By learning to analyze and understand their professors as audiences, students are made conscious of the communications and behavioral expectations of their professors and of the reasons for variations in those expectations. While acquiring strategies for researching, interviewing, interpreting, and speaking, students focus on principles of logic, critical thinking, argumentation, and audience analysis necessary to create their own arguments as well as critique the arguments of others. Though all the communications skills are practiced, speaking and writing are emphasized. All written work is to be done on a word processor.

Prerequisite: COSK1220 unless placed in COSK1221 upon entry. 3 Credits

COSK2220 – Public Speaking and Persuasion

This course underscores the integrated nature of the communications skills program and the importance of communications skills for a successful life and career. While refining research and writing skills, students develop computer-assisted presentational materials to enhance the delivery of speeches. Among the communications topics explored are personal and professional relationships, ethical and legal issues, the impact of changing technology, audience analysis, and diversity in the workplace. This course emphasizes the development of a professional style of oral delivery and the production and use of relevant supporting materials.

Prerequisite: COSK1221 (CO121). 3 Credits

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COSK2221 - Intercultural Communications

This course reintroduces the integrated nature of the communications skills program and underscores the importance of communications for a successful life and career. While introducing small group process, COSK2221 extends the study and practice of communications skills into multicultural and global contexts. Focusing on the complexity and diversity of group activity in the contemporary workplace, this course provides an understanding of and strategies for coping with groups comprised of persons having different ethnic, gender, racial, religious, organizational, and professional backgrounds and perspectives. Attention is given to multicultural and ethical awareness, leadership styles, small group processes, and problem-solving methods. Besides demonstrating their command of the communications skills enhanced in the previous communications courses, students are expected to utilize appropriate support technologies in course projects and presentations.

Prerequisites: COSK1221 3 Credits

COSK2230 - Business and Professional Communications

This course assesses the degree to which students have succeeded in achieving the goals of the lower-division communications skills program. By reviewing and synthesizing the topics and skills covered in the previous four courses, by providing continued practice in all the communications skills, and by introducing the different communication practices of various disciplines and careers, COSK2230 emphasizes the integrated nature of the communications skills program and the importance of communications skills for a successful life and career. This course explores further the importance and practice of adapting communications to the expectations of various audiences and emphasizes the completion of standardized assessments in the various communications skills, the establishing of bridges between Communications Skills COSK1220-2230 and communications-intensive courses in the various disciplines, and the conceptual integration of the communications issues and skills taught in all five courses. Successful completion of this course is necessary for students to enroll in upper-division communications skills courses.

Prerequisite: COSK2220 or permission of CSP head. 3 Credits