RATIONALE

This introductory college course covers the major areas and skills of the broad field of communication. It is designed for students who have little or no prior background in the study of communication. If this is the only communication course the student takes, it will provide a good foundation and background for the practicalities of everyday interaction and provide essential foundation for more advanced and specialized study. Of all the knowledge and skills students possess, those concerning communication will prove to be the most important and most useful in their personal and professional lives. The three main areas of focus will be interpersonal, small group, and public communication.

COURSE GOAL:

Emphasis will be placed on enhancing students’ competence in interpersonal, small group, and public communication. Outcomes will include knowledge of the field, enhanced skill in interaction, and interest in further study.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to demonstrate enhanced knowledge of and competence in:

- the complex process of communication in a diverse world
- interpersonal communication
- the dynamics of small group communication
- developing and delivering public presentations

Course Outline:

I. Course Outline
   A. Interpersonal Communication:
      1. Elements of communication
         a. Model of Communication
         b. General principles
      2. Perception and Self-concept
      3. Relational communication
      4. Listening
      5. Verbal and Nonverbal communication
   B. Small Group Communication
      1. Characteristics of groups
         a. Roles, Norms, and Stages
      2. Problem solving in groups
         a. Process
         b. Climate and conflict
      3. Decision making in groups
         a. Process
         b. Leadership
   C. Public Communication
      1. Effective speech preparation
         a. Gathering information
b. Organization: introduction, body, and conclusion
c. Presentation aids
d. Delivery

2. Presenting extemporaneous speeches which may include any combination of:
   a. Demonstrative
   b. Informative
   c. Persuasive
   d. Impromptu