CST 126 ELI

Small Group Project

For this assignment you have the choice of working with a group as outlined below OR completing the Alternative Group Assignment.

Small Group Assignment:

An important aspect of this course is to learn how to communicate with individuals on a personal and professional level. The group assignment is designed to give you some "practical" experience in applying the concepts you are learning by requiring you to work with other members in the class to complete a common objective. To assist you in completing this task you will find a number of resources on Blackboard such as a virtual chat room (allowing members to communicate online without the need to meet in person) a special group discussion forum (where the group will make weekly progress postings) and an e-mail link to enable you to communicate with the members of your group. Recognizing that many of you live at great distances from one another and have busy schedules, it is not my expectation that your group will ever physically meet one another—but I do expect that using the resources in Blackboard and other media (AOL instant messenger, email conversations and the like) you will communicate with your group on a weekly basis in completion of this assignment.

It is important that you work with your group throughout this process for successful groups are groups whose members work interdependently (see link for definition) In these groups individual members who work interdependently (see link for steps to achieve interdependence) have a clear understanding as to their individual role (so they can work independent) and how this roles relates to (dependent on) the groups' overall goal. My evaluation of your group assignment will focus on how well your group functions interdependently.

The Assignment

Your assignment will be to work with your group members to write a paper. This paper should center around the group discussing relevant interpersonal concepts outlined in class as they appear in a movie, novel, play, TV show and the like. The group is to choose an appropriate example (movie, TV show . . .) and discuss relevant interpersonal themes as they are exemplified in this piece. These themes could include; verbal/nonverbal communications, communications climate, emotion and communications, relationship development, perception and their influence on communications, communicating with difficult people, and other topics deemed appropriate. It is expected that each member will have an active role in the design and development of your paper. The group is to choose relevant interpersonal themes-research the themes and expand our knowledge of your subject, and design a presentation or write a paper demonstrating these themes through the use of examples gained from a popular TV show, movie, play . . .
The group should **collectively** decide on an example (TV Show, Movie . . .). Once an example is agreed upon, then each member should select an Interpersonal Concept discussed in the class (verbal/nonverbal communications, communications climate, emotion and communications, relationship development, perception and their influence on communications, communicating with difficult people, stages of conflict . . .) and demonstrate this concept through using a specific scene from your example which demonstrates this concept in action. The purpose is to expand your audience's knowledge of the themes presented by "showing" (in the paper you will briefly outline the scene) a select scene in the movie/TV show . . . that best represents the concept under investigation.

The group should also discuss how the individual concepts chosen by each member relate or connect with each other to provide us with a coherent and comprehensive understanding of your subject material. The themes chosen should relate to each other and be relevant to the plot of your example to help the audience gain a deeper understanding of the interpersonal themes highlighted.

**Completion of this assignment consists of the following elements:**

1. **Group Paper:**

   The goal of this assignment is for the group to develop their material as described above and submit to the instructor (through the blackboard discussion thread entitled **Small Group Assignment** in our blackboard course) a group research paper (and a group report as outlined below). I ask that you use **Google Documents** to develop and submit both your group paper and group report. You can access Google Docs through your VCCS email accounts. Please make sure you add me as a collaborator to your Google Document so I can access it as well. **Please Note:** The group is to submit to me **ONE Google Document** (post the PUBLISHED link to your Google Doc when you are finished to the blackboard discussion thread entitled **Small Group Assignment** in our blackboard course) which includes **BOTH** the Group Paper and the Group Report as outlined in the assignment (I do not accept work submitted that is not contained within the **Google Document** -you need to work with your group to get credit for this assignment).

2. **Group Report**

   Along with the paper discussed above the group also needs to develop a group report. The group report consists of the following items. The first item should be reported online in the your group’s section of Blackboard on a **weekly** basis. The remainder of the items should be compiled into a report that is to be submitted with the Group’s **Google Document**.
1. **Once per week** I would like to group members to "Check-In" and post a progress report on what the group is working on (This can be done by one member who "speaks" for the group). These weekly postings should consist of a summary of what the group has accomplished during the week towards the completion of the final project. Also, they need to include a listing of the ACTIVE group members (those who are working on the project and contributing to the group’s progress). Finally, these postings need to include a listing of the date, time and duration of any group "meetings" (in person or online) that occurred that week along with a list of the members present at those meetings along with a brief description of what was discussed during the meetings and what tasks each member was assigned. **Post this part onto Blackboard under your group’s discussion forum. This should be posted on a weekly basis by Sunday of the week. Please choose ONE member of your group who will be responsible for this and post this to Blackboard. I typically check these notes on Monday of each week.**

2. The remainder of the group report should include the following, which is submitted along with the group paper in the group’s **Google Document**

3. A completed **INDIVIDUAL GROUP MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE** completed by each member of the group. At the end of the questionnaire each member should write (as outlined in the questionnaire) a brief narrative outlining the role they played in developing the presentation and the relevant work they completed. **This should be included at the end of the INDIVIDUAL GROUP MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE.**

4. Finally, a brief note should be included in this report discussing any assigned members who did not contribute to this assignment. This note should include the members name, what (if anything) they contributed and what the group did (sent emails-announcement in open group discussion board and the like) to include this member(s) in this assignment.

I am looking for **1 report created by the group and submitted to me as part of the Group’s Google Document at the same time the group project is submitted.** The Group Report (as outlined above) should appear at the end of the group’s **Google Document.**

**Group Grading:**

I will assess your grade by examining both the paper and the report submitted by your group. I will be looking at how well the group worked together in presenting the material and how dynamic the paper was in capitalizing on the various talents of the group members. I will also be looking at the number and quality of the group meetings and individual attendance and participation. Finally, I will look at how well the group presents their ideas within the time frame given for the assignment

**Relevant Resources**
The following links provide useful information on working in groups. Consult these sources as needed to assist the facilitation of this assignment. As always, you can send me an email and I will provide assistance to your group as needed—although it is my expectation that the group will work together to resolve their challenges as well. Click on the links below for more information. Please note: The group should submit to me ONE assignment. I will only accept one group assignment (both the paper and the group report) from the group—I do not accept individual submissions. Each individual member's part of the assignment (both their part of the paper and the group report) must be submitted with the group's submission for it to be evaluated and count. I cannot accept individual submissions.

Additional Online Resources:

Small Group Communications: Managing Conflict in Groups

Working in Teams

Enjoy!

AGA