Summer 2011

38:578:614 Topics: Group Dynamics and Team Leadership

Meets Tuesday, 6:00-9:40 in LEC Room 130/31, May 31-July 8

Professor Sue Schurman

This course will focus on the skills of "micro facilitation" – the ability to design an effective group decision-making or problem solving event and then to say or do the right things during the meeting to facilitate the group's ability to achieve its goals. The course will deal with both face-to-face and virtual group work. Because groups are becoming increasingly important to the modern organization, facilitative skills are emerging as a core competency for managers, leaders, consultants and anyone who works with groups.

Group facilitation refers to a process in which a person(s) acceptable to group members is designated to help a group improve its effectiveness at identifying and solving problems, and making decisions. The facilitator agrees to be substantively neutral and to have no substantive decision-making authority.

The class will meet face-to-face on Tuesday nights and on-line for the remainder of the class time. The course is heavily experiential. Each class will involve actual group activity and practice facilitation with videotaping and feedback from peers and the instructor.

The text for the course is

Roger M. Schwarz, **The Skilled Facilitator: A Comprehensive Resource for Consultants, Facilitators, Managers, Trainers and Coaches**. Jossey-Bass. 2002 (new and revised) edition.