Course Goal:

The aim of this course is to develop and improve students’ oral communication skills within the context of small group settings. Two main components of the class provide the context for students to develop effective team building and communication skills: 1) group discussions centered on the theme of global issues that is presented to students through movies, articles, documentaries and speakers, and 2) a service learning group project.

You must listen carefully and respectfully to other group members during discussions and presentations.

Class Preparedness and Participation: I expect this of you. We talk about issues. That requires written preparation to support thoughtful discussions. Not being prepared for class or not participating in class will result in the lowering of your overall grade.

Group Discussions on Global Issues 40%
(20% for group assignments and 30% for individual assignments)
Discussions will focus on our main topic, “Helping Hands with Hunger and Homelessness.” In pursuing the examining of topics and subtopics, we will read articles, watch films, listen to speakers and watch online lectures. After each film, speaker or reading, you will extensively prepare for and take part in a detailed discussion of the material with your discussion group. There will also be a follow-up full class discussion in which group representatives will share their results. You will use the guidelines in your packet to prepare for the discussion and conduct the discussion process. It is essential that you prepare your discussion materials in advance because you will be graded on both preparation and participation in each discussion. Note: There may be quizzes following group discussions.

Community Service Project 40%
(20% for group assignments and 20% for individual assignments)
Helping Hands with Hunger and Homelessness.” As part of your research, your team will find a Portland-area non-profit social-service agency, study that organization, interview a staff member, and do a minimum of four hours of volunteer work for the organization. Your team will give a 35-45 minute group panel discussion close to the end of the term about your community service project using appropriate visual aids. In addition, you will write an individual reflection report on your experience.
Final Exam and Poster Session 20%
For the end of the term you will take a written exam based on the packet and supplemental readings associated with discussion skills. Also, you will create and present an individual poster on a topic or topics you found most compelling in the class. These are both individual assignments and are required for completion of the classes.

Note: Students must earn a 70% average to pass and should perform the learning outcomes with a minimum of 70% fluency, intelligibility, and accuracy in speaking. No early or make-up exams, quizzes, or presentations.

Important Policies
IELP Policy on Academic Integrity:
Academic dishonesty in the IELP includes but is not limited to the following types:
- Plagiarism or the use of another person’s work, words, or ideas without giving credit or acknowledgement.
- Cheating on tests and other written work used for grading and student assessment.

If a student has cheated or plagiarized material that is graded, the student will receive a zero or failing grade for that work. In the case of major assessment work (for example, a final exam) this may result in failure of the class. More details about this policy can be found at http://www.pdx.edu/esl/sites/www.pdx.edu.esl/files/IELP_Student_Handbook_6-19-14.pdf