COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

NHEC301: SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

LECTURER: J. MUZAMHINDO

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper contains **TWO** sections (Section A and Section B).

2. Section A is **COMPULSORY**.

3. Answer **ANY TWO (2) questions** from Section B.

4. Start each question on a new page in your booklet.

5. Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentation

6. Do not repeat material.

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

INSTRUCTION: *Answer Question 1.*

Question 1

Groupthink is a negative group dynamic that relates to cohesion and conformity pressures. Several historic events with far-reaching and devastating implications have been analyzed through the lens of groupthink.

Read the following passage and answer the questions which follow:

The rationale for the 2003 Iraq invasion centered on the belief, propagated by the George W Bush administration and the UK government, that Iraq possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) that posed an imminent threat to global security. The central argument was that Saddam Hussein's regime was actively developing and possessing a dangerous arsenal of chemical, biological, and potentially nuclear weapons. Key elements of this narrative included claims of active WMD production and programs, purported ties to terrorist organizations specifically al-Qaeda, suggesting a potential use of these weapons in future attacks as well Iraq's continued violations of UN Security Council resolutions. The possession of WMDs was framed as a direct threat not only to Iraq's neighbors but to the entire world community and the United States itself. These claims, supported by allegedly intelligence-based presentations to the UN, were presented as justification for regime change and the disarmament of Iraq. In October 2022, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the use of military force to disarm Iraq. In November 2002, the UNSC unanimously adopted this resolution, giving Iraq a final opportunity to comply with weapons inspections or face "serious consequences". Following the 2003 invasion, extensive searches failed to uncover significant WMD stockpiles any significant stockpiles of WMDs, contradicting the core rationale for the war. Before the UNSC, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell presented intelligence he described as "solid intelligence" to demonstrate Iraq's failure to disarm. However, after the invasion, the intelligence was later found to be unreliable and based on false or exaggerated allegations, leading to substantial criticism.

(i)   How did groupthink contribute to the decision to invade Iraq in 2003?

[2 marks]

(ii)   What were the consequences of groupthink in the Iraq War?   [3 marks]

(iii)   How did the Bush administration's decision-making process contribute to groupthink?   [5marks]

(vi)   How did the invasion of Iraq impact the concept of groupthink in decision-making, especially in small group communication?   [15 marks]

(iv)   Based on your reading of the Iraq invasion, what lessons do you think can be learned from the Iraq War about preventing groupthink in small group communication?   [15 marks]

SECTION B

INSTRUCTION: *Answer __ANY TWO (2)__ questions.*

Question 2

Group cohesion and climate are important dynamics within a small group.
(i)   Explain the relationship between group climate and cohesion   [10 marks]
(ii)   Compare and contrast a current or former small group that was cohesive and one that was not cohesive   [10 marks]
(iii)   Show how the presence or lack of cohesion affected the group's climate. You can refer to any personal experience you have had.   [10 marks]

Question 3

Outline Tuckman's model on group development. Show, through relevant examples how the model can be applied in real-world settings, such as business or education, to improve team performance.

Question 4

Examine the nine team roles identified by Belbin, and demonstrate how they contribute to team effectiveness.

Question 5

Select any two [2] theories of small group communication and write analytical notes on them. Exemplify.
(i)   Systems Theory
(ii)   Social Exchange Theory
(iii)   Symbolic Convergence Theory
(iv)   Structuration Theory
(v)   Functional |Theory
(vi)   Naturalistic Paradigm Theory

END OF PAPER