

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY

Spring 98 Semester

Psy 411 Psychology of Small Groups
Instructor Dr. Peggy Moody
Office Hours TR 10:00 - 11 a.m. Kieffer Hall, Cubical M
Phone 739-4604 (Kieffer); 942-8654 (home)

Text Johnson, D.W. & Johnson, F.P. (1997). Joining Together: Group Theory and Group Skills (6th Ed). Boston: Allyn and Bacon Publishing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course experientially and systematically explores behavior as a function of factors operating in groups. It introduces you to group dynamics, principles in group leadership and decision-making. This class reviews different types of groups and their applicability in our lives. We will also assess cultural variables as they affect group dynamics.

As students, you will get "hands on" experience leading and participating in various groups provided by me and your class projects. The applications of these skills will be as diverse as you who are in the class. We will look at and get experience dealing with educational settings, understanding jury processes, and learn about therapeutic group processes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

I, as instructor, will:

1. help you gain familiarity with theories, factors (especially cultural influences), and terminology of group process;
2. raise your curiosity regarding the mysteries of human phenomena (e.g., group consciousness, how our minds heal our body);
3. facilitate group experiences relevant to the chapter goals (e.g., leadership, decision making) so that you learn from practice;
4. help you learn to assess and constructively critique your own and others' developing skills.

You, as student, will demonstrate the following objectives through class discussion, group participation, course journal, and a group presentation:

1. an understanding of content and process concepts used in each type of group structure;
2. an awareness of group participation styles and gain further insight into your own approach to groups in general;
3. how to constructively critique yourself and peers;
4. how to lead a group of your choosing to demonstrate integrated knowledge of the theoretical and experiential aspects of group process.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Class attendance:** Class is for you. More specifically to this course, your attendance affects other's participation and grade due to the intensive experiential nature of this class material. I expect to see you at all class meetings on time. If you know you are overburdened by courseload or additional work schedule that may impact attendance, this course is not advised. More than three absences will result in your grade being lowered by one. To clarify your commitment to the course, you will be signing a Learning Contract (to be provided at the first class).

Anytime you are absent, it will change the structure of your in-class group. Therefore, if you will be absent, you must alert your group members. Failure to alert your group will result in minus 5 points.

2. **Assignments:** You can best prepare for class meetings by reading the assigned material in advance and keeping your weekly journal.
 - (a) Journals will be collected biweekly (half the class one week, the other half the following week). Journal entries count 5 pts each entry (total for 13 weeks = 130).
 - (b) You will self-assess your daily group participation in your journal entries (total 5 points per class). I will also assign points each class for my impression of your participation to be compared to your own self-assessment. (Total = 130).
 - (c) Five peer critiques (5 pts each) will be required to help you assess other group members as they present their projects (forms will be provided) (Total = 25 pts).
3. **Class project:** You will be responsible for leading a group exercise/experience which incorporates your knowledge from the course. You may choose the type of group exercise you wish to lead for 15 minutes. Guidelines will be provided at the beginning of the course. Part of this project grade stems from my critique (25 total points possible), part from peer evaluation (5 points possible), and part from self-evaluation (20 points possible) (forms will be provided for this). This project counts for 50 pts.
4. **Final Reflection:** There will be NO exams covering course material. Your grade will be assessed throughout the semester via participation and journal reflections which will be investigating the theory and how you are actively learning book material. The final entry, or reflection will consist of five questions, and will be due during finals' week. (Total = 50 pts)

GRADING

The breakdown of points is as follows:

JOURNAL (5 pts each entry x 26)	130 pts	90 - 100%	(346-385) = A
PARTICIPATION (5 pts/class)	130	80 - 89%	(308-345) = B
PROJECT (each portion pts above)	50	70 - 79%	(269-307) = C
FINAL REFLECTION	50	60 - 69%	(231-268) = D
PEER CRITIQUES (5 pts x 5)	<u>25</u>	Below 60%	(>231) = F
Total	385		

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	ASSIGNMENT & ASSESSMENTS
1	1/13 1/15	Introduction to course and assignments; begin Ch 1: Group Dynamics Finish Ch 1; "A" journals due
2	1/20 1/22	Ch 2: Experiential Learning Finish Ch 2; "B" journals due
3	1/27 1/29	Ch 3: Group Goals and Social Interdependence Finish Ch 3; "A" journals due
4	2/3 2/5	Ch 4: Communication within Groups Finish Ch 4; "B" journals due
5	2/10 2/12	Ch 5: Leadership Finish Ch 5; "A" journals due
6	2/17 2/19	Ch 6: Decision Making Finish Ch 6; "B" journals due
7	2/24 2/26	Ch 7: Controversy and Creativity Finish Ch 7; "A" journals due
8	3/3 3/5	Ch 8: Conflicts of Interest Finish Ch 8; "B" journals due
9	3/10 3/12	Ch 9: The Use of Power Finish Ch 9; "A" journals due
10	3/17 3/19	Ch 10: Dealing with Diversity Finish Ch 10; "B" journals due
11	3/24-26	NO CLASSES--SPRING BREAK
12	3/31 4/2	Ch 11: Leading Learning and Discussion Groups Finish Ch 11; "A" journals due; STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (2)
13	4/7 4/9	Ch 12: Leading Growth and Counseling Groups Finish Ch 12; "B" journals due; STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (2)
14	4/14 4/16	Ch 13: Team Development, Team Training Finish Ch 13; "A" journals due; STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (2)
15	4/21 4/23	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (4) STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (4)
16	4/28 4/30	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (any remaining) Group processes video; FINAL REFLECTION due day of final.