

WEOA

PM

Chaminade University of Honolulu

Psychology 411~~40~~ Small Groups

Instructor: Karen Hoffman MSCP

Contact Phone Number: 638-9468

Text: Joining Together by David W. Johnson and Frank P. Johnson,
Allyn and Bacon Publishers, 2000 (Seventh Edition)

Course Description:

An introduction to the major theories and concepts in the study of small groups. The student will learn theory and research findings needed to understand how to make groups effective, and the skills required to apply that knowledge in practical situations. This will allow the student the opportunity to experience an experiential approach to learning about the dynamics of small groups.

Course Objectives:

The student will:

Demonstrate knowledge of theories and concepts in the study of small groups.

Demonstrate an understanding of small group dynamics.

Be able to integrate knowledge about small group behavior into daily life, so as to enrich ones understanding of self and others.

Course Method:

The following teaching approaches will be utilized:

Textbook Reading

Lecture/Discussion Format

Audio Visual Materials

Small/Large Group Discussions

Guest Speakers

Reflective Writing

Independent Study

Expectations For Students:

1. Class attendance is required!! Participation in activities is expected in order to get the full benefit from the course.
2. Read and study all assignments. You will be responsible for reading the course textbook and any additional readings given during the course. It is important to bring your textbook to every class session.
3. The student is expected to be responsive to new ideas and to participate in discussions and offer own viewpoints.

Course Requirements:A Journal:

The student will make a journal covering the entire course and textbook. The journal will include outlines and notes from each chapter, in detail. Descriptions of experiential activities the student participated in class needs to be included, as well as reflective writings concerning activities in class, articles from newspapers and magazines concerning theories and ideas learned in class. The journal is intended to be something the student can keep and refer to in the future. The journal will be worth 100 pts.

A Project:

Each student will do a six session project encompassing a topic that will improve the lives of members of a small group, using skills learned from the course as well as outside materials. Topics could include small group counseling issues, self-help issues for a small group, or teaching a small group a skill that would improve their life. Students will make copies of their project to pass out and share with their classmates. This will be something the students will be able to use for future reference. Project topics must be approved by the instructor. The project will be worth 100 pts.

Class Presentations:

Each week, students will take turns presenting what they have learned in a particular chapter. You will need to write out your presentation in advance because you will not be able to use your textbook during the presentation. You will need to turn in a typed copy of your presentation. The student will be required to share their impressions and experiences related to the chapter. Class members are encouraged to join in the discussion and presentation and the instructor will make appropriate comments or add information as required. This portion of the class is meant to be lively and interesting. The presentations will allow the students the opportunity to apply the information in each chapter to real life situations which will make our study of psychology more meaningful. The presentations will also give the instructor insight into how much of the information the student is grasping and understanding. Presentations will be worth 100 pts.

Because this class will depend on participation, attitude, and attendance, 100 pts. will be given. Points will be docked for tardiness, and leaving before the class is excused.

Course Grading:

After calculating the total possible points for the course, students will earn the following grade:

A-400-360 B-359-320 C-319-280 D-279-240 F-239&Below

Psy. 411 The Psychology of Small Groups Syllabus

- Week 1----Introduction to Class
Chapt. 1-Group Dynamics
- Week 2----Chapt. 2-Experiential Learning
Chapt. 3-Group Goals, Social Interdependence, and Trust
- Week 3----Chapt. 4-Communication Within Groups
Chapt. 5-Leadership
- Week 4----Chapt. 6-Using Power
Chapt. 7-Decision Making
- Week 5----Chapt. 8-Controversy and Creativity
Chapt. 9-Managing Conflict of Interest
- Week 6----Chapt. 10-Valuing Diversity
Chapt. 11-Learning and Discussion Groups
- Week 7----Chapt. 12-Leading Growth and Counseling Groups
Chapt. 13-Team Development, Team Training
- Week 8----Chapt. 14-Epilogue
Project Presentations
- Week 9----Project Presentations
Journal Due
- Week 10---Project Presentations
Closure