COURSE TITLE/SECTION: SOCW 7356/15745 Social Work Practice with Groups in Clinical Settings

TIME: Wednesday, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

FACULTY: Travis J. Courville, LCSW
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

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I. Course
   A. Catalog Description
      Theories and concepts of interventions with small groups emphasizing roles and skills of social workers in a variety of clinical settings.

   B. Purpose
      This is an elective course which focuses on theories and concepts of clinical social work practice with small groups. The course is designed to help students understand and practice group work within a multi-social-cultural perspective.

II. Course Objectives

   Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following objectives:

   1. formulate a clinical assessment of the group and the group members' biopsychosocial functioning by applying key concepts and principles of interpersonal dynamics and group processes;
   2. formulate a diagnostic summary of group processes at different phases of the group's development;
   3. critically analyze the role of the group leader and its impact on power and power inequity in social work practice with groups;
   4. identify the ongoing dynamics of groups from various theoretical frameworks (i.e. strengths-based, systems, behavioral, psychodynamic, etc.);
   5. assess the professional-client relationship and its impact on the helping process in working with groups;
   6. analyze the impact of class, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation and culture on the interactional processes within a group;
   7. use critical thinking in formulating and evaluating appropriate strategies of evidence-based group intervention;
   8. demonstrate understanding of such key group dynamic concepts as: contracting, confidentiality, cohesiveness, confrontation, conflict,
scapegoating, group norms, catharsis, universality, transference-countertransference, alliances, group composition, size, duration, feedback, and termination.

III. Course Content

See attached topical course outline for specific content to be taught in this course.

IV. Course Structure

Class sessions will be a combination of lecture, discussion, student presentations, and experiential exercises. Lecture material is intended to supplement, not review, the assigned readings. Because the experiential component is a major source of learning, students are expected to attend and participate in all class activities. Guest speakers and audiovisual resources may be a part of the educational experience.

V. Textbooks

Required:


VI. Course Requirements

A. Reading Assignments

The attached course outline contains weekly topics with required reading assignments. Additional reading assignments may be given during the semester.

B. Written Assignments

(1) An oral PowerPoint presentation with a slide handout on a specific topic in group work. The slide handout (six slides per page) will include at least three major points and bibliography/references of a topic agreed upon during the initial class. Student will upload PowerPoint on Blackboard, Discussions section prior to presentation. Due date will be the class time the topic is scheduled for discussion.

(2) An 8-10 page paper entitled, “Toward a personal philosophy of group work”. This paper is intended for the student to articulate the theoretical application of social work practice in groups with one’s style, principles, and
philosophy of helping others. The paper is a reflective paper addressing at least assessment of group dynamics, strategies of interventions, professional-client relationships, and personal experience with groups. Do not consider bibliography or footnotes as part of the required 8-10 pages. The paper is due on the last day of class. Please put your email address on paper.

C. Exams/Quizzes

There will be three quizzes. Format will be multiple choices and open-ended questions about major topics covered in the classroom, textbook and other readings. There will be no final exam.

D. Class Attendance

Class attendance and participation are expected and calculated into the course grade. Students can only use laptops for note taking. Any other use of laptop or smart phone for any other reason during class will be considered nonparticipation.

In the case of severe weather, visit uh.edu/emergency for updates on campus closures. We will also send an email if there is any class disruption.

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Grading will be based on class attendance and participation, including evidence of having read assignments (35%); written and oral assignment for class discussion (15%); term paper (20%); and three quizzes (10% each).

The following standard grading scale has been adopted for all courses taught in the college.

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\begin{array}{c c c c}
    & A & = & 96-100\% \text{ of the points} \\
    A- & = & 92-95.9\% \\
    B+ & = & 88-91.9\% \\
    B & = & 84-87.9\% \\
    B- & = & 80-83.9\% \\
    C+ & = & 76-79.9\% \\
    C & = & 72-75.9\% \\
    C- & = & 68-71.9\% \\
    D & = & 64-67.9\% \\
    F & = & \text{Below 64\%}
\end{array}
\]

VIII. Policy on grades of I (Incomplete):

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when students are either (a) passing a course or (b) still have a reasonable chance of passing in the judgment of the instructor but, for non-academic reasons beyond their control have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. Students are responsible for informing the instructor immediately of the reasons
for not submitting an assignment on time or not taking an examination. Students must contact the instructor of the course in which they receive an “I” grade to make arrangements to complete the course requirements. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete the incomplete requirements.

The grade of "I" must be changed by fulfillment of course requirements within one year of the date awarded or it will be changed automatically to an "F" (or to a "U" [Unsatisfactory] in S/U graded courses). The instructor may require a time period of less than one year to fulfill course requirements, and the grade may be changed by the instructor at any time to reflect work completed in the course. The grade of "I" may not be changed to a grade of W.

IX. Policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism

Please click the link below for the full explanation of the Academic Honesty policy and procedure
Definitions:

“Academic dishonesty” means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at the University of Houston or by a course instructor to fulfill any and all academic requirements. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, the following:

*Plagiarism*

a. Representing as one’s own work the work of another without acknowledging the source (plagiarism). Plagiarism includes copying verbatim text from the literature, whether printed or electronic, in all assignments including field.

*Cheating and Unauthorized Group Work*

b. Openly cheating in an examination, as copying from another’s paper; c. Being able to view during an examination, quiz or any in-class assignment an electronic device that allows communication with another person, access to unauthorized material, access to the internet, or the ability to capture an image, unless expressly permitted by the instructor;

d. Using and/or possessing “crib notes,” as unauthorized use of notes or the like to aid in answering questions during an examination;

e. Giving or receiving unauthorized aid during an examination, such as trading examinations, whispering answers, and passing notes, and using electronic devices to transmit or receive information;

f. Securing another to take a test in the student’s place. Both the student taking the test for another and the student registered in the course are at fault;
Fabrication, Falsification, and Misrepresentation

  g. Changing answers or grades on a test that has been returned to a student in an attempt to claim instructor error;
  h. Using another’s laboratory results as one’s own, whether with or without the permission of the owner;
  i. Falsifying results in laboratory experiments;
  j. Misrepresenting academic records or achievements as they pertain to course prerequisites or corequisites for the purpose of enrolling or remaining in a course for which one is not eligible;
  k. Representing oneself as a person who has earned a degree without having earned that particular degree

Stealing and Abuse of Academic Materials

  l. Stealing, as theft of tests or grade books, from faculty offices or elsewhere, or knowingly using stolen tests or materials in satisfaction of exams, papers, or other assignments; this includes the removal of items posted for use by the students;
  m. Mutilating or stealing library materials; misshelving materials with the intent to reduce accessibility to other students;

Complicity in Academic Dishonesty

  n. Failing to report to the instructor or departmental hearing officer an incident which the student believes to be a violation of the academic honesty policy;

Academic Misconduct

  o. Any other conduct which a reasonable person in the same or similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest or improper in an academic setting.

Process:

Students shall have the responsibility of reporting incidents of alleged academic dishonesty to the instructor of record involved or to the appropriate authority if the alleged act is not associated with a specific class within 5 class days of the incident. Faculty or instructor of record shall have the responsibility of reporting incidents of alleged academic dishonesty through their college hearing officer within 5 class days of the incident. The faculty should include the recommended sanction in the report. The college hearing officer will notify the student of the report and recommended sanction. The student can accept the sanction and waive a hearing or request a college hearing. A hearing shall be set within 10 days and would be consist of two faculty and three students chosen by the hearing officer.

X. Consultation

I plan to be available before each class at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom. In addition, students can contact me by cell phone or email. You can also leave me a note in my GCSW mailbox for an appointment.
XI. Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

See course outline below for specific content and assignment schedule for this course.

XII. Bibliography

The attached bibliography provides additional information on course content.

Addendum: Americans with Disabilities Statement

The University of Houston System complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, each University within the System strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the UH Center for Disabilities at 713-743-5400.

Please note that these instructions may be altered as needed.

SOCW 7356: SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH GROUPS IN CLINICAL SETTINGS

Course Outline
(Note: This outline may be revised during the semester as needed.)

Aug 22  Introductions and course overview; history of group interventions, mental health & social work; different theoretical orientations

Aug 29  Therapeutic factors; therapist - client relationship
        Yalom: 1, 2 & 4
        Garvin: 1

Sep 05  Early stages of group therapy; goal setting; administration of groups
        Yalom: 5, 10 & 11

        Additional reading:

Sep 12  Interpersonal learning approach; process vs. outcome (1st Quiz)
        Yalom: 3, 6
        Garvin: 2

Sep 19  Specialized groups in different settings; co-therapy; TOPIC
DISCUSSIONS
Garvin: 12, 14, 15,

Additional reading:


Sep 26 Inpatient group therapy; brief group therapy; TOPIC DISCUSSIONS
Garvin: 8, 10

Oct 03 Psychodrama; TOPIC DISCUSSIONS

Oct 10 2nd Quiz TOPIC DISCUSSIONS

Oct 17 Sexuality issues in group; class; cultural/ethnic issues: TOPIC DISCUSSIONS
Yalom: 12 & 13 & 15
Garvin: 6,

Additional reading:


Oct 24 Research in group; TOPIC DISCUSSIONS
Yalom: 14
Garvin: 13, 29j

Additional readings:


Oct 31 Training of group leaders; recent developments in group work; TOPIC DISCUSSIONS
Yalom: 17 & Appendix

Nov 07 3rd Quiz; Ethical considerations, TOPIC DISCUSSIONS
Garvin: 5

Additional reading:


Nov 14 **Special issues in group, TOPIC DISCUSSIONS**

Nov 28 **Termination and review of educational objectives; FINAL PAPER DUE**

Additional reading:


**Additional readings:**

**SOCW 7356: Social Work Practice with Groups in Clinical Settings**

**Fall 2018**

**Bibliography**


Northen, H. (1998) Ethical dilemmas in social work with groups. *Social Work with Groups*, 21 (1/2), 5-17


