GROUP COUNSELING AND INTERVENTION
CPSE 648 // SPRING 2015
Monday, Wednesday, 8:00-10:50am; 341 MCKB

INSTRUCTORS:  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
This course provides an overview of theoretical concepts and practical issues related to group counseling. The course covers counselor issues, client selection criteria, client and group preparation, group structuring, group processes, evidence-based group practice, and basic therapeutic techniques. Students will acquire basic skills in leading group counseling sessions and dealing with difficult situations through experiential exercises. The purpose is to introduce students to concepts of group dynamics and development as well as the practical aspects of leading a group. Discussion of structured and unstructured groups as well as group settings and purposes will be included.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. To learn major concepts in contemporary theory and practice of group counseling.
2. To develop a rationale for different group structures and processes.
3. To experience practical group skills by forming, conducting, and ending a mock counseling group.
4. To learn and be able to utilize basic evidence-based practice/practice-based evidence concepts in group counseling

REQUIRED TEXT

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

A variety of methods will be used to approach the course objectives. These include lectures, discussions, video presentations, in-class role-plays, project presentations, participation in a weekly mock group during class, readings, and handouts.

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION: Students may receive up to 50 points for perfect attendance and regular participation. *Much of the interactional and experiential learning for this course will take place during class activities*; therefore, **ten (10) points** will be deducted from the attendance/participation portion of the grade for each absence, regardless of the reason. Lack of participation in class discussions may also result in a deduction of five (5) points for each class discussion or activity not engaged in. **One (1) point** will also be deducted for each tardy. Students are responsible for any announcements made during missed classes.

READING: Students will read the first 10 chapters from the textbook and possibly other supplemental readings. Access to supplemental readings will be provided by the course instructor. Students are responsible to read the material before coming to class. Reading logs will be due every two weeks. The readings are worth up to 40 points.

PROPOSAL FOR DIVERSITY- OR AGE-RELATED OR SPECIALIZED GROUPS: Assigned groups of students will become “expert” on designated chapters in the text or other reading resources dealing with groups for diverse or age-related populations (i.e., multi-cultural, children, adolescents, adults, and elderly) or specialized groups (i.e. trauma stress, disabled persons, anger management, military personnel, divorce support, etc.). Group proposals can be for a variety of target populations and can be a combination of the types of groups listed above. Students can work in groups of two or individually. The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to practice creating a proposal for a group you think you might be likely to lead in the future. Proposals will be turned in to be graded, but will also be shared among class members. The proposal is worth up to 30 points.

MOCK GROUP LEARNING EXPERIENCE: Each student will participate in a series of role played or mock groups led by class members (on a rotating basis) or by the instructors. By the second class period each student will write a one to two page description of their character (including background/history, presenting problem, issues that may unfold later in the group, typical interaction style, etc.) and create a genogram detailing family relationships for their character. Members will participate according to chosen roles (Sample role descriptions will be provided and students will be asked to write one to two pages about their character and draft a genogram of the character’s relationships prior to the second class period.). Students will act as a group leader at least twice and a group participant (with assigned role) each class period during these experiential mock groups. These groups will be conducted during class time during nearly every class period.

*Experiential simulations are intended to illustrate group phenomena and will not function as group therapy. Participation will be voluntary and by informed consent.* We will do our best to maintain a safe environment, free from pressure for self-disclosure. The purpose is not to provoke anxiety or intrude upon the personal lives of the students, but rather to stimulate curiosity and awareness of how groups work.

Experiential Interventions: Students will be asked to find and utilize an experiential activity/intervention (e.g., ice breaker, process development activity, psychodrama) designed for group therapy during at least one of the sessions they lead the mock group.
Group Notes: Class members will be asked to write a group note for each experiential group session. The note should be reflective of major group themes, conflicts, or process interactions that occurred during the session, and it may also provide a conceptualization of group needs and progress. The notes may be written according to the individual style of the students and do not need to reflect the instructor's particular theoretical orientation. In addition, students will also be asked to write a brief note (3-4 lines) about one group member's work during the session as well as a brief conceptualization on this member. Students are encouraged to write the adjunctive note about a different group member each week. Example notes will be provided by the instructors. These notes, in conjunction with participation in the mock group experience and the experiential intervention, are worth up to 50 points.

If a student elects not to participate in the above mock group experience, s/he may choose to participate in one of the two alternatives below, without penalty:

**Alternative 1:** Class members can choose to be in a group at the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) or BYU Comprehensive Clinic (CPSE doctoral students may not participate in a CAPS group.). In order to avoid disruption of these ongoing groups, if a class member chooses this option, s/he will be required to attend the group for the entire semester or term. Those wishing to engage in such groups need to do so as a participant, not as an observer. Your instructors will help make this arrangement if a student so desires. Everyone choosing this alternative will be encouraged to write a reflection of their own group experience at the end of the term (note: it is critical to protect the privacy of other group members in this paper). These reflections will be confidential and not graded. This is worth up to 50 points, based on qualitative evaluation of content. Five (5) points will be deducted for each session missed.

**Alternative 2:** Class members can choose to write a 25-page academic paper on group counseling or therapy. This option will be available for any student who does not want to participate in either of the two group options above. The topic is to be mutually agreed upon by the student and instructor. This is worth up to 50 points, based on qualitative evaluation of content and technical presentation such as format, spelling, grammar, etc.

**THEORETICAL ORIENTATION PRESENTATION:** Students will study a theoretical approach to group therapy in depth and give a presentation to the rest of the class. Presentations should cover the premises, practices, role of the group leader, desired outcomes, and evaluation of the theoretical approaches they are assigned to study. Please create a one-page handout that summarizes your presentation (email this to the instructors). The project is worth up to 30 points.
GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Log</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Proposal</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mock Group/Group Notes/Experiential Activity</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theoretical Presentation</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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FINAL GRADES

190-200 points or 95 - 100% = A
180-189 points or 90 - 94% = A-
170-179 points or 85 - 89% = B+
160-169 points or 80 - 84% = B
150-159 points or 75 - 79% = B-
140-149 points or 70 - 74% = C+
130-139 points or 65 - 69% = C

MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY GUIDELINES AND COMPETENCIES:
You are expected to be familiar with the APA and APA Division 17 Multicultural Guidelines and Competencies. Please read and become familiar with the information in the following links:

PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY (AGPA):
http://www.agpa.org/guidelines/AGPA%20Practice%20Guidelines%202007-PDF.pdf

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
If you have a disability requiring special arrangements such as note taking or other accommodations, please feel free to discuss this with the instructor. Accommodation letters from the University Accessibility Center located in 2170 WSC (422-2767, 422-4472 VP) may be required to authorize certain accommodations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT:
If you believe you have encountered unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, you may seek resolution through established grievance policies and procedures outlined in your Doctoral Student Handbook. You may also contact the Equal Opportunity Office (D-282 ASB, 422-5895 or 367-5689–24 hours), or the Honor Code Office (4440 WSC, 422-2847).
PRIMARY READING RESOURCES:


OTHER READING RESOURCES:


• Ettin, M.F. (1988). "By the crowd they have been broken, by the crowd they shall be healed": The advent of group psychotherapy. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy, 38*(2), 139-167.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS CONTENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Assign Theoretical Approaches</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Explanation of Syllabus</td>
<td>Pick Mock Group Roles &amp; Leadership Times</td>
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<td>Group Activity</td>
<td>Sign Consent Forms</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>Group Video</td>
<td>1-2 Page Description of Mock Group Role and Genogram Due</td>
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<td>Mock Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Introduction to Groups; History and Trends of Group Work; Types of Group Work; Group Dynamics</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapters 1-2</td>
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<td>Mock Group</td>
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<td>5/11</td>
<td>Mock Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group Video</td>
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<td>5/13</td>
<td>Group Dynamics (continued); Planning/Creating/Forming/Starting Groups</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapter 2-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mock Group</td>
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<td>5/18</td>
<td>Effective Group Leadership; Ethical and Legal Aspects of Working with Groups</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapter 3, 10</td>
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<td>Mock Group</td>
<td>Reading log (Ch: 1-4 &amp; 10) &amp; Group Notes Due</td>
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<td>5/20</td>
<td>Transition Period in a Group: Storming and Norming; Group Video</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapters 5</td>
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<td>Mock Group</td>
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<td>5/25</td>
<td>Memorial Day (No Class)</td>
<td>Memorial Day (No Class)</td>
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<td>5/27</td>
<td>Working Stage in a Group: Performing; Group Video</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Mock Group</td>
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<td>6/1</td>
<td>Practice-Based Evidence for Group</td>
<td>Group Proposals Due</td>
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<td>Mock Group</td>
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<td>6/3</td>
<td>Working with Culturally Diverse Populations Mock Group</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Reading log (Ch: 5, 6, &amp; 8) &amp; Group Notes Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Reading / Notes</td>
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<td>6/8</td>
<td>Special Needs &amp; Specialty Groups Mock Group</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapter 9</td>
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<td>6/10</td>
<td>Closing/Terminating a Group Mock Group</td>
<td>Gladding: Chapter 7</td>
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<td>6/15</td>
<td>Theoretical Approaches/Projects</td>
<td>Theoretical Approach/Project Presentations</td>
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<td>6/17 Final</td>
<td>Theoretical Approaches/Projects</td>
<td>Theoretical Approach/Project Presentations</td>
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<td>Reading log (Ch: 7 &amp; 9) &amp; Group Notes due</td>
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*This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.*