

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS **AND** TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ON

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: GROUP DYNAMICS 1

CODE NO.: HSC 202

SEMESTER: FOUR

PROGRAM: TEACHER ASSISTANT

AUTHOR: ED FINN

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DATE: JANUARY 1997

PREVIOUS DATE: JANUARY 1996

NEW:

REVISED: X

APPROVED: ^{^SCP^jC^} ^{Jjr/<£/'r^y^/ccCf} ^{„^Jk^ b>} **'9±_**
D. Tremblay, /DEAN, School of **Uafce**
Human Sciences and Teacher
Education

PHILOSOPHY

This course will explore the process which occurs when people become a group. Students will be introduced to the theory underlying effective group dynamics and the skills required to apply this knowledge, therapeutically, with children and youth. An experiential approach to learning about group dynamics encompasses the core of this subject matter.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. understand and apply concepts of group dynamics as it relates to identifying roles within the group as well as role adjustments.
2. identify and gain expertise in recognizing the 'sense of group' by observing and exploring the behaviours, feelings and attitudes within the group structure.
3. employ attending behaviours and demonstrate caring communication skills.
4. create, implement and process therapeutic group activities.
5. develop self-awareness as it relates to and affects the dynamics of the group process.
6. understand and apply the concepts of problem-solving and decision-making within a group and/or team structure.
7. identify the developmental stages of groups and plan activities according to each stage.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

1. Group Dynamics and Relating Behaviours to Roles
2. Helpful and Harmful Group Behaviours
3. Interpersonal Communications
4. Creativity and Leadership
5. Self and the Group Process
6. Conflict Management
7. Modifying Group Formations

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

REQUIRED RESOURCES

1.0 Group Dynamics and Relating Behaviours to Roles
Upon successful completion of this module the student will be able to:

- 1.1 identify characteristics of a group
- 1.2 prepare and keep a personal journal

Text: Joining Together
Chapter 1
Activities: discussion, assigned readings, handouts, exercises

- 1.3 understand the structure of groups
- 1.4 identify effective groups and group skills

Assignment: (# 1) Complete a Learning Contract. Answer questions 1 -> 4 on pg. 46 of the text.

- 1.5 identify his/her present attitude, behaviours and feelings

2.0 Helpful and Harmful Group Behaviours
Upon successful completion of this module the student will be able to:

- 2.1 distinguish between helpful and harmful group behaviours
- 2.2 understand procedural learning and action theories
- 2.3 gain expertise through experiential learning
- 2.4 identify and explore feelings, attitudes, and behaviours within a group
- 2.5 develop observation and role-playing skills
- 2.6 explain and conduct a skill training exercise
- 2.7 understand the ethics of experiential learning

Text: Joining Together
Chapter 2
Activities: discussion, assigned readings, handouts, exercises, role-playing

Assignment: (#3) Paragraph describing your perception of experiential learning

3.0 Interpersonal Communications
Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

- 3.1 identify effective communication techniques that enhance listening and understanding
- 3.2 understand group goals and social interdependence
- 3.3 develop goal-related behaviours and effective group goals
- 3.4 propose methods to improve group communication

Text: Joining Together
Chapter 3 & 4

Activities: discussion, exercises, assigned readings

LEARNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

- 3.5 practice giving and receiving information
- 3.6 recognize patterns of communication within the group
- 3.7 explain the difference between competition and cooperation
- 3.8 understand and identify barriers to communication
- 3.9 determine communication structures and networks
- 4.0 Creativity and Leadership**
Upon successful completion of this module the student will be able to:
 - 4.1 create, implement and process therapeutic group activities
 - 4.2 identify and demonstrate leadership issues and styles
 - 4.3 empower group members through successful leadership
 - 4.4 determine factors that indicate successful leadership
 - 4.5 recognize common causes of failure and suggest how each could be minimized or eliminated
 - 4.6 compare and describe situations involving conflict, competition and cooperation
 - 4.7 utilize the problem solving process to devise solutions for given case studies
 - 4.8 demonstrate the decision making model for reaching a group/team consensus
 - 4.9 identify and describe different methods of decision making
- 5.0 Self and the Group Process**
Upon successful completion of this module the student will be able to:
 - 5.1 develop his/her self-awareness as it relates to and affects the dynamics of the group process
 - 5.2 understand his/her controversial behaviour
 - 5.3 identify cooperative goal structure
 - 5.4 define creativity and develop/foster creativity
 - 5.5 negotiate conflict strategies
 - 5.6 promote negotiating resolutions and understand third party mediation
 - 5.7 define and use power and influence
 - 5.8 recognize power behaviour within self and other

REQUIRED RESOURCES

Assignment: (#4) Complete exercise **4.11** on page **174**

Text: Joining Together
Chapter **5 & 6**
Activities: discussion, exercises, handouts, role-play

Assignment: (#5) Create a therapeutic group activity. Be prepared to implement, (date to be arranged)
(#6) Write a report about the **'process'** to hand in.

Text: Joining Together
Chapter **7 & 8**

Activities: discussion, exercises, assigned readings

Assignment: (#7) Prep.i" group theory presentation

LEARNING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

REQUIRED RESOURCES

6.0 Conflict Management
Upon successful completion of this module the student will be able to:

- 6.1 compare and describe different types of groups
- 6.2 lead a learning and discussion group
- 6.3 lead a growth and counselling group

Text: Joining Together
Chapter 9 & 10

Activities: discussion,
exercises, readings, handouts

- 6.4 understand team development
- 6.5 recognize the psychological benefits of group membership
- 6.6 Assess the quality of his/her behaviours and attitudes in a leadership role

Assignment: (#8) Implement your group activity. Be prepared to give and receive feedback

7.0 Modifying Group Formations
Upon successful completion of this module the student will be able to:

- 7.1 identify the developmental stages of groups and plan activities accordingly
- 7.2 demonstrate the preparation needed for each developmental stage of a group
- 7.3 understand the importance of formal group termination
- 7.4 create a description of his/her self as a group member, (strengths, needs and plan of action)

Text: Joining Together
Chapter 11, 12 & 13

Activities: discussion,
exercises, role-play, handouts

Assignment: (#9) Complete personal journal and submit to instructor

Due to the nature of this course, much of the learning will of necessity, be experiential. This requires that the student must complete assigned readings/assignments and be prepared to deal with the material in class sessions.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENTS	40%
MIDTERM TEST	30%
FINAL TEST	30%
	<u>100%</u>

Assignments will be chosen from: textbook chapter assignments, learning journals, individual/group projects or presentations.

The midterm and final tests will be in objective format, ie. multiple choice.

COLLEGE GRADING POLICY

90 - 100% = A+
80 - 89% = **A**
70 - 79% = **B**
60 - 69% = C
BELOW 60% = **R**

SPECIAL NOTE

Students with special needs (eg. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities) are encouraged to discuss required accommodations confidentially with the instructor.

Your instructor reserves the right to modify the course as he/she deems necessary to meet the needs of students.

REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES

Texts: Johnson, D.W. L Johnson, F.P., Joining Together, Group Theory and Group Skills, Allyn S, Bacon, 1997, Sixth Edition.