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SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY  
SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Title:       GROUP DYNAMICS

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Code No.:           COR 311

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Program:           CORRECTIONAL WORKER

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Semester:          FOUR

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Date:                JANUARY, 1993           PREVIOUS DATE: JANUARY, 1992

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Author:             ELIZABETH NIXON

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New:       \_\_\_\_\_                   Revision:    \_\_\_X\_\_\_

APPROVED:    \_\_\_\_\_ *K. DeRosier* \_\_\_\_\_       DATE:    *January 6, 1993*

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Group Dynamics (COR 311)

Instructor: E. Nixon

### PHILOSOPHY/GOALS

This course is designed to explore the process which occurs when people become a group. The focus will be on group structure and the "dynamics" of the group. The application of the group in therapeutic process will be examined. Various group techniques and approaches which are pertinent to the experience of a Correctional Worker will be studied.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To increase self-awareness of the individual within the group context.
2. To become aware of the effective use of feedback in the group.
3. To demonstrate in verbal, written and behavioural terms, an understanding of group dynamics.
4. To develop observational and analytical skills in assessing group functioning.
5. To explore and understand the causes for and changes in individual behaviour in groups.
6. To recognize the needs of the individual and the group.
7. To study group formation, composition and motivation, relative to specific tasks - maintenance functions.
8. To develop strategy to meet identified group goals.

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

1. Leadership
2. Decision Making
3. Group Goals and Group Structures
4. Communication with Group
5. Controversy and Creativity
6. Conflicts
7. Power

### REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES

Text:

Johnson, D.W. and Johnson, F.P. Joining Together, Group Theory and Group Skills. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1987 Fourth Edition.

### METHODOLOGY

The class will be taught through a combination of lecture, group discussions and group participation. Format will vary according to material presented. Much of the learning will be experiential and will necessitate the active participation of each student.

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1. To maintain regular attendance - **80% is compulsory**
2. To participate actively and fully in class and group discussion and exercises
3. to complete assigned reading and be prepared to discuss for the next class
4. To adhere to the concept of confidentiality
5. To complete two (2) in-class tests on material presented, readings, etc.
6. To prepare and submit a paper with the following format
  - a) typewritten
  - b) preparation of the paper will require a detailed analysis of a group of which the student is a member; this analysis will relate the group to the following aspects of group dynamics as presented in the text.
    1. Group membership
    2. Group goals and goal structures
    3. Leadership
    4. Decision making
    5. Communication within the group
    6. Use of Power within the group
    7. Conflicts of interest
    8. Controversy
    9. Creativity
    10. Your perception of how your role has developed within your group
7. To prepare and present an icebreaker and a living skills or substance abuse module to a group in the community. This will be discussed further in class.
8. To prepare and present a small group exercise in class.

GRADING

Test #1	20%
Test #2	20%
Term Paper	20%
Presentation (community)	20%
Presentation (class)	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
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	100%

- 90 - 100% = A+  
80 - 89% = A  
70 - 79% = B  
60 - 69% = C  
below 60% = R (repeat course)

**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.