



*SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK*

**SWK 509: Advanced Generalist Practice/Small Groups**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This direct practice theory course provides students with advanced group work theory and skills necessary to carry out social work interventions with small groups. The focus is on social group work with rural populations.

**GOAL & COMPETENCIES:**

**1. Prepare MSW graduates for professional advanced generalist practice that reflects application and integration of critical thinking, theoretical frameworks, and differential interventions. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:**

C 1.1 Apply critical and independent analysis of practice situations and effectively communicate their judgments, reasoning and decision-making processes (2.1.3)

C 1.2 Apply and contribute to evidence-based and best practice approaches to continuously assess and improve the efficacy and effectiveness of practice (2.1.6)

C 1.3 Differentially apply theories and frameworks of HBSE and critique interactions between and among biological, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural systems and their reciprocal relationships with HBSE. (2.1.7)

C 1.4 Demonstrate autonomy in dynamic practice activities that involve (2.1.10):

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C. 1.4 (a) Effective relationship-building interactions at all levels of systems f focused on enhancing client choice, motivation, and hopefulness in the change process

C. 1.4 (b) Use of a variety of multi-dimensional evidence-based assessment tools and intervention approaches

C. 1.4 (c) Effective intervention with complex problems and multi-level systems that provides amelioration as well as prevention strategies

C. 1.4 (d) Response to the evaluative feedback process for interventions implemented with client systems

**2. Enable MSW graduates to apply ethical reasoning to advance equality, justice, and social change. Graduates will be able to reflect the following competencies:**

C. 2.2 Apply social work ethical principles to resolve dilemmas and create positive change among individuals, families, groups, organizations & communities (2.1.2)

C. 2.3 Demonstrate the ability to build strengths based on mutual engagement with diverse populations (2.1.4)

**3. Promote leadership and service that is relevant to individual contexts of practice and enhances well-being and quality of life. Graduates will be able to reflect the following competencies:**

C. 3.1 Exemplify and model professional social work standards and strive to enhance their professional growth and development (2.1.1)

C 3.2 Use leadership skills indicative of an advanced generalist practitioner to proactively respond amidst changing contexts (2.1.9)

C 3.4 Effectively intervene with individuals, families and groups, and provide administrative leadership and direction in organizations and communities as advanced generalist practitioners. (\*\* New AGP Objective)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Develop an understanding of the advanced generalist strengths perspective as it relates to group work theories, knowledge, and skills (Goal 1, Obj 1).
2. Understanding community needs and the application of group work skills in work with rural communities (Goal 1, Obj 2).
3. Use of critical thinking skills to evaluate one's own knowledge, skills, and values in utilization of group work in a culturally diverse society (Goal 2, Obj 2).

4. Understanding the implications of cultural diversity (*i.e.*, age, race, gender, ethnicity, income, sexual orientation, disability, setting) on the functioning and use of groups (Goal 4, Obj 2).

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to demonstrate the following knowledge areas in their class assignments, term papers, examinations, and group projects:

The course aims at enabling students to:

1. Enhance knowledge of group process, research and theory related to advanced generalist strengths perspective in relationship to social group work.
2. Develop the ability to understand and translate group concepts into operational principles and practice skills in work with groups.
3. Develop the ability to identify, evaluate and apply small group theory and research findings to the analysis of groups.
4. Acquire a working knowledge of selected theoretical and empirical orientations related to ways in which (1) individuals affect group process, (2) group affects individual behaviors, (3) group influences group processes, and (4) the interactional effect of group and individual exchanges on the group process, and on individual change.
5. Develop the ability to translate theoretical and empirical knowledge into practice principles and techniques for understanding, analyzing and implementing systematic planned change in groups, and through groups.
6. Acquire through simulations and role-playing, an enhanced competence in group leadership skills, and experience how role in groups affects individual status.
7. Demonstrate an increased understanding of the role of ethnic, racial, socio-economic, gender and political factors on group behavior, and be able to practice in the context of human diversity.
8. Learn to use feedback in group communication and communicate with clarity in receiving and giving feedback.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES**

This course builds upon foundation content that provides knowledge of human behavior and social systems. It builds upon foundation exposure to professional values and ethics, particularly the NASW Code of Ethics.

This course draws upon SWK 595 to engage research methods and skills in evaluation; critical thinking skills utilize research and empirical evidence: It works in conjunction with SWK 507 in relating social groups to community context; it relates individual functioning to group processes drawing on SWK 505.

## **TEXTS:**

### **Required Text:**

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Jacobs, E.E., Masson, R., Harvill, R., & Schimmel, C. (2012). *Group Counseling: Strategies and Skills*. (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

ISBN: 978-1-111-87052-2

This is a bundle that contains a book and a DVD; it can be purchased online as well as physical locations.

**Recommended Texts:**

Corey, G. and Corey, M. S. (2002). *Groups - Process and Practice* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Yalom, I. D. (1995). *The theory and practice of group psychotherapy* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Basic Books.

**GRADING:**

Assignment #1: Paper I	150 points
Assignment #2: Class Presentation	150 points
Quiz #1	50 points
Quiz #2	50 points
Quiz #3	50 points
<b>Class participation &amp; participation in group activities</b>	<b><u>50 points</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500 points</b>

**Grades will be determined according to the following:**

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
450-500	A
400-449	B
350-399	C
300-349	D
Below 300	F

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES IN RELATIONSHIP TO GRADES:**

1. Papers may not be rewritten once they have been graded.
2. No extra credit is provided in this class.
3. All assignments must be turned in on time.
4. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

**OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

**1. Assignment: Paper:** Study an issue in your community (teenage pregnancy, drugs, Updated version 12.12

unemployment, etc.). Describe the development of a group for that population. Address the following issues in your paper:

- A. Brief Introduction
- B. Begin with sanction from the agency (how you will achieve sanction, etc.).
- C. The kind of group that would best serve this at-risk population. (include whether the group will be open or closed and give rationale for your choice)
- D. Leadership skills needed
- E. Membership recruitment
- F. Time frame
- H. Location
- G. Physical environment
- I. Basic norms of the group
- J. The stages of the group and the expected process in each stage (group development)
- K. Intervention and assessment skills used
- L. Ethical considerations for this population & how you would resolve any ethical dilemmas
- M. Termination
- N. Evaluation.

Use of the strengths perspective should be included in this paper

The paper should be **no less than eight and no more than ten pages long** (not including cover and reference pages). It must be APA style, typed, with one inch margins, using 12 point font and double spaced. You must use page numbers. You must back up your paper with a minimum of eight professional references, of which **four must be social work journals**. This paper is due at the beginning of class on November 17, 2014.

**\*\*You must turn in a hard copy of your paper, even if you also submit the paper electronically. I will confirm that I received your paper by reply email. The deadline for submitting this paper electronically is 6:00 p.m. November 17, 2014. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. PLEASE DON'T ASK FOR EXTRA TIME. (Obj. 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

**\* Assignment 1 is worth 150 points.**

**2. Assignment 2: Class Presentation:** Two students will select one of the following methods of group work and prepare a class presentation on that group work method: *Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy, Reality Therapy, Adlerian Therapy, Transactional Analysis, Gestalt Therapy, Solution Focused Therapy, Task-Oriented Group, Transtheoretical Model, or Cognitive Therapy*. The presentation will begin with a description of the application of the method of group work selected including:

- **description of the theoretical underpinnings of the method**
- **techniques/interventions**
- **special considerations in application of the method (i.e. not appropriate for a short term, closed ended group)**

You will also lead the class in a simulated group activity that demonstrates the method of group work on which you have reported. The presentation; including the group simulation should last approximately 35 – 45 minutes. Be sure to allow time for questions. Group presentations will be scheduled on the following dates:

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- **November 3:** Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy; Reality Therapy
- **November 10:** Solution Focused Therapy
- **November 17:** Cognitive Therapy; Transrational Model
- **November 24:** Task-Oriented Model; Gestalt Therapy
- **December 1:** Adlerian Therapy; Transactional Analysis

Eight class members will role play the “group” for each presentation. Different class members will participate in the various groups. Each presentation must include a handout for all class members that outlines the basic elements of this particular group. (Obj. 1)

**\* Assignment 2 is worth 150 points.**

Three quizzes will be administered in class throughout the semester. The format for the quizzes will be short answer and essay. Quizzes will be given which reflect content from the weekly assigned readings. The format may include multiple choice, short answer and/or essay questions. These short quizzes (50 pts) will be given at the beginning of the class meeting and will cover the readings assigned for that day. **These quizzes cannot be made up. If you are late to class, you will miss the opportunity to earn these points.**

**3. Quiz 1: September 29: Short answer and essay format covering class lectures and assigned readings: Chapters 1-6. Quiz 1 is worth 50 points.**

**4. Quiz 2: October 27: Short answer and essay format covering class lectures and assigned readings: Chapters 7-15. Quiz 2 is worth 50 points**

**5. Quiz 3: December 1: Short answer and essay format covering class lectures and assigned readings: Chapters 16-18. Quiz 3 is worth 50 points.**

(Obj. 1,2,3,4)

## EXAMINATIONS

**Three quizzes will be administered in class throughout the semester.**

## CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend class, reflecting responsibility which is inherent in the development as a social work professional. Roll will be taken regularly. Students are expected to be on time and prepared to participate when class begins as well as be present throughout the entire class meeting. Classroom exercises, discussions, role plays, guest speakers and other in-class experiential exercises are essential for a student’s professional learning and continued development of self-awareness. Tardiness (or early departure) of more than 15 minutes will count as .5 absence (2 tardies/early departures = 1 absence). A student is considered absent if he/she arrives more than 30 minutes late to class, leaves 30 or more minutes early or does not come to class.

The following penalties for absences (unexcused, or excused, according to university policy) will be administered:

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Weekly	Up to 2 absences No penalty	3 absences 1 letter grade drop	4 absences Class grade of "F"	
Bi-weekly	Up to 3 absences No penalty	4 absences 1 letter grade drop	5 absences 1 letter grade drop	6 absences Class grade of "F"
Summer 10-week	Up to 1 absence No penalty	2 absences 1 letter grade drop	3 absences Class grade of "F"	

**ONLINE OR WEB-ENHANCED CLASSES:** Just as students are required to attend face-to-face classes, students are required to log in and participate in online components. To receive credit for attendance online via eCollege, students must log in and complete assignments in a timely manner. Not logging in to eCollege (which can be monitored by the instructor) and completing assignments online during the appropriate time is the equivalent of an absence for each week this occurs.

Final evaluation and grades depend on both presence and participation. Students' grades will be significantly impacted by inadequate participation or lack of required time commitment each week. Students are expected to spend a comparable amount of time in the online learning environment as they would in class (3 hours a week in the classroom). In addition, just as in traditional F2F classrooms, students are expected to spend time reading and studying class materials.

**NOTE: PROBLEMS WITH YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION AND/OR COMPUTER ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS REASONS FOR LACK OF PARTICIPATION.** You have access to the university's computer labs (in the social work department AND other campus facilities, including the library) as well as local libraries and other access to computers and ISPs. If you believe that you are unable to fulfill the requirements for the course you should talk with your instructor about the possibility of dropping or withdrawing.

Class participation has three components: (1) Appropriate interactions with classmates, (2) Attentiveness, and (3) Active involvement in class activities. Evaluation of class participation is based on instructor observation. Students will be given feedback if problems are evident.

### **POLICY ON DUE DATES:**

### **POLICY ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Every student is expected to do his/her own work. Law, ethical standards, university policy, and departmental policy demand that students refrain from plagiarism and any form of cheating. Plagiarism is the "Act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts of passages from of his [or her] writings, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the products of one's own mind." (Black's Law Dictionary, Abridged Fifth Edition, 1983). When using others' words, phrases, or ideas in writing, the original author should be given proper credit.

Cheating may take different forms. These include, but are not limited to, copying others' answers during an exam, using notes or other forms of help during an examination or quiz, except when explicitly permitted by the instructor, giving or receiving help on exams or assignments, or submitting work for one class which has already been submitted for another class for credit. Use of citations from the Internet without paraphrasing content AND proper referencing is regarded as plagiarism. Professors have the right to use electronic review programs (such as Turn It In™) to identify plagiarism.

The department does not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. A student found to be engaging in such illegal and unethical conduct may receive a failing grade in the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary proceedings. Any assignment or exam that lacks honesty will be given a grade of "0".

### **ACCEPTABLE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:**

“Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to obey all federal, state, and local laws, in addition to the regulations of the University. The standards of Student Conduct including disciplinary rules and procedures are designed to provide and conform to the basic tenets of due process, as developed by institutions of higher education. As such, the University distinguishes these procedures and regulations as an educational and growth process which is not intended to conform to adversary proceedings as in a court of law. (Student’s Guide Book, 2011, p. 35).

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS**

The Department of Social Work expects all social work students to conduct themselves in an ethical, professional manner. Professional ethics are at the core of social work. The profession articulates its basic values, ethical principles, and ethical standards as set forth in the *NASW Code of Ethics* to guide social workers’ conduct. The *Code* is relevant to all social workers and social work students, regardless of their professional functions, the settings in which they work, or the populations they serve. Accordingly, we expect social work students to demonstrate courtesy, respect and support for fellow students, instructors, clients, and all other persons.

All students enrolled in BSW or MSW classes are expected to observe the tenets of the NASW Code of Ethics and the Social Work Student Code of Conduct. Our Code of Conduct is reflective of professional and academic expectations – a student who cannot demonstrate appropriate behaviors will not be appropriate for practice in the social work profession. Students who violate these Codes may be asked to meet with appropriate Social Work faculty (instructors or Program Directors). In addition, the department’s Academic and Professional Issues (API) Committee is responsible for dealing with student issues when requested by faculty.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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It is the policy of Texas A&M University-Commerce and the Social Work Department to do everything we can to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law, and the University's commitment to providing equal opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation, for example, in accessibility, seating placement or in arrangements for examinations should not hesitate to inform the instructor. If required, large type, Braille or cassette recordings of syllabus or assignments can be provided.

Students with conditions that require special attention or accommodation should contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services at 903-468-5150 (located in the Library, Room 132).

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Reading(s)	Assignment/Activities	Link to Comp.	SLO
Aug 25 <sup>th</sup>		Introduction to Course; Review Syllabus; Course Expectations	C 1.1-1.3	1-8
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chapters 1-2	Videos 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2	C 1.4-2.3	1-8
Sept 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 3 & 4	Videos 3.1, 3.2, 3.3	C 2.2-2.3	1-8
Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5	Videos 5.1, 5.2, 5.3	C 1.1-2.3	1-8
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Chapter 6	Videos 6.1, 6.2, 6.3	C 1.2-2.3	1-8
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7	Videos 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 <b>Quiz 1: 50 pts</b>	C1.1-2.3	1-8
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8	Videos 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7	C1.3-2.3	1-8
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9	Videos 9.1, 9.2, 9.3	C2.2-2.3	1-8
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10-12	Videos 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4	C1.1-1.4	1-8
Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 13-15	Videos 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3	C1.1-2.3	1-8
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 16	<b>Quiz 2: 50 pts</b> Group Exercise REBT and Reality Therapy	C1.1-1.4	1-8
Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 17	Group Exercise Solution Focused Therapy <b>Reminder: Paper due November 17<sup>th</sup> by 6pm.</b>	C1.1-2.2	1-8

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Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 17	Group Exercise CBT and Transtheoretical Model	C2.2-3.1	1-8
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 18	Group Exercise Task-Oriented Model; Gestalt Therapy	C2.2-2.3	1-8
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chapter 18	<b>Quiz 3: 50 pts</b> Group Exercise Adlerian Therapy; Transactional Analysis	C1.1-3.4	1-8
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Book Review		C1.1-3.4	1-8

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