



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

COMMERCE

## Counseling 409: Group Leadership

Course Syllabus, Fall 2021

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Larry G Washington, MS, Adjunct  
**Office Hours:** 11-1pm-M, 11-12pm, W, F  
**Email Address:** 19521grover@gmail.com  
**Location:** Dallas Annex/Meeting time 10am-10:50

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Textbook(s) Required:

Mei-when, C. Christopher R. (2017) *Group Leadership Skills, Interpersonal Process in Group Group Counseling and Therapy*, (2nd ed). Sage Publications

American Counseling Association. (2014). *ACA Code of Ethics*. Alexandria, VA: Author.

Title 22 (Examining Boards) Texas Administrative Code Part 30 Chapter 681: Rules relating to the Licensing and Regulation of Professional Counselors

#### Optional Texts and/or Materials:

American Psychological Association Publication Manual (7th ed). Washington, DC: Author.

#### Course Description

The course will provide an overview and extensive orientation of relevant psychotherapeutic group counseling theories, group processes and applications in the counseling setting.

#### Goals/Rationale of the Course

- Define the objectives of group counseling, the application of goals and their intersection in counseling practice.
- Learn groups dynamics, group rules, the stages of groups, group counseling skills, and their effects on the interactions of participants.
- Provide students with a deep intuitive understanding of group counseling theory.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student will:

1. Be an active and engaged participant in discussions by analyzing, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, class activities, and sharing personal observations and opinions.
2. Become familiar with professional peer-reviewed group counseling journal publications and APA style of writing.
3. Learn effective group leadership, rules of conduct, time and place of groups, dynamics, stages and skills employed by counselors of productive groups.
4. Understand the history of the group counseling and its relevance in counseling practice.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will utilize lectures and class discussions; information gleaned from student research, videos, student participation in training group sessions and other methods that enhance the learning experience.

### **Student Responsibilities**

As students in the academe you are expected to read all assigned materials and actively participate in the course. Active participation will be regulated as I will ask each student for their contribution in class. During class discussions, a contract for respect is operation, there will be respectful interaction in totality. No one will be over-talked, disrespected or cut off when someone they the floor, as deemed by the instructor. Sensitive topics may be discussed and students may share personal information. **Please remember that what is said in the classroom is confidential.**

Discriminatory, rude, and/or inappropriate language will not be tolerated in this class, and any student(s) choosing to (1) act in a discriminatory or rude manner or (2) use inappropriate language will be asked to leave the class. Disruption of class or inconsiderate behavior will not be tolerated. **If the student continues to act in the same manner during future classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop the student from the course.** Please read the student handbook regarding student conduct.

### **Electronics**

Texting and the use of social media during class is disrespectful and distracting to others. All electronics must be put away and phones must be on silent.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

### **Reaction Paper(100 points total):**

A reaction paper will be submitted each week via D2L (a total of 10). Each paper will be a minimum of 160 words, summarizing your impressions of material or relevant issues presented or discussed in class. Engaging in classroom discussion board: **D2L posts are due by Friday at 11:59pm.** You must complete the paper and all 160 words for full credit.

Reaction papers need to be thoughtful. There should be a theme that expresses your impression of class information and discussion. Please respond as you would in class and avoid using "colorful" or offensive language/ communication in the reaction paper. Please do so in a manner that reflects dignity and respect. Papers are reflective, don't worry about trying to do this in APA.

### **APA Writing Assignment (50 points):**

Knowing how to write in APA format is important. To enhance your knowledge of APA style, a short APA assignment will be given. The instructor will give more details about the assignment.

### **Quizzes (50 points):**

To check for understanding of course content, there will be a quiz on D2L throughout the semester. There are 8 in total. See Flexible Course Calendar for specific dates. (TBA in class)

### **Paper on Group Counseling Theory (100 points):**

In assigned groups, students will choose a counseling group theory and perform a class presentation, (approved by instructor) analyzing its positives and negatives. Explain group objectives peculiar to your group process, describe the required leadership skills of your theory, discuss the expected group dynamics (roles of members and leaders), discuss messages sent within group verbally and non-verbally and their impact on the group. Presenters should dispense handouts, citing APA sources. Creativity is highly encouraged. Evaluation will be based on information, content, and theoretical knowledge (can you demonstrate that knowledge). The grading rubric is attached in the assignments folder of D2L.

### **Theoretical paper (100 points):**

Choose a group process, defend it. (300 words minimum) Your paper cannot be similar to the theory you presented as a group. Explain the following in your paper.

1. Define the role of the group leader in context of your chosen theory
2. Why did you choose the helping fields? Counselors are considered somewhat of a voyeur by some. Why are you interested in the intimate details of clients' problems and lives?
3. How will your personal issues impact group process negatively and positively? Explain.
4. Cite 3 most important things done in sessions via your chosen theory.
5. Based on your beliefs/values, explain their impact on the therapeutic process of your chosen theory.
6. What population does your theory fit hand in glove for efficacy? Why?
7. What about your theory of choice attracts you most? Why?
8. As a counselor which would you prefer, individual or group counseling or both, explain pros and cons.

Note: The University takes very seriously the act of plagiarism – claiming someone’s work as your own. To that end, I will use TurnItIn to review your written projects for evidence of plagiarism. Work determined to have been plagiarized will be assigned a grade of 0, and, depending upon the severity of the infraction, could result in a final grade of “F” in COUN 301.

### **FINAL GRADES**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 360-400
- B = 320-359
- C = 280-319
- D = 240-279
- F = 278 or Below

### **Late Assignment Policies**

All assignments are due on the given assignment date. Late assignments will not be accepted (except for excused absences with instructor approval). All assignments must be uploaded and submitted to D2L. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The best way to communicate with me between classes is email. Please use “Counseling 409” in the subject of your email. In the content part of your email, be sure to include your first and last name and the best phone number to reach you (if necessary). I respond to my emails daily. Also, I will be more than happy to meet with you if needed. Please reach out to me so we can set up a convenient time and location.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products. Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

### Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A

Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

### Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
- 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
- Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
- Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

You must have a:

- Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
- Speakers or headphones
- For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported. Pop-ups are allowed. JavaScript is enabled. Cookies are enabled.
- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

- Adobe Reader <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- Adobe Flash Player (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
- Adobe Shockwave Player <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/> o Apple Quick Time <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

### **Access and Navigation**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### **Communication and Support Brightspace Support Need Help? Student Support**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

#### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



#### **System Maintenance**

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### *University-Specific Procedures*

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

## [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

#### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

#### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.



**FLEXIBLE COURSE CALENDAR**  
(subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Class Content and Activity</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week 1:	Course Overview/Syllabus Chapter 1: Who Are Counselors? Chapter 2: What Do Counselors Do? Mini-Lecture and Video	<b>Complete Google Form</b>  <b>Quiz #1 on D2L</b> <b>Intro - DB</b>
Week 2:	Chapter 3: How Are Counselors Trained and Regulated? Read: Journal Articles Watch: APA 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition Videos APA Style Review  <i>Ethics Presentations teams assigned this week.</i>	<b>Quiz #2 on D2L</b> Complete DB #1  <i>Reach out to your assigned team</i>
Week 3:	Chapter 4: How Do Counselors Integrate Personal and Professional Identity? Watch: Mini-Lecture	<b>APA Assignment</b>  Complete DB #2
Week 4:	Chapter 12: How Do Counselors Make Legal and Ethical Decisions? Watch: Mini-Lecture	<b>Quiz #3</b> Complete DB #3
Week 5:	Chapter 6: How Do Counselors Use Theories? Watch: Mini-Lecture and Videos	<b>Quiz #4 on D2L</b>  Complete DB #4
Week 6:	Chapter 7: How Do Counselors Use Research? Watch: Mini-Lecture	Complete DB #5  <b>Quiz #5 on D2L</b>
Week 7:	Chapter 8: What Happens in a Counseling Session?	Complete DB #6

	Watch: Mini-Lecture and Videos	<i>Ethics Topic must be approved this week</i>
Week 8:	Chapter 9: Where Does Counseling Take Place? Watch: Mini-Lecture and Videos	Complete DB #7 <b>Quiz #6 on D2L</b>
Week 9:	Chapter 10: Social Justice and Culturally Competent Counseling Watch: Mini-Lecture and Videos	<b>Quiz #7 on D2L</b> Complete DB #8
Week 10:	Chapter 11: Collecting and Using Assessment Information Watch: Mini-Lecture	<b>Quiz #8 on D2L</b> Complete DB #9
Week 11:	Chapter 13: Wellness/Self-Care Watch: Webinar of Self Care Planning Read: Self-Care Materials	<b>Counseling Identity Paper Due</b>
Week 12:	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Quiz #9</b>  Complete DB #10 <u>NO Responses to Classmates required this week</u>
Week 13:	<b>Work on Ethics Presentations</b>	Continue work on your ethics presentations
Week 14:	<b>Ethics Presentations</b>	<b>Ethics Presentations DUE</b> Please take the course survey
Week 15	<b>YOU DID IT!! Have a good break</b>	