

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**SW 525 CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
WITH GROUPS**

**FALL SEMESTER 2002
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Code of Conduct

It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct code that is in the College of Social Work MSSW Handbook.

Honor Statement

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity, *Hilltopics 2002*.

Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library at 865-974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

Course Description

This course focuses on the development of knowledge and skills in the use of group methods in clinical social work practice. This course emphasizes: forming the group, assessing member problems, setting goals, structuring group tasks, activities, and experiences, understanding and enhancing group functioning, enabling, problem-solving processes, facilitating transfer of change, evaluating individual and group change, and terminating the group. Particular attention is given to utilizing group methods in clinical social work with clients/client systems from high risk and vulnerable populations and from varying racial, cultural, socio-economic backgrounds.

Rationale

Group work has a long history in clinical work, and is seen by many as a central interventive approach in clinical social work. Group methods in clinical social work are particularly appropriate in the current context of clinical practice with its emphasis on efficient service delivery for a wide spectrum of client needs and problems across a variety of clinical social work settings. There is an abundance of research on conceptual literature on group methods of intervention with various client/client systems.

Required Text

Yalom, I. D. (1995). Theory and Practice of Group Psychopathology, 4th Ed., New York: Basic Books.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Trace the major historical developments and current trends in the use of group in social work practice.
2. Identify and describe ethical and professional issues related to the use of treatment groups.
3. Specify and explain the appropriate use of group method for client problems including clients from high risk populations and clients varying in racial, ethnic, socio-economic, cultural, gender, age or sexual orientation characteristics.
4. Assess client behavior and plan appropriate group interventions strategies and goals.
5. Describe a framework for conceptualizing group developmental stages and process; the reciprocal influences of group process, individual and group behavior, the roles and functions of group leader, member, interaction and setting.
6. Effectively design, structure, implement strategies for, lead, and evaluate the effectiveness of group interventions for short-term and long-term groups.
7. Identify and describe the major principles and techniques for facilitating individuals and group change.
8. Identify and describe evaluation procedures applicable to assessment of individual and group change, including the worker's strengths/vulnerabilities as a group leader.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance
2. Responsible Participation in discussions.
3. Completion of weekly one page summaries of the assigned readings
4. Midterm comprehensive summary of a modality of group therapy from the readings
5. Final paper on individual experiences in group class.

Grades

- A All Requirements
Two nine page papers

- B+ Participation and attendance
Two 7 page papers
- B Two 6 page papers
- C+ Less Than Satisfactory Performance
- C Well Below Satisfactory Performance
- D Unsatisfactory Performance
- F Did not show up

Course Outline

First Session	Introduction of Group Work Group Foundations Yalom Chapter 1 & Chapter 17
Second Session	Therapeutic Factors Yalom Chapter 2 & Chapter 4
Third Session	The Therapist Yalom Chapter 3 & Chapter 5
Fourth Session	Creation of the Group Yalom Chapter 8 & Chapter 10
Fifth Session	Ethical and Legal Issues Corey & Corey Chapter 2
Sixth Session	Setting Goals Yalom Chapter 11
Seventh Session	Corey & Corey TBA
Eight Session	Here & Now Therapy Yalom Chapter 6 & 7
Ninth Session	Special Populations Corey and Corey
Tenth Session	The Advanced Group Yalom Chapter 12 & Chapter 9
Eleventh Session	The Group Process

Twelveth Session Corey and Corey
 Problem Clients
 Yalom Chapter 13 & Chapter 14

Thirteenth Session Corey & Corey
 Starting Your Own Group

Fourteenth Session Final

Group Theory and Treatment Bibliography

Bloch, S., Crouch, E., & Reibstein, J. (1981). Therapeutic factors in group psychotherapy. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 38(5), 519 =526.

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