

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

SW 525: Clinical Social Work Practice with Groups
Course Outline
Fall Semester, 2003

Instructor: Ruth Ransdell Williams, LCSW, ACSW
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Phone: 615-826-0347; voice mail/pager 615-782-1677
Class Time: Tuesday 5:30-8:30pm
Office Hours: 5:00-5:30pm Tuesday, 8:30-9:00pm Tuesday

Required Text

Reid, Kenneth E. (1997). Social Work Practice with Groups: A Clinical Perspective (2nd edition). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Additional Reading

The following readings are on reserve in the library:

1. Brown, A. & Mistry, T. (1994). Group work with mixed membership groups: Issues of race and gender. Social Work with Groups, 17 (3), pp. 5-21.
2. Corey, M.S. & Corey, G. (1997). Ethical and legal issues in group counseling. Groups: Process and Practice (5th edition). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, pp. 25-58
3. Corey, M.S. & Corey, G. (1997). Ending a group. Groups: Process and Practice (5th edition). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, pp. 263-294
4. Dies, R & Dies, K. (1993). The role of evaluation in clinical practice: Overview and group treatment illustration. International Journal of Group Psychotherapy, 43, pp.77-102
5. Hurdle, D. (1990). The ethnic group experience. Social Work With Groups, 13 (4). pp. 59-68
6. Klein, R. (1999). "Group Work Practice with Transgendered Male to Female Sex Workers", In Mallon, G. (1999) Social Services with Transgendered Youth pp. 95-109.
7. Margolies, L. (1990). Cracks in the frame: Feminism and the boundaries of therapy. Women and Therapy, 9 (4), pp. 19-30.

8. Peterson, M. (1992). The power differential in the professional/client relationship. At Personal Risk. New York: W.W. Norton and Co. pp. 34-49.
9. Riordan, R. J. & Beggs, M. S. (1988). Critical differences between self-help and therapy groups. Journal for Specialists in Group Work, 13, 1998 pp.24-28.
10. Rosenberg, P. (1984). Support groups: A special therapeutic entity. Small Group Behavior, 15, pp. 173-185.

Course Requirements

1. Assigned Readings and Attendance at Class Sessions

2. Assignment on Group Work with a Particular Client Population or Special Problem Area

Working in a small group, you will complete an assignment on group work focusing on a particular client population or problem area. This assignment will involve a presentation by the group on what has been written about the client population/problem area (major issues, etc.); special factors to take into consideration (i.e, format, duration, timing, role of the leader, etc.); the most effective group methods and techniques based on all the above; criteria to use for selection of participants and why; particular ethical concerns which must be addressed with this population; and the best method of evaluating such a group.

3. Participation in the Lab Group Experience and Completion of Lab Log

Students will be assigned to a small lab group that will meet weekly over the course of the semester for the purpose of learning experientially about the small group process. As part of the small group experience, members will be required to generate a weekly log of their experiences. The log should be no more than two pages in length per week and is due one week after the previous group meeting.

4. Demonstration of Program Activity

You will complete an assignment on the effective delivery of program activities. You will find a previously published program activity and lead a small group in completing the chosen exercise. Afterwards, you will make a presentation to the whole class in which the following concerns will be addressed:

- 1) With what population would this exercise be most appropriate? What ethical considerations affect your decision about its appropriateness?
- 2) When in the life of the group should this exercise be conducted?
- 3) What is (are) the goal(s) of the exercise?

5. Final Exam (optional)

Grading

- A Satisfactory completion of assignments 2-5
Regular attendance and participation
- B+ Satisfactory completion of assignments 2-4
Regular attendance and participation
- B Satisfactory completion of assignments 2-4
Irregular attendance and/or participation (more than 2 absences)

Class Schedule

August 26, 2003

Lecture: Introduction to Course
Review of Syllabus
Discussion of Assignments
The History of Group Work

September 2, 2003

Lecture: Evolution of a Group (Corey & Corey video)
Readings: Reserve reading 9: Some critical differences between self-help and therapy groups
Reserve reading 10: Support groups: A special therapeutic entity.

September 9, 2003

Lecture: Therapeutic Factors in Groups
Reid, Chapter 1: Groups to Help People
Reid, Chapter 3: Therapeutic Factors in Groups

September 16, 2003

Lecture: The Concept of Group Development
Group Theory Presentations 1 & 2
Readings: Reid, Chapter 4: The group cauldron

September 23, 2003

Lecture: Selection of Group Members
Variables to Consider in Developing a Group
Group Theory presentations 3 & 4

- Readings: Reid, Chapter 5: The person as member
- September 30, 2003
- Lecture: Pre-group planning
Establishing the Group
Group Theory presentations 5 & 6
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 9: Establishing the group
- October 7, 2003
- Lecture: The Group Leader
Assessment of Leadership Skills
Lab Group 1
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 6: Worker in the group
- October 14, 2003
- Lecture: Leadership Roles and Skills in Group Work
Lab Group 2
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 7: Foundation skills
- October 21, 2003
- Lecture: Strategies and Interventions for Group Leaders
Dealing with Difficult Members
Lab group 3
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 8: Worker Interventions
Reid, Chapter 11: Program activities
- October 28, 2003
- Lecture: The Beginning Phase of the Group
Program Activity Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 4
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 10: The beginning phase of group work
- November 4, 2003
- Lecture: The Middle Phase of the Group
Program Activity Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 5
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 12: The middle phase of group work
- November 11, 2003
- Lecture: The Ending Phase of the Group
Program Activity Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 6
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 13: The ending phase of group work

Reserve reading 3: Ending a group

November 18, 2003

Lecture: Evaluation of Group Work
Program Activity Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 7

Readings: Reserve reading 4: The role of evaluation in clinical practice: overview
and group treatment illustration

November 25, 2003

Lecture: Ethics and Professional Boundaries in Group Work
Program Activity Demonstrations (5)
Lab Group 8

Readings: Reserve reading 2: Ethical and legal issues in group counseling
Reserve reading 8: The power differential in the
professional/client relationship.

December 2, 2003

Lecture: Multicultural/diversity issues in Group Work
Proven interventions in specialized populations

Readings: Reserve reading 1: Group work with mixed membership groups: Issues
of race and gender
Reserved reading 5: The ethnic group experience
Reserved reading 6: Group work practice with transgendered
male and female sex workers
Reserved reading 7: Cracks in the frame: feminism and the
boundaries of therapy.

December 9, 2003

FINAL EXAM