

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

SW 525: Clinical Social Work Practice with Groups
Spring Semester, 2003

Instructor: Paris Goodyear-Brown, LCSW, RPT-S
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Class Time: Thursdays 9:00 am to 11:50 am
Office Hours: By appointment only

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 (www.csw.utk.edu).

The 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).

Disability

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact The University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library 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. The 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 work with clients/client systems from high risk and vulnerable populations and from varying racial, cultural, socio-economic backgrounds.

Course Rationale

Group work has a long history in social 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 setting. There is an abundance of research and conceptual literature on group methods of intervention with various client/client systems.

Course Objectives

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

1. Trace the major historical developments and current trends in the use of groups 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 and inappropriate use of the 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 individual change;
8. Identify and describe evaluative procedures applicable to assessment of individual change, including worker's strengths/vulnerabilities as a group leader/member.

Required Text

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

Supplemental Text

Yalom, Irvin D. (1995). The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy (4th edition). New York: Basic Books

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 Vulnerable Population/Special Problem Area

Working in a small group, you will complete an assignment on group work with a particular client population/problem area. This assignment will involve a presentation by the group on what has been written about the client population/problem area (major issues with which they struggle, special dynamics, etc.), special factors to take into consideration when conducting groups with this population (how would format, duration, timing, and location of the leader's role, how might group dynamics be impacted?), what group methods/techniques are most effective based on all the above. What type of inclusion/exclusion criteria would you use for this type of group and why? What ethical concerns should you be sensitive to when running a group with this population? What might be 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 1 week after the previous group meeting.

4. Demonstration of Program Media

You will complete an assignment on the effective delivery of program media. You will find a previously published program media 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?
- 2) When in the life of the group should this exercise be conducted?
- 3) What is (are) the goal(s) of the exercise?
- 4) What, if any, contraindications/ethical considerations exist for conducting such an exercise with this population?

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

January 16th, 2002

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

January 23rd, 2002

Lecture: Therapeutic Factors in Groups
Group mtg 1

Readings: Reid, Chapter 1: Groups to help people & Chapter 3: Therapeutic factors in groups
Reserve reading 9: Some critical differences between self-help and therapy groups & Reserve reading 10: A special therapeutic entity.

January 30th, 2002

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

February 6th, 2002

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
Yalom, Chapter 9: The composition of therapy groups

February 13th, 2002

Lecture: Pre-group planning
Establishing the Group
Group Theory presentations 5 & 6
Readings: Reid, Chapter 9: Establishing the group
Yalom, Chapter 3: Group cohesiveness

February 20th, 2002

No class

February 27th, 2002

Lecture: The Group Leader
Leadership roles and skills in Group Work
Lab Group 1
Readings: Reid, Chapter 6: Worker in the group & Chapter 7: Foundation skills
Yalom, Chapter 5: The therapist: basic tasks & Chapter 6: The therapist:
Working in the here-and-now

March 6th, 2002

Lecture: Program Media
Lab group 2
Readings: Reid, Chapter 11: Program activities

March 13th, 2002

Lecture: Strategies and Interventions for Group Leaders
Dealing with Difficult Members
Lab group 3
Readings: Reid, Chapter 8: Worker interventions
Yalom, Chapter 13: Problem patients

March 20th, 2002

- Lecture: The Beginning Phase of the Group
Program Media Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 4
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 10: The beginning phase of group work &
Chapter 11: Program activities
- March 27th, 2002
- Lecture: The Middle Phase of the Group
Program Media Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 5
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 12: The middle phase of group work
- April 3rd, 2002
- Lecture: The Ending Phase
Program Media Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 6
- Readings: Reid, Chapter 13: The ending phase of group work
Reserve reading 3: Ending a group
- April 10th, 2002
- Lecture: Ethics and Professional Boundaries in Group Work
Program Media Demonstrations (5)
Lab group 7
- Readings: Reserve reading 2: Ethical and legal issues in group counseling &
Reserve reading 8: The power differential in the professional/client
relationship.
- April 17th, 2002
- Lecture: Multicultural/diversity issues in Group Work
Program Media Demonstrations (5)
Lab Group 8
- 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.
- April 24th, 2002
- Lecture: Evaluation of Group Work
Assessment of leadership skills
- Readings: Reserve reading 4: The role of evaluation in clinical practice: overview
and group treatment illustration.
- April 31st, 2002
FINAL EXAM

