

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

**Syllabus: SW525 - Clinical Social Work Practice with Groups
Fall 2008**

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 (<http://www.csw.utk.edu/mssw/>)

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, 2008*).

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 2227 Dunford Hall (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 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.

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 settings. There is an abundance of research and conceptual literature on group methods of intervention with various clients/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 and group change;
8. Identify and describe evaluative procedures applicable to assessment of individual and group change, including the worker's strengths/vulnerabilities as a group leader/member.