

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fall 2008
3 Credit Course
HSE K 210
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Group and Interpersonal Relationships

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of current group theory and knowledge of methods and skills leading to a beginning competence in group work practice. The course will combine theoretical and empirical concepts of group dynamics to be applied to a wide range of groups in a variety of settings.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will understand the nature and science of group dynamics by applying the group dynamics perspective;
2. Demonstrated understanding of group formation, socialization, structure, leadership, power, decision-making, conflict and change processes;
3. Demonstrated understanding of theoretical perspectives of groups;
4. Student will demonstrate understanding of how groups are studied and analyzed by examining social research methodologies.

Required Text(s):

Forsyth, Donelson . R. *Group Dynamics*, 4th Edition, 2006.

Disability Policy:

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1992, Three Rivers offers support services and reasonable

accommodations to students with disabilities. Disclosure is voluntary. Discuss with your Instructor(s) if you want them to know of your specific needs. For more information, contact the Student Development Center.

Attendance Policy:

Each student is expected to maintain regular attendance and participate in class discussions. Any student absent more than three (3) classes may be in jeopardy of failing the class.

Assignment #1:

Each student must join some student or community organization. This is not a volunteer assignment. Each student is expected to become an active member of some new group.

Assignment #2:

Each student must keep a process journal to evaluate the process of a group and assess the changes in the group during the stages of its development. It is most important to focus on your reactions to changes within the group, rather than on individual behaviors of others. Below is a list of things you might write about in your journal:

- . How did you initially view the group?
- . What were your initial reactions to individual members? Did these reactions change over time? What members did you like or dislike the most? Why?
- . Were you given a leadership role? What were your reactions to the leader?
- . What were your responsibilities in the group?
- . What turning points did the group have? Were there serious conflicts in the group?
- . What were the goals of the group?
- . How will you deal with termination issues?

Assignment #3:

Submit a six (6) page literature review on group dynamics. Summarize body of knowledge on the subject of groups, i.e., what we know about groups and when did we know it. Report should be organized and presented in an informative and clear format. Bibliography must be included.

Due: September 24, 2008

Assignment # 4:

Mid-Term: Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Assignment #4:

Final paper on the topic: “Group Dynamics: A Case Study”

Due: December 3, 2008

Policy Statement:

Students are notified that cellar phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require a student to be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the Instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.