George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Counseling and Development

EDCD 608 (001) - Group Processes and Analyses
4 Credits, Fall 2016
Tuesdays, 4:30 – 7:10 pm – David King Hall Room 2054
Saturday, October 1st 10:00 am – 4:00 pm – David King Hall Room 2054
Section 201 Lab: Monday 4:15 pm – 5:35 pm (begins 8/29-12/20) Thompson Hall Room 1020
Section 202 Lab: Monday 5:45 pm – 7:05 pm (begins 8/29-12/20) Thompson Hall Room 1020

Faculty
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Office hours: By appointment
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Office phone: 703-993-3941
Email address: fbemak@gmu.edu

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Admission to the CNDV program and completion of EDCD 603 and EDCD 606 or EDCD 609.

University Catalog Course Description
Presents theories appropriate to various types of groups and descriptions of group practices, methods, dynamics, and facilitative skills. Focuses on applying theory to practice. Includes lab.

Course Overview
This course is designed to familiarize students with fundamental concepts and theories of group counseling. A mastery of basic interpersonal and facilitation skills will be emphasized inclusive of issues related to racial and ethnic diversity, gender, and social justice. The course includes an intensive laboratory group experience to facilitate interpersonal awareness, sensitivity, and skills that are critical to being an effective group counselor/ group therapist.

Course Delivery Method
This course will be delivered using a format.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:
1. Gain personal awareness of one’s own interpersonal style.
2. Learn various process and outcome issues that structure group experience.
3. Acquire and demonstrate group counseling skills in class demonstrations and experiences.
4. Learn about culturally diverse populations and effective group interventions with those specific populations.
5. Gain an understanding of different K-12 students and clients that may participate in groups and learn about how to effectively intervene with those groups.
6. Study ways to evaluate the group experience.
7. Experience group process personally and gain insight, awareness and enhanced interpersonal skills.
8. Begin to develop a personal style as a group facilitator.

**Professional Standards (CACREP)**
Group Counseling is a key issue in counseling and provides a core course in the Counseling and Development Program. It addresses the program goals and mission and provides information about how to more effectively work with systems and facilitate personal, social, and institutional change through group work. This will provide a core foundation in highlighting self-awareness, interpersonal skills and awareness, and system skills as an advocate and change agent including important skills necessary in practicum and internship. CACREP standards that are met through this course include: foundations of counseling, contextual dimensions of counseling, knowledge and skill requirements, and clinical instruction.

**EDCD 608 fulfills the requirements and standards for Group Counseling in the following professional organizations:** Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) Section II K.f: Theoretical and experiential understanding of group purpose, development, dynamics, counseling theories, group counseling methods and skills, and other group approaches, American Counseling Association (ACA), Virginia Departments of Education and Health Professions.

**Required Texts**


**Course Performance Evaluation**
Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

- **Assignments and Examinations**
  See course schedule

- **Other Requirements**
  First day of class and the Saturday class are mandatory
  If there is a scheduling conflict that interferes with attendance during any portion of the class, students should see the instructor in the first class to discuss continuing in the class this semester or taking the course during another semester.

  The final research paper must be submitted to Safeassign on Blackboard to check for plagiarism.

  All assignments are due at the beginning of the class, i.e., 4:30 p.m. Assignments not submitted at the beginning of class will not be accepted.
C&D Attendance Policy
Students are allowed one unexcused absence throughout the semester. If there are two unexcused absences this may result in a non-passing grade.

BLACKBOARD EXPECTATIONS AND ON-LINE PROTOCOL

1. Protocol for posting threads and contributing to an online discussion are as follows:
   a. **It is expected that every student will make a posting following each class in accordance with the schedule outlined in the assignment section above. The first postings will start directly after the first class.** Postings that do not meet the timelines and specifications will not be counted for that day.
   b. Postings should be a minimum of 1 short paragraph and a maximum of 2 short paragraphs.
   c. Avoid postings that are limited to “I agree” or “great idea”, etc. (These comments will be viewed as non-postings). Support your statements with concepts from research, readings or by sharing related examples or experiences.
   d. Stay on target with the discussion – don’t go on extreme tangents.
   e. Build on others’ responses to create threads.
   f. Bring in related prior knowledge (experiences, prior coursework, research, readings, etc.)
   g. Use proper etiquette (e.g., APA language style.)

2. Tips for posting to discussion forums:
   a. How do I post successfully? How do I get my classmates to read my postings?
      i. Think of assignment in terms of a dialogue and not a writing exercise. You should engage yourself in a discussion about the issues raised in class, textbook and readings and/or other related issues to the course.
      ii. Before you post – think about the assignment first and take notes before you read other responses.
      iii. Think of a thesis and how you can support it.
      iv. Read other postings after you’ve written yours.
      v. Respond to one that contradicts or supports your own thoughts; one that is lacking evidence or seems to fall short on an aspect important to you.
      vi. In your response, you can also turn your own thoughts into questions; offer your argument; play the devil’s advocate; ask challenging questions.
      vii. If you are the first to post: post with a careful analysis and strong (bold) argument (thesis) and open-ended questions to invite dialogue.
      viii. It helps readers of your posting if you include a specific quotation from the message to which you’re responding.
      ix. Choose your entry title carefully. Make it compelling.
      x. Once you have posted, check back regularly to see if anybody has replied to you. Get the dialogue going.
Course Performance Evaluation Weighting

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Leadership Experience</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Observation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings/Questions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Postings</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Grading Policies

**Written Work:** Please note that grading on written work will be based on the quality of the written work, knowledge and review of the content area, accuracy, relatedness, logic and organization of the paper, degree to which the points are effectively supported, following the APA 6th edition guidelines, deadlines in submitting the assignment (late assignments will be penalized), maintaining the page limit, and adherence to the requirements of the assignment.

**Grading Scale***

- A = 97-100
- A- = 94-96
- B+ = 91-93
- B = 87-90
- B- = 84-86
- C = 83-80
- F = Below 79

***Given that some weekly grades are half points there will be no rounding up of grade points.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: [http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/).

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

**Policies**

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see [http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/)).
• Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).

• Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

• Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see http://ods.gmu.edu/).

• Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

• Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/api/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/.

• The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (see http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/).

• The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance (see http://caps.gmu.edu/).

• The George Mason University Office of Student Support staff helps students negotiate life situations by connecting them with appropriate campus and off-campus resources. Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone (703-993-5376). Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community by going to http://studentsupport.gmu.edu/, and the OSS staff will follow up with the student.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website https://cehd.gmu.edu/.
| Class 1 | Introductions  
Overview of Group Work  
First Blackboard postings due this week |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Class 2 | History and Trends, Definitions  
Therapeutic Factors  
Presentation topics and dates selected |
| Class 3 | Rationale for Group Counseling,  
Group Process, Interpersonal Learning, Group Cohesiveness  
Final Paper Outlines Due |
| Class 4 | Group Process, Therapeutic,  
Factors, Basic Tasks  
Lab Begins – Lab I |
| Class 5 | TBA  
SAT. CLASS |
| Class 6 | Process to Practice, Group Leadership, Group Composition  
Presentation, Lab II |
| Class 7 | Beginning Groups, Creation of a Group  
Presentation, Lab III  
Group Observation Projects Commence |
| Holiday | Columbus Day Holiday – Monday Classes |
| Class 8 | Group Members, Best Practices  
Presentation, Lab IV |
| Class 9 | Cultural Diversity in Groups, Working In the Here and Now, Transference, Client Selection  
Presentation, Lab V  
Assignment 1 due |
Class 10  Differentiating Groups, Kinds of Groups
Presentation, Lab VI
Trotzer 10  Yalom 16

Class 11  Organizing Group Work, Advanced Groups
Presentation, Lab VII
Trotzer 11  Yalom 12

Class 12  Evaluating Groups, Research, Problem Group Members
Presentation, Lab VIII
Assignment 2 due
Trotzer, 12, 16  Yalom, 13

Class 13  Communication Activities, Special Issues
Assignment 3 due
Presentation, Final Lab
Trotzer 13  Yalom 14

Class 14  Crisis Work, Specialized Groups
Summarization, Special Issues,
Discussion of Final Papers
Presentation, Assignment 4 due
Trotzer 15  Yalom 15

Class 15  Final Examination Week
Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Assessment Rubric(s)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Weekly On-line Discussions Rubric</th>
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<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsiveness to discussion and demonstration of knowledge and understanding gained from each class session and readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adherence to on-line protocols</td>
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Evaluation criteria for facilitating an on-line class discussion:
   a. The discussants will demonstrate an ability to engage the audience in a
discussion that is relevant to the topics of the class sessions and related
concepts. This can be done in a variety of ways including but not limited to:
   xi. Posing engaging questions
   xii. Eliciting responses
   xiii. Engaging the learners in an activity or task
   b. The discussants will demonstrate the ability to effectively organize the
discussion. This includes:
      i. Keeping the discussion focused on the topic
      ii. Providing structure (beginning arguments, closing arguments, wrap-up
or synthesis)
      iii. Staying within the timeframe allotted for discussion
      iv. Using effective media
   c. The discussants will demonstrate the ability to respond to questions effectively.
The discussants will demonstrate the ability to relate the concepts discussed in class sessions
to personal and professional experience by using examples from every day practices.