



The Graduate Counseling Program
Course Syllabus

Jacksonville, FL Campus

Course	COUN 5600 / JA / Techniques of Group Counseling	
Term	Fall 1, 2009 – Saturday #2 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 8/22, 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/10 (8 a.m. - Noon)	
Instructor	Name:	Derenda Edmondson, Ed.D, LMHC, LPC
	Home Phone:	(904) 502-6545
	Email:	derenda@webster.edu
Catalog Description	Group counseling is increasingly one of the most cost effective methods of delivering mental health services. As you will learn in this course, group work encompasses a wide range of methods and models and is effective treatment for many different types of concerns. The intent of this course is to provide both didactic and applied information about the functioning of groups. The student examines group theory and types of groups, as well as descriptions of group practices, methods, dynamics, and facilitative skills.	
Prerequisites	COUN 5020	
Course Level Outcome Objectives	<i>Upon successful completion of this class students will be able to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of therapeutic group dynamics and group process.2. Practice the use of skills and techniques associated with counseling small groups of clients..3. Demonstrate professional standards for a therapeutic group leader.4. Demonstrate understanding of the ethical and legal considerations of group work.	
Materials	Corey, M.S. and Corey, G. (2010). Groups Process and Practice. (8 th Edition). Cengage. ISBN# 0-495-60076-8 To Order Textbooks go to the local North FL website at www.webster.edu/jack and click on Order Textbooks to select a vendor	

Note: Textbooks must be ordered 2 weeks prior to class to ensure delivery

Supplemental Reading:

- **Research Paper Guidelines and Sample Paper** – See website @ www.webster.edu/jack and click on Student Resources category

Methods of Learning

Students will learn through a variety of methods which include, but are not limited to lecture, text readings, discussion, group therapy observation, role plays, research assignments, and case vignettes.

Grading

Assignments	Maximum Points
• Group Proposal/Presentation	50 Points
• Ethical Issue Paper	15 Points
• Focus Questions	25 Points
• Class Participation and Attendance	10 Points
TOTAL	100 Points

Letter grades will be assigned pursuant to the following scores based on the percent of the total possible points (weighted according to the scale above) that you earned in the course.

Percentage of Total Points	Grade
95%-100%	A
90%-94%	A-
88%-89%	B+
84%-87%	B
80%-83%	B-
70%-79%	C
Below 70%	F

**Policy Statements:
University Policies**

University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:

Academic Honesty

The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.

Drops and Withdrawals

Please be aware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.

Special Services

If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.

Disturbances

Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption of class by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.

Student Assignments Retained

From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about that student will be redacted from the assignment or project.

Contact Hours for this Course

It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled. A class cannot be shortened in length. If a class session is cancelled for any reason, it must be rescheduled.

<p>Activities</p>	<p>Student Activities may include: presentations, role play, case vignettes, research assignments, current events, genograms and field experiences.</p> <p>An important component of this course is a process experience. Each student will act as a group facilitator once during this course. As the group facilitator, students will direct and lead the small group in a 45 minute group session that focuses on a particular topic from their group design. They are responsible for a beginning, middle and ending activity.</p> <p>Group Proposal/Class Presentation: Developing a Proposal – (guidelines 110-130)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a group proposal on your assigned special type of counseling group. Here are a few topics to choose: social skills, self-esteem, coping with divorce, grief and loss, ACOA. You may also select a particular topic of interest. Notice that all these topics have a psychological component or deal with some manner of emotional adjustment. • Show how you will screen, select, and orient members; discuss the practical considerations in setting up this group. (Please follow guide-line on page 110-130 in your text). Discuss the rationale for your group and also how you would evaluate the outcomes. Due Oct 3. <p>In Class Training Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student will participate as a member and as a leader of an in-class training group. This will enable students to experience leading a group while applying the learning from this course. <p>Focus Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus questions have been assigned for each chapter. Answer each focus question assigned to the corresponding chapters. Focus questions will be turned in during class. <p>Paper: Ethical Issue Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a particular ethical issue to you as a group leader and develop your ideas on this question. Paper should be 3 pages double-spaced. Due Sept 19 <p>Class Participation and Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to attend all class sessions of every course for the full 36 contact hours. In the case of unavoidable absence, the student must contact the instructor. The student is subject to appropriate academic penalty for incomplete or unacceptable makeup work, or for excessive or unexcused absences. Generally, a student who misses more than one four-hour course period (per course) without a documented military or medical excuse and advanced permission of the instructor should withdraw from the class. The University reserves the right to involuntarily drop enrolled students from classes, which they do not attend. PLEASE BE ADVISED: Students who do not attend the first class session, who have not made prior arrangements
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	<p>with the instructor for being absent, will be dropped from their courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance the last day of class is mandatory to ensure that all work is completed and to be awarded a passing grade. An Incomplete will not be acceptable without documental proof (Death Notice, Doctor's Letter, etc.) as to absence relating to non-completion of class work. These must be faxed 904-262-1459 or dropped off to Webster University by the Monday after the term ends. • Participants are expected to arrive on time and be actively involved in the learning experience. Each student should desire to learn, participate, and proactively contribute to the learning of others during each discussion and exercise. • Students are to participate in classroom discussions. The discussions are an opportunity for students to reveal their understanding of the assignments made for the current and previous classes. • Assignments are given to prepare the student to participate in class discussions; therefore, it is imperative that reading assignments and associated questions for discussion be completed prior to class. • A maximum of 10 points will be awarded based on the level and quality of participation and preparation. • Failure to turn in an assignment within one week will result in a grade of "0" for that assignment. In addition, failure to submit an assignment will lower the final grade by an additional two points. • All assignments are due as detailed in the Course Schedule. • Late assignments will be accepted, if they are turned in <i>no later</i> than one week later, but will be penalized one letter grade. Furthermore, late assignments will lower the student's final grade by an additional one point. • Late assignments will not be accepted for the final assignments the last week of the course to allow timely completion and grades to be submitted. 		
<p>Weekly Schedule</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="418 1241 610 1598"></td> <td data-bbox="613 1241 1456 1598"> <p>Pre-Assignments for Sessions 1 & 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 1-3 • Find an article in the popular press that addresses the ethical aspects of training group counselors. Bring this article to class (along with publication source and date) and be prepared to share the main points in 2-3 minute discussion. • Read Chapter 1-3 • Answer focus questions: 1-8 (pg.28) and (pg. 70) 1-12 </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Pre-Assignments for Sessions 1 & 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 1-3 • Find an article in the popular press that addresses the ethical aspects of training group counselors. Bring this article to class (along with publication source and date) and be prepared to share the main points in 2-3 minute discussion. • Read Chapter 1-3 • Answer focus questions: 1-8 (pg.28) and (pg. 70) 1-12
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	Session 1	A.M. Session (8-NOON) THEME: Introduction to Group Work: Legal Issues Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of course and Perspective on Group Counseling • Overview of various types of group • Overview of professional organizations in groups • Presentation on Legal Issues article •
	Session 2	P.M. Session (1-5PM) THEME: Forming a Group Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion • Forming a Group • Film: Evolution of a Group Process Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 4 & 5 • Answer focus questions: 1-10 (page 110) • Answer focus questions: 1-10 (pg. 132)
	Session 3	A.M. Session (8-NOON) THEME: Initial Stage of Group Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion • Group Facilitators- Role Play • Film: Evolution of a Group Process
	Session 4	P.M. Session (1-5PM) THEME: Transition Stage of Group Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion • Group Facilitators • Film: Evolution of a Group Process Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 6-7 • Answer focus questions: 1-10 (page 180) • Answer focus questions: 1-10 (page 228)
	Session 5	A.M. Session (8-NOON) THEME: Working Stage of Group Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Facilitators- continued • Discussion on specific techniques • Film: Evolution of a Group Process

	Session 6	P.M. Session (1-5PM) THEME: Working State of Group- continued Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Facilitators • Film: Evolution of Group Work Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 8-10 • Answer focus questions: 1-10 (pg. 266) • Answer focus questions 1-5 (pg. 288) • Answer focus questions 1-10 (page 322)
	Session 7	A.M. Session (8-NOON) THEME: Group Termination Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion- Final Stages of Group • Film: Evolution of Group Work
	Session 8	P.M. Session (1-5PM) THEME: Groups for Adolescents Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion • Group Facilitation Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Proposal Due Session 9 • Read Chapter 11-12 • Answer focus questions 1-10 (pg. 388) •
	Session 9	A.M. Session (8-NOON) THEME: Group for Adolescents & Adults Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Chapters • Ending process of group work
Additional Information	Course Attendance: The University reserves the right to drop students who do not attend class the first two weeks of the term/semester. Students are expected to attend all class sessions of every course. In the case of unavoidable absence, the student must contact the instructor. The student is subject to appropriate academic penalty for incomplete or unacceptable makeup work, or for excessive or unexcused absences. Make-Up Requirements	

- For each class hour missed, a one (1) page, double-spaced, typed paper, with one (1) reference will be submitted by the end of the term. The instructor will assign the topic. A four (4) hour class will require four (4) pages supported with (4) references from popular or academic press.
- This paper will be graded and incorporated in the class participation grade. If the make-up work is not submitted, the student's final grade will be reduced one (1) letter grade.
- Students are responsible for any class material presented during their absence, and any assignments due should be submitted prior to the absence, if possible.

Conduct:

Students enrolling in a degree program at Webster University assume the obligation of conducting themselves in a manner compatible with the University's function as an education institution. Misconduct for which students are subject to discipline may be divided into the following categories:

1. All forms of dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University.
2. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other University activities or of other authorized activities on University premises.
3. Classroom disruption. Behavior occurring within the academic arena, including but not limited to classroom disruption or obstruction of teaching, is within the jurisdiction of Academic Affairs. In case of alleged campus and/or classroom disruption or obstruction, a faculty member and/or administrator may take immediate action to restore order and/or to prevent further disruption (e.g. removal of student[s] from class or other setting). Faculty members have original jurisdiction to address the immediacy of a situation, as they deem appropriate. When necessary and appropriate, Public Safety and/or the local [or military] police may be contacted to assist with restoring peace and order. Faculty response is forwarded to the academic dean (or his or her designee) for review and, if necessary, further action. Further action might include permanent removal from the course. Repeated offenses could lead to removal from the program and/or the University.
4. Theft of or damage to property of the University. Students who cheat or plagiarize may receive a failing grade for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place.

Students who engage in any of the above misconducts may be subject to dismissal from the University on careful consideration by the executive vice president of the University or his designee. To the extent that penalties for any of these misconducts (e.g. theft or destruction of property) are prescribed by law, the University will consider appropriate action under such laws.

Students are subject to the Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Procedure

	<p>described in the Online Student Handbook.</p> <p>Course Contact Hours: Unless a course has enrolled fewer than four students, faculty have a contractual obligation to meet the full complement of contact/meeting hours (36 for graduate courses). Not to meet this full complement of hours may be construed as a breach of contract and may also endanger Webster University's accreditation by The Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and its licensure by the State of Florida. Finally, course meetings which are missed for any reason must be made up.</p> <p>Disclaimer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This syllabus is intended to provide a basic structure to this course. Adherence to this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor without the prior notification or consent of the student.
	<p>For Webster University policies and procedures, please refer to the Catalog and Student Handbook. If you have a documented disability as described in Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), you can contact our Academic Resource Center (ARC) at www.webster.edu/acadaffairs/asp/arc.htm, or call 800-981-9801 ext 7620, to make arrangements for services. Also, please notify your site administrator if you are attending an extended campus.</p> <p>Reviewed by: <i>Dr. Stephanie Varilala</i></p> <p>Job Title: <u>Counseling Coordinator</u></p> <p>Date: <u>7/18/09</u></p>