

**Webster University BSN Program
NURS 3420 Group Process in Nursing Practice**

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Class: Tuesday 5:30-9:30 Email: davittdc@webster.edu
Clinical: 16 Hours TBA

Course Description:

This course focuses on examining group characteristics and principles of effective small group communication. The systems approach to looking at groups as interactive bodies is discussed. Emphasis is on the nurse's development of skills for effective functioning in and with groups. Students participate in group health promotion projects. *Prerequisites: NURS 3010 and NURS 3020.*

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the elements of group dynamics.
2. Identify characteristics of groups.
3. Describe the roles and structure of small group communication.
4. Explain the stages of group development.
5. Discuss the process of problem solving and decision making in groups.
6. Analyze the influence of culture, race, and gender on communication in groups.
7. Discuss ethical issues that affect groups.
8. Analyze the leader and member roles and relationships in groups.
9. Utilize small group communication skills in various group roles.

Textbook:

Galanes, G. J., & Adams, K., & Brillhart, J. K. (2007). *Effective group discussion: Theory and practice* (12th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Essential Content:

Characteristics of Groups	Diversity issues
Group Communication	Conflict Management
Group Dynamics	Ethical Issues
Problem solving and decision-making	
Roles and structure of groups	
Small Group theories	
Stages of group development	

Teaching/Learning Activities:

Lecture/discussion; group work; presentations; role-playing; audiovisuals; clinical experience.

Course Requirements:

Group exercises: Students participate in a variety of in-class small group exercises.

Articles and Abstracts: (35 points) Students select a small group concept discussed in the text (verbal, nonverbal communication, norms and roles, problem solving, leadership, conflict, culture, gender etc.) *After selecting a concept, do a literature search for 5 articles that discuss this concept in small groups. Articles must be from current (2000-2007), peer reviewed nursing, education, psychosocial and/or business databases.* Instructor needs to approve topic. Papers are to be typed, double spaced using APA format. An APA reference list is to be included.

Database information: <http://library.webster.edu/databases/database.html>

Peer reviewed periodicals: <http://library.webster.edu/online/nurs20.html#refereed>

Write an abstract for each article. An abstract is a brief, well organized, comprehensive summary of the contents of an article. There is NO interpretation or personal comments in the abstract; information is all objective. Use a separate page for each abstract. Head the page with the name of the article and the author in APA format. Do not reference the article in the abstract. For additional information refer to the website:

<http://www.webster.edu/acadaffairs/asp/wc/summary.html>

Abstracts are 200-250 words in length. An APA reference list of the 5 articles is required. Submit the articles with the abstract.

The Writing Center has many resources to assist with the writing process from handouts to writing coaches.

<http://www.webster.edu/acadaffairs/asp/wc/handouts.html>

Plagiarism is the dishonest practice of using another person's words or ideas as your own. You must always give credit to the source of your quotations and your paraphrases if they are not common knowledge. **A zero will be given if your paper is plagiarized.** <http://www.webster.edu/depts/artsci/nursing/handbook.htm>

There will be 1 point for each appropriate scholarly journal; 5 points for each abstract (5x5= 25); and, 5 points for APA format. Abstracts that do not meet the guidelines must be rewritten to meet minimum requirements and receive a passing grade for the course.

Movie critique: (15 points) *Twelve Angry Men* will be seen 2/14/08 in class.. The focus will be group process. The following concepts are manifested in the play: critical thinking, group think, leadership, culture, problem solving, and decision making. Read the parts of the text that discusses these concepts before viewing the video. Questions concerning the concepts as presented in the play will be discussed in class. 1 or 2 discussion questions should be written for each of the concepts and will be submitted the week following the play.

* Do not ask yes/no questions

* Do not ask questions with obvious factual answers,e.g. " Do you agree or disagree...." Or " Who did.....".

* Ask interpretive questions (how, what, why, in what way)

Clinical Group Project: (25 points) Students will work in groups to complete a health promotion project with a group. Students visit the group to **1. Assess needs** and to **2. develop 3. implement and 4. evaluate** the project. Students evaluate their individual performance and the group's performance. Facilities may include schools, churches, offices etc. *Students should obtain a letter of agreement from the facility.* Arrangements are made with the instructor to observe the project.

Leading class discussion: (25 points) Students will lead a 10-minute class discussion Suggestions for topics are: A controversial issue or idea on which class members are likely to be divided; An emotionally charged topic, i.e. school prayer, supplying condoms in high school, BSN as the requirement for nursing licensure; or bring an object of creativity to the class i.e. a poem, photo, craft item etc. **Read Ch.13 ahead of time to prepare for leading the discussion.**

Attendance is expected at all class sessions.

One point will be deducted from the final grade for everyday assignments are late.

Classroom discussions are considered confidential.

All information in the syllabus is subject to change

Cell Phone/Pagers: Devices are to be OFF or in the VIBRATE mode.

Points will be deducted from the final grade for absences that do not have prior approval

Clinical--Students must have ALL required information for clinical (license, TB, immunizations, drug screen, background check, BCLS or ACLS and confidentiality statement [signed annually each school year]. Additionally, competency on Clinical Orientation Exam if clinical is in a hospital in any capacity) on file in the nursing office before beginning any clinical. Failure to submit any of the documentation may result in withdrawal from the course or a grade of "F" for assignments.

The final grade in the course will be determined as follows:

35 points	Articles and abstracts
25 points	Leading class discussion
15 points	Movie discussion questions/analysis
25 points	Clinical-planning & implementation

Grading Scale: Plus and minus may be used

A ***94-100***

B ***85-93***

C ***75-84***

D ***Below 75 (Must repeat the course)***

COURSE CALENDAR

Class	Content	Reading Assignment	Activity	Important Dates
Week 1 3/18/08	Introduction Overview Communication	Chapter 1& 2	Group Exercise	
Week 2 3/25/08	Verbal/Nonverbal Small group as system	Chapters 3, 4,	Group Exercise	
Week 3 4/1/08	Diversity/culture Members/roles	Chapters 5,6,8	Group Exercise	
Week 4 4/8/08	Problem Solving Conflict	Chapters 10,11,12	12 Angry Men	
Week 5 4/15/08	Continuation Of week 4			Critique Questions Due
Week 6 4/22/08	Clinical		Clinical	Abstracts Due
Week 7 4/29/08	Group Observation Leadership	Chapter 7,9	Group Exercise	
Week 8 5/6/08	Evaluation	Chapter 13	Student led discussions	