

<p style="text-align: center;">Westfield State University Advanced Practice with Groups SOCW 0698 Sec 1 FALL 2016</p>
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Course Description

This advanced practice elective builds on foundation theory and practice skills related to groups to equip students to effectively design, implement, lead and evaluate a wide range of groups including task, treatment, therapy and support groups for children, adolescents and adults. An experiential learning approach is used to deepen understanding of group dynamics and develop increasingly advanced facilitation skills using models applicable to a wide range of populations and problems clinical social workers address. These skills will be applicable to client groups as well as to administrative, interdisciplinary and community advocacy groups. In-class groups will serve as a platform for practicing self-awareness, self-reflection and openness to giving and receiving constructive feedback to advance practice effectiveness

Course Overview/Philosophy

This course will be offered as a hybrid course. Each week we will have a class meeting for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Prior to class, you will have assigned readings to complete and required on-line assignments. The on-line assignments may include videos, discussion forums, or experiential activities. Each week the on-line requirements for the week will be posted on the class Plato website. The class will be conducted as a learning community and for it to work we must all do our part. I expect you to be prepared and participate actively and to ask questions

Objectives

The MSW curriculum is designed to develop in our students' basic mastery of the program's competencies as seen through their ability to demonstrate the foundation and advanced practice behaviors. Each course has course objectives that identify the knowledge, skills, and/or professional values the course is designed to develop toward ultimate mastery of the competencies. The course objectives for this course are followed by the number (or numbers) of the Advanced Practice Behavior(s) the specific course objective is designed to help develop.

The student will demonstrate: Knowledge:

1. Advanced understanding of the theory and process required to plan a group (A3.1, A 3.2, A3.3, A3.4, A4.1, A6.2, A7.1)
2. Advanced understanding of group process and dynamics (A3.3, A4.1, A6.2)
3. Understanding of multiple theories guiding clinical groups (A3.3, A3.4, A4.1, A6.2)
4. Understanding of the roles of the group leader and members and the influence that diversity and oppression have on group work (A3.2, A4.1, A4.2 & A4.3)

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Values

5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of how the values and ethics of social work are the driving force behind the paradigms, the selection of methodology, and the group interventions used by advanced practitioners including responding to the ethical dilemmas that are part of practice (A2.1, A2.2, A2.3, & A2.4);

Skills

6. The skills for planning and evaluating clinical and nonclinical groups (A3.3, A4.2, A6.3)

7. The skills for beginning clinical and nonclinical social work groups (A1.2, A1.3, A1.4, A3.1, A4.2, A4.3 & A10a.1-3)

8. The skills for leading clinical (support, therapy and psychoeducational) and nonclinical (task) groups (A1.2, A1.3, A1.4, A3.1, A4.2, A4.3, & A10c.1-3)

9. The skills for termination and transition with clinical and nonclinical group (A1.2, A1.3, A1.4, A3.1, A4.2, A4.3, & A10d.1-2)

Required Texts:

Corey, M. , Corey, G. and Corey, C. (2014). Groups: Process and Practice. 9th Edition.

Assignments and Grading

Assignment	Percent of Final Grade
1. Group Proposal	30%
2. Experiential Group and Integrative Paper	50%
3. Attendance and Class participation	20%