

**DE PAUL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL FOR NEW LEARNING**

**Group Dynamics
Spring, 2003
Barat Campus
Mondays, 6:30-9:30pm**

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The purpose of this course is to help the student understand the nature of groups, the ways in which small groups come together and behave, and the principles that govern the behavior of small groups. The course will combine experiential learning with reading and discussions about the theories of small group development and group dynamics.

Competencies:

H3D-Can employ the skills of negotiation, mediation, or interpersonal communication in the resolution of a problem. *Students will learn how to negotiate, resolve problems, and communicate more effectively. They will also come to recognize their strengths and limitations as group members, and learn to improve their leadership skills.*

H3E-Can speak effectively in public settings. *Students will have to demonstrate their knowledge of groups by participating in a group project in front of the class. Communication and listening skills will also be emphasized.*

L7-Can learn collaboratively and examine the skills, knowledge and values that contribute to such learning. *Students will work in groups to complete their final projects, and will learn about various methods of increasing group cooperation and effectiveness.*

H1X.

FX-to be decided with the student

Learning strategies include journaling, lecture, discussion, role-playing, creative activities, self-assessment tools, and various out-of-class observation assignments.

Books required for the course include Group Dynamics, (Forsyth, 3rd. edition); and Alive, (Reid) . Several self-assessment tools, distributed in class, will also be required.

Attendance and active participation are expected and mandatory. If you must miss class, please communicate with your instructor *and with the other members of your small group* before class. It is also expected that all students arrive at class promptly.

You will be expected to 1) read the assigned readings for each class; 2) participate in class activities; 3) complete two “in vivo” group observations, and write summaries of the experiences; 4) watch either *Twelve Angry Men* or *The Breakfast Club*, and write a paper applying the movie to the principles of group dynamics; 5) complete a final project with a small group, demonstrating your knowledge of group processes, and present it to the entire class; 6) submit a journal each week, noting your reactions to the readings and how they related to your own personal experiences. *I will allow some time at the end of each class for you to meet with your small groups to plan your final project. You may, however, also need to meet with each other outside of class.*

Assessment: You will receive a letter grade for each written assignment, your final project, and class participation.

- The journal entries for the previous week should be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of each class.
- No late papers will be accepted. Due dates are noted in the course outline.

The criteria for assessing your written assignments will include: 1) how well the papers demonstrate knowledge of the material; 2) the quality of the writing, i.e., spelling, grammar, sentence structure and organization

Academic Integrity:

This class will be conducted in accordance with the University’s guidelines on academic integrity that may be found in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable, and could result in dismissal from the university.

COURSE OUTLLINE

March 31: Read chapter 1, Forsyth

- Course Requirements and Overview of the Course
- The Nature of Groups
- Types and Functions of Small Groups
- “Four Questions” Exercise

April 7: Read chapters 3 and 4, Forsyth; begin reading Alive

- Stages of group development
- Feedback and Communication

April 14: Read Chapter 5, Forsyth;

- Continue Discussing Communication
- Roles in Groups
- “The Island Affair”

April 21: Chapter 6, Forsyth; finish Alive

- Strength Deployment Inventory
- Discuss Alive
- Group Cohesion

April 28: Chapters 7 and 8, Forsyth; watch either *Breakfast Club* or *Twelve Angry Men* (**written assignment due**)

- Juries
- Power struggles
- Discuss both movies

May 5: Chapter 9, Forsyth; **first group observation due**

- Group Conflict
- Brainstorming
- NGT
- Problem Census
- Discuss observations

May 12: Chapters 10,11,12, Forsyth

- Leadership
- Leader Effectiveness
- LEAD

May 19: Chapters 13,14, Forsyth; **second group observation due**

- Group Therapy
- Ethics and Research
- Discuss observations

May 26: MEMORIAL DAY

June 2: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

June 9: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

- Adjourning Methods
- Course Evaluations

Donna Ryan received her MS from Northern Illinois University, worked in the mental health/ social service field for 5 years, and has taught various sociology courses for the past 15 years at Oakton Community College, Northeastern Illinois University, Montay College and North Park University's GOAL program.

