



PCC 850 Topics: Theories and Techniques of Group Dynamics Spring 2023

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Course Description

This course examines the theoretical components and developmental aspects of group counseling. It explores the impact groups and organizations have on individuals and how those individuals relate to the various groups of which they are members. Specifically, this course will focus on the study of small groups and social systems, with an emphasis on leadership and authority, member roles, small group dynamics, and development, diversity, and inter-group relations. Topics include types of groups, group dynamics and processes, group leadership and membership roles, ethical awareness in relation to groups, and crisis management within groups. Students will learn how to organize and facilitate groups for therapy, support and education within pastoral care and clinical contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. To define and understand basic concepts and theories of small group processes and social systems structure and processes.
2. To describe and analyze group processes such as small group development, norms and member roles which emerge in systems in which students are participating.
3. To develop an understanding of leadership, diversity, and authority issues in groups.
4. To apply theory, research, and experience to other relevant group and organizational settings
5. To reflect theologically on group dynamics in counseling and congregational settings

Required Texts

1. Forsyth, D.R. *Group Dynamics*, Seventh Edition. CA: Thomson Publishing Co.2018, ISBN-13: 978-133740885, ISBN-10: 1337408859
2. Jacobs, Ed E, et al, *Group Counseling: Strategies and Skills*, Eighth Edition, Brooks/Cole, Belmont, CA, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0170291514 ISBN-10: 0170291510
3. McRae, M. B. & Short, E.L. *Racial and Cultural Dynamics in Groups and Organizational Life*. Ca: Sage.2010, ISBN-13: 978-1412939867 ISBN-10: 1412939860

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