Course Outline

SOCIAL WORK DIPLOMA PROGRAM

SOWK 235
SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS

ROOM #S110

Winter, 2014

3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK

INSTRUCTOR: Dayirai Kapfunde MSW, RSW
INSTRUCTOR: Dayirai Kapfunde

PHONE NUMBER: 780-791-4976

E-MAIL: dayirai.kapfunde@keyano.ca

OFFICE NUMBER: S113D

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:

Tuesday 6:00 - 9:00 PM Room S110

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday 5:00 - 5:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

SOWK 235 - Social Work with Groups
This course will focus on the practice of social work with groups. The major emphases will be on theory of group dynamics, group process evaluation and facilitation skills.

PRE-REQUISITE(S):

There are no pre-requisites for this course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will expand their understanding of techniques and process relating to Group Work;
- Students will gain greater awareness of themselves as group leaders through presenting, experiential exercises and class feedback;
- Students will be introduced to a variety of approaches and areas of application of Group Work;
Students will have opportunities to practice and enhance their group work skills both through exposure to theory and experiential class activities.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To test group work theory and principles;
- To increase self-awareness regarding group work practice;
- To introduce students to many group work models;
- To develop skills for social work practice with groups.

**REQUIRED RESOURCES:**


**COURSE FORMAT**

Each class will run for three hours on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The course will be taught through lectures, discussions, experiential learning and student presentations.

**COURSE CULTURE:**

Class discussion is important and encouraged. Discussions may explore issues that elicit a variety of opinions and personal positions. Students should see each discussion and assignment as an opportunity to develop and hone their analytical and professional communication skills. To that end, **an environment of collegiality and respect** will be maintained in all class interactions. This means that, within the classroom, students and the course instructor will:

- a.) Listen with an open mind to all that is discussed;
- b.) Refrain from interrupting or talking when someone else is speaking;
- c.) Carefully assess the comments and points of view of others;
- d.) Ask for clarification, when needed;
- e.) Respectfully challenge content (not persons) in ways that lead to greater understanding for all;
- f.) Refrain from body language and voice tones that are dismissive (e.g., rolling of the eyes);
- g.) Support one another by arriving on time, refraining from parallel talk, and avoiding entering or leaving the classroom outside of prescribed breaks.

**COURSE EVALUATION:**

The students will be evaluated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.) Group Observation Assignment (individual)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.) Mid-Term Test</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.) Assignment #3 Small Group Experience</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 100%
## Course Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Introduction to Group Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>The Group Counselor</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Ethical and Legal Issues in Group Counseling</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Group Process - Forming a Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Initial Stage of a Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Transition Stage of a Group</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Working Stage of a Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Reading Week No Classes</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Final Stage of a Group</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Mid-Term Test Beginning of Class</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Application of Group Process - Groups for Children &amp; Groups for Adolescents</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Group Observation Assignment</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Groups for Adults &amp; Groups for Older Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Group Observation Assignment</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Role Plays</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Group Observation Assignment</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Role Plays</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 8</td>
<td>Assignment 3 Final Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>Last Day of Class</td>
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Academic Misconduct (pages 37-38 of the Credit Calendar):
Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations
- Unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person

Penalties for academic offences may range from a verbal reprimand to dismissal from the College, and in certain circumstances may involve legal action. Please refer to the website for more details http://www.keyano.ca/StudentLife/StudentConduct/AcademicPoliciesProcedures

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The College will provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities in order to promote academic success. If you require accommodation, contact the Learner Assistance Program (LAP) Office at 780-792-5608 to initiate the process for documenting, assessing and implementing your individual accommodation needs. In addition, tutoring services are available at the SKILL Centre.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Students should consult the Keyano College Credit Calendar or online information at: http://www.keyano.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentConduct/StudentRightsResponsibilities

Keyano Academic Schedule:

COURSE EVALUATION:

Assignment #1 Group Observation Assignment & Presentation 35% WEEK 11

Format: Group Observation — Reaction Paper/Profile(25%) — 10 minute class presentation(10%)
Students are required to locate a service agency that provides group social work services or support groups e.g CAMH; Family Crisis Society etc... or your practicum agencies. When the student locates an agency they want to use for this assignment, they must request and obtain permission from an agency administrator and a group leader to observe a group.

Sometimes students may have difficulty finding a group to observe. Therefore, start researching agencies for opportunities as soon as possible to ensure completing this assignment! Many agencies have requirements that student observers be approved as “volunteers” and sometimes approval entails various background checks.

In all situations of group observation or participation and observation students must respect and keep confidentiality. Students are to observe the group, taking notes while you observe or immediately afterwards if note-taking behavior seems too disruptive to process.

- This assignment includes the requirement that once the student returns home and reflects on his/her experience; he/she creates a group profile and reaction paper including the following information which he/she will then share with the class & hand in to the instructor:
  a) Purpose: The purpose of the group, including the benefits and goals for group participants
  b) Group Composition: Group composition and structure
  c) Facilitator’s Leadership Style: The facilitator’s leadership techniques and style (students may interview the group facilitator after their group experience to find out more about how the group operates, etc.)
  d) Group Dynamics: Specific dynamics noted re: interactions between members, systems observations, etc.
  e) Group Stage: The stage of group development that the student can analyze from observations
  f) Overall Assessment: Based on student’s group analysis (c-f above) and material from the class, conclude the paper with an overall assessment of the strengths of the group and areas that might be improved or facilitated differently.

- Lastly the student will present to the class 10 minutes.

Mid Term Test 30% DUE: WEEK 10
Assignment #3 - Small Group Experience 35%  Beginning Week 1;
Paper Due Week 14

Students are required to create 3 groups of 5/6 members, depending on the class size and provide the names of their group to the instructor. As a group students will review the course material by Delucia-Waack J.L & Donigian J.,(2004) weekly and discuss the literature as a group.

- Each week the groups will identify a Facilitator; a Recorder; and a Presenter with the rest of the group being observers.
- The presenter will present a 5minute summary outlining the main points to the rest of the class.
- Each student will write a 1page double spaced journal of the group experience weekly – to be handed to the instructor the following class.
- Students are expected to hand in a final paper 2-3pages long APA format answering the following questions:
  - What were some of the highlights of your small group experience?
  - How did the composition of the members affect the group?
  - How did the specific tasks you were given affect the group?
  - What types of decision making did you use in the group?
  - What were some of your group norms for communication?
  - What stages did the group go through during course of your work together?
  - How would you evaluate the work of the group?
  - What are some predictions about this group in the future?
  - What did this experience teach you about working with groups?

15% - weekly papers
20% - final paper
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SOCIAL WORK WITH GROUPS

Winter, 2014

3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK

Dayirai Kapfunde, Instructor  Date  Dec 3, 13

Reviewed and approved by:

Vincella Thompson, Chairperson  Date

Guy Harmer, Dean  Date