Renison University College Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

Fall 2018
Course Code: SOCWK 221R/SWREN 221R – Section 1
Course Title: Social Group Work

Class Times: Thursdays 2:30PM – 5:20PM
Location: REN 1918

Instructor: Ela Smith
Email: ela.smith@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description
Group work is an integral component of social work practice, although undervalued at times. Social workers work with groups in a variety of ways: clinical practice; community work; social policy; and in the work setting. Group work can be challenging and rewarding. Working in and with groups can affirm the importance of human interdependence.

Social group work will provide an introduction to group work practice. The course will offer an overview of aboriginal group work (the healing circle), and the application of group work today with a diversity of people, problems, and settings. Students will be introduced to stages in group work, group process, basic group leadership skills and therapeutic factors, the purpose of groups, and the importance of planning and preparing clients for group experience, and addressing problem situations. Multicultural issues, activities in group work, and team functioning in academic and work settings will also be addressed in the course.
Group work with specific populations: children (preschool to age 12), teens (13-21), and adults (22 to the elderly) will be explored through readings, lectures, video and class presentations.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Acquire and demonstrate knowledge of social work with groups, as well as team functioning in task groups in academic and work settings; the rationale and importance of groups in social work practice; and the different types of groups.

- Enhance and demonstrate an understanding of group theory, including stages, purpose, and process; as well as multicultural issues.

- Develop and demonstrate knowledge of group leadership and therapeutic factors evident in successful group work practice.

- Acquire and show knowledge of group process in groups with diverse individuals and problems across many settings.

Required Text


Course Requirements and Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Date/Details</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Facilitation</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Week 5, October 4th</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>Weeks 9 through 11</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection/Participation Paper</td>
<td>Week 12, November 29th</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Group Facilitation

Group Check in/Facilitation (twice per semester 5% each = 10%)

Each group will complete a weekly check in. The weekly facilitator will chair the check in process.
The facilitator of the group will be responsible for noting:
1) Date & Name of Facilitator
2) P.A.T.H. examples from each group member
3) Outstanding Questions group may have (readings, course expectations)
4) Social Work News
5) Attendance of group members
These items will be recorded on an index card and submitted for grading to dropbox.

Mid-Term Exam
90 minutes (based on Chapters 1 to 7, class lectures and discussions, and online notes) - will be written during class in Week 5 (Thursday, October 4th). Students will be given a choice of short essay questions to answer (which will be given in advance, one week prior to the exam).

Class Group Presentations (Weeks 10 through 12):
Each student will be part of a task group that will present to the class about a counselling group experience addressing a specific population (children, teen, adult or elderly) and problem (your choice). The presentation will be 45 minutes in length and a group grade will be assigned.
The presentation should address the following factors:
- purpose/reason for the group
- development needs of the group participants
- overview of the group process (size of group, content, number of sessions, length of sessions, meeting place, etc.
- planning, including preparation of clients for group
- leadership and therapeutic factors(5)
- one group exercise
- evaluation (goals, leadership, process,) and research
- strengths and limitations

Class Reflection/Participation Paper
Write a 750-1000 word essay about your personal reflections for Social Group Work: what you learned, what you liked/did not like, and assess your participation (extrovert and introvert participation valued equally).

Final Exam
To be written during the last regular scheduled class (Nov.29) and based on the material covered in Weeks 6 through 12 and the wholistic circle process.
Students will be given a choice of short essay questions to answer (which will be handed out in the last class). Each student will be required to answer the question on wholistic circle process.

**WEEK 1**
**Sept. 6**
Introduction and overview the course
Wholistic Circle Process (P.A.T.H.)

Readings: “The Circle of Healing” by Jean Stevenson. In Native Social Work Journal; Volume 2; Number 1; April 1999, pp.8-20; also available at https://zone.biblio.laurentian.ca/dspace/handle/10219/456

**WEEK 2**
**Sept. 13**
Readings: Chapter 1 Introduction
Chapter 2: Stages of groups, group process, and therapeutic forces
Chapter 3: Purpose of groups

**WEEK 3**
**Sept. 20**
Readings: Chapter 4: Planning
Chapter 5: Getting started: The beginning stage and beginning phase

**WEEK 4**
**Sept. 27**
Readings: Chapter 6: Basic skills for group leaders
Chapter 7: Focus
Video: Excerpts from the Breakfast Club

**WEEK 5**
Mid-Term Test (1.5 hours) (Chapters 1 to 7, online notes, class handouts, and discussions, except for “The Circle of Healing” reading)
**Oct. 4**

**WEEK 6**
**Oct. 11**
Fall Mid-term study break
No class

**WEEK 7**
**Oct. 18**
Readings: Chapter 8: Cutting off and drawing out
Chapter 9: Round and dyads

**WEEK 8**
**Oct. 25**
Readings: Chapter 10: Exercises
Chapter 11: Introducing, conducting, and processing exercises
Chapter 12: Leading the middle stage of group
WEEK 9
Nov. 1  Readings: Chapter 15: Closing a session or group
Chapter 16: Dealing with Problem Situations

Weeks 9-11: Group Presentations: Children, Teen, Adult, and Elderly

WEEK 10  Children’s group presentations 1, 2 & 3
Nov. 8   Readings: Chapter 17 (pp. 415-420)

WEEK 11  Teen group presentations 4, 5 & 6
Nov. 15  Readings: Chapter 17 (pp. 420-424)

WEEK 12  Adult/Elderly group presentations 7, 8, & 9
Nov. 22  Readings: Chapter 17 (pp. 431-435)
Chapter 18: Issues in group counselling
Review and Consolidation

WEEK 13  Final In-class exam
Nov. 29

*The first week of classes begins on Thursday and includes only Thursday and Friday September 6 and 7. Regular Thursday and Friday schedules are followed on both of these days.

**The loss of a Tuesday class on October 9 (study day) is made up by following a Tuesday schedule on Thursday, October 11

***The loss of a Wednesday class on October 10 (study day) is made up by following a Wednesday schedule on Friday, October 12

****The loss of a Monday class on October 8 will be made up by following a Monday schedule on December 3.

Late Work
Students may be penalized for handing in assignments late.

Electronic Device Policy
Electronic devices are allowed in class, provided they do not disturb teaching or learning.
Attendance Policy
To be discussed in the first class

Final Examination Policy
For Fall 2018, the established examination period is **December 6-21, 2018.** The schedule will be available in October. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see: [https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations](https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations))

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:
The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See [http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

Academic Integrity:
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage (https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage (https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour)](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour) for more information.

**Discipline:** Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or Academic Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author,
publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available here: https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory. Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant, who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there are grounds. Students who believe they have grounds for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**
http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):**
http://uwatertlood.ca/academic-integrity/

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities, without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AAS office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Intellectual Property.** Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
• work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

Mental Health Support
All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus
• Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
• MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
• Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7
• Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
• Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
• Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
• OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website
Download UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)
Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

A respectful living and learning environment for all

1. It is expected that everyone living, learning or working on the premises of Renison University College will contribute to an
environment of tolerance and respect by treating others with sensitivity and civility.

2. Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of jokes, insults, gestures, gossip, or other behaviours that are meant to intimidate. Some instances of harassment are against the law in addition to Renison University College policy.

3. Discrimination is treating people differently because of their race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, colour, age, creed, marital status, or other personal characteristics. The Ontario Human Rights Code considers actions and behaviours rather than intentions.