



Renison University College
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo
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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 granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach, and is centralized within the work of our Truth and Reconciliation Working Group and the [University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

Winter 2023

Course Code: SOCWK 221R/SWREN 221R

Course Title: Social Group Work

Class Times/Location: Fridays 2:30 – 5:20 pm Room REN 2107

Instructor: Ela Smith, RECE, RSW

Email: ela.smith@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description

Description: Through readings and videos, lectures and discussions, activities and assignments, students will gain knowledge and skills about Indigenous group work, group counseling strategies and skills, and effective team functioning.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes –

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- recognize and describe Indigenous talking circles, why they are effective, and how they have influenced modern group counseling
- describe group counseling strategies and skills, and teamwork principles and practices

- examine the processes that enable group counseling and teamwork to be effective
- plan and prepare a successful plan for a counseling group

Required Text

- Jacobs, E., Schimmel, C., Masson, R. & Harvill, R. (2022). Group Counseling, Strategies and Skills (9th edition). Cognella Academic Publishing.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Small Group Circle	Weekly	10%
Quiz # 1	Feb 17 (online)	25%
Quiz # 2	March 24 (online)	25%
Group Presentations	Modules 10/11/12	20%
Peer Evaluation/Reflection Paper	Module 12	20%
Total		100%

Assessment 1

Small Group Circle: (twice per semester 5% each = 10%)

Each group will complete a weekly check in.

One person of the group will facilitate. 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. example from each group member
- 3) Outstanding Questions group may have (readings, course expectations)
- 4) Social Media Story relating to Social work/social justice (each person should bring a story)
- 5) Attendance of group members.

These items will be recorded on an index card (in class) and submitted for grading to dropbox.

Each person will take 2 turns facilitating the weekly circle. Only the facilitator will submit notes for grading. There are 10 classes that we will be doing small circle meetings. That should ensure that everyone has 2 turns in the semester to facilitate and submit for grades.

P.A.T.H. - Present, Authentic, speak your Truth, or Human

Assessment 2

Quiz #1 - 90 minutes (based on content in weeks 1 to 5, class lectures, assigned chapters, and discussions)

- will be written online

Assessment 3

Quiz #2 - 90 minutes (based on content in Weeks 6 to 9, assigned chapters, class lectures and discussions)

- will be written online

Assessment 4

Group Presentation - 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 group focus (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

Assessment 5A - Peer Feedback on presentation – 10%

Peer assessment Rubric – Complete and submit to appropriate submission folder.

Assessment 5B

Write an approx. 750-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).

Course Outline

Module	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan 9 – 13	Introduction Circle	Course Syllabus
2	Jan 16 – 20	Introduction to Group Counselling and task groups	Chapters 1+2
3	Jan 23 – 27	Purpose and Planning in Group Counselling	Chapters 3+4
4	Jan 30 – Feb 3	Basic Skills for Group Leaders and Focus	Chapters 5,6,+7
5	Feb 6 – 10	Cutting off, drawing out group members, rounds and dyads	Chapters 8+9
6	Feb 13 – 17	Introducing, conducting, and processing exercises in group counselling	Chapters 10 + 11 Quiz #1 (includes content from modules 1-5 only)
	Feb 20	Family Day	No Class
	Feb 21 – 24	Reading Week	No Class
7	Feb 27 – Mar 3	Leading the middles stage of counselling group, closing a session, and ending a group	Chapters 12+15
8	Mar 6 – 10	Dealing with problem situations in a counseling group	Chapters 16+17
9	Mar 13 – 17	Measuring group counselling effectiveness: Identifying trends	Chapter 3 (pg.67-70) Chapter 17 (pg. 464-466)
10	Mar 20 – 24	Group Presentations	Quiz #2 (Content modules 6-9)
11	Mar 27 – 31	Group Presentations	
12	Apr 7	Good Friday	No on campus class
	Apr 7	Week 12 topics continued	Online Group Presentations

Late or Incomplete Work

Students should notify the instructor 48 hours prior to an assignment due date if there is a reason to believe they will not be submitting on time. Assignments handed in 7 days past a due date will be evaluated at 50%.

Coursework Submission Policy

Submit assignments that reflect expectations as outlined in Content/Assignments in Learn.

Policy on Plagiarism

“Policy 71’s glossary defines plagiarism, in part, as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others (whether attributed or anonymous) as one’s own in any work submitted whether or not for grading purposes”...

The Vice-President Academic and Dean has the authority to assess instances of plagiarism and the resultant penalties that are raised by an instructor. An instructor can propose a grade penalty to the Vice-President Academic and Dean, who will decide whether to accept the penalty or initiate a formal inquiry.”

For additional information on how plagiarism is dealt with at Renison, review the policy from where the above text is copied: [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

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. See Waterloo’s policy on [Fair Dealing](#). Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#).

If using Turnitin.com add the relevant statement here

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, an SDS/RS cross-list will count in an SDS major average, even if the course was taken under the Religious Studies rubric.

Attendance Policy

Students are highly encouraged to participate in class lectures and activities. Not attending class will impact the overall grade.

Communication Policy

Email, using the uWaterloo provided email address, is the approved method of communication for Renison. The Office 365 email that you use to login using your WatIAM login and password is secure and confidential. Take caution when forwarding your WatIAM email to an external

email service as confidential information forwarded to a third-party provider could be a data security breach and violation of FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) under which all students, staff, and faculty are bound by law.

Final Examination Policy

For **Winter 2023**, the established examination period is **April 13-28**. The schedule will be available early February. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time. See the [Final Examination Schedule](#).

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 [Accommodation due to illness](#).

Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities

Academic Integrity: 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 the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity](#) websites for more information.

Renison University College is committed to the view that when a problem or disagreement arises between a faculty member and a student every effort should be made to resolve the problem through mutual and respectful negotiation. Most issues are resolved by a student/faculty meeting to discuss differences of opinion. It is only after this stage, when a common understanding or agreement is not obtained that further actions listed below could be taken.

Discipline: Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) website for more information.] 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 or academic advisor. 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](#). For typical penalties check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the Department's administrative assistant, or Academic Advisor, 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 is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo): The website can be found at uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

[AccessAbility Services](#) is located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, and 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Students are encouraged to register with AccessAbility Services (AAS) at the start of each term if they require accommodations due to a disability. However, some students not connected to AAS may require accommodations later in the term. In that case, you should immediately consult with your instructor and/or your Academic Advisor.

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 / 519-888-4096
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- [Health Services](#) – Student Medical Clinic: 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
- [Empower Me](#): Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 844-437-3247
- [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. Email: ok2bme@kwcounselling.com Phone: 519-884-0000

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

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.

If you feel that you are experiencing the above from any member of the Renison community (students, staff, or faculty), you may contact Melissa Knox, Renison's external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email (mnknox@uwaterloo.ca) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experienced in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits.

For additional information see Renison's [Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse](#) policy.