

Instructor: Stephen Smith

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[I will make every attempt to respond to or acknowledge emails within 24 hours.]

Required materials:

TEXTBOOK Forsyth, D.G. (2018). Group Dynamics. (7th ed.) ISBN: 9781337408851

Description: The study of the psychology of small group behavior. The topics covered include: situational, physical, and personality factors as they relate to group formation, interaction, and performance.

Prerequisite: PSYC 1101 (Introduction to Psychology)

Goals: The main goal of this course is for you to gain an understanding of why people join groups, what makes groups successful or unsuccessful, useful or dangerous, and how to avoid certain problems that occur in groups.

Course Objectives

- ☐ Assess what makes a group, why people join groups, and the purposes served by groups
- ☐ Apply the methods used to study groups
- ☐ Distinguish between the concepts of group cohesion and group development
- ☐ Examine power, influence, and leadership as group factors
- ☐ Discuss the major concepts related to conflict and how to resolve conflict
- ☐ Analyze a group into its component parts and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses

Basis of evaluation:

Participation in class (and online) discussions – 20% of grade
Quizzes – 17% of grade (several low stakes quizzes across the semester)
Assignments – 20% of grade (several of these, mostly in class)
Three movie analysis papers - 18% of the course grade (6% each)
Final exam – worth 10% of the course grade
Case study paper - worth 15% of the course grade

Quizzes:

There will be several section quizzes. Each quiz will contain a mixture of multiple choice, fill in the blank and short written response questions. You are not allowed to use any notes, the book, etc. when taking the quizzes. A study guide will be included content for each section to help you

prepare – be sure you understand each concept on the study guide before the quiz date. Quizzes will be done in person in our classroom.

Movie Analysis Papers:

Your objective in writing these papers (probably around 3 pages, double spaced) is not to analyze or critique the movie – it is to apply the course concepts relevant to the group(s) in the movie. You don't need to discuss the story line of the movie – just compare what the **research** says about group dynamics to what you observe in the movie and analyze any discrepancies. Since you've probably never been asked to do an assignment like this, I've prepared some additional materials on how to write these papers– please take a look at them.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be cumulative and will be in the same format as the quizzes, but with a two hour time limit.

Case Study Paper:

This paper should be somewhere between 8-10 pages (typed, double spaced) and will be based on a case study of a group of your choosing. Your goal is to apply as many course concepts as possible in analyzing and writing about the group you examine. There is no penalty for going over 10 pages.

Grading Turnaround: Please allow at least 72 hours for grading of movie analysis and case study papers.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in completing any course-related work is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, discussions, homework, papers, and exams. Other forms of cheating include receiving or giving assistance in preparation of any graded assignment without prior authorization from the class instructor, and plagiarism (use of another person's ideas or expressions without acknowledging the source).

Any use of unapproved AI technology in student work will result in an automatic zero on the relevant assignment(s). A second offense will result in a grade assignment of F.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

I will accept late work up to 24 hours after the posted deadline; an automatic 25% deduction will be applied. After the 24-hour window has passed, late work will be assigned a grade of zero. If you become ill or otherwise unable to do your work, contact the Dean of Students office (<https://ung.edu/dean-of-students/index.php>), as I do not process requests for due date extensions.

There are no makeup quizzes. A missed quiz will be counted as a zero.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Review of course expectations
2	Introduction to group dynamics
3	Research Methods in group dynamics
4	Defining groups & their structure
5	Inclusion & Identity
6	Group Cohesion and Development
7	Group Cohesion and Development
8	Influence
9	Power and Leadership
10	Group performance
11	Teams & decision making in groups
12	Inter- and intragroup conflict
13	Groups in Context
14	Other interesting stuff
15	Prepare for Final Exam