

Group Dynamics (PSY 381-01) (3 credits)
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1 – 1:50pm; ASH 1310
Winter 2022

Instructor: Ernest Park, Ph.D.

Office: 2136 AuSable Hall

Office Phone: 331-5062

Email: parker@gvsu.edu

I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours if they are received Monday-Friday. Please set up a meeting with me (e.g., during office hours) if you have any questions/concerns that may require a lengthy response. Please be aware that I may not respond to email inquiries that involve information that has already been covered in the syllabus or in class.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 1 – 2:30pm, and by appointment

Required Textbook:

Forsyth, D. R. (2019). *Group Dynamics* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage.

*This syllabus is subject to change. Changes (if any) will be announced during class, via email and/or in the class slides that are posted online. Students are responsible for keeping informed of any such notices.

Course Description: This course offers a general survey of theory and research on small groups. Given the importance and frequency of group membership and groupwork, group-related phenomena are of interest to scholars across disciplines. In this course, a psychological perspective will be emphasized and students will study the ways in which group interactions affect the thoughts, motivations, feelings and behaviors of individual group members. Content will also cover the ways in which group member traits and tendencies affect group experiences. Principles will be applied to particular kinds of groups, including workgroups, therapy groups and families.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) explain theory and research that relate to group dynamics, 2) demonstrate the ability to think critically about research relating to small groups, 3) demonstrate scientific literacy skills, and information search and retrieval skills, and 4) describe the ways in which small group research can be applied to improve group functioning.

Basis for grading:

Exam 1 = 100 points

Exam 2 = 150 points

In-class quizzes/activities (10 quizzes/activities worth 10 points each) = 100 points

Homework assignments (3 assignments worth 10 points each) = 30 points

Total possible points = 380 points

Number grade = Earned points/380 X 100 (grades ending with .499 and below will be rounded down, and .50 and above will be rounded up)

Grading scale:

A = 94 and above

C+ = 77-79

F= 59 and below

A- = 90-93

C = 73-76

B+ = 87-89

C- = 70-72

B = 83-86

D+ = 67-69

B- = 80-82

D = 60-66

Exams: Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Students are responsible for knowing material from the text and any content discussed in class (including content from videos). Students will not be allowed to use any course materials during exams, and students are not allowed to talk about exam content with any other students. Exams will be administered through Blackboard and must be completed in one sitting. Once students begin an exam they will have a set amount of time to complete them. Exams will be accessible on Blackboard on the exam day and must be completed within the specified time (see class policies for late assignments). Additional details will be provided in class.

In-class quizzes/activities: There will be a total of 10 graded in-class quizzes/activities throughout the semester. The quizzes will each consist of 5 multiple-choice questions that cover *any material* that has been discussed in the text or in class by the time of the quiz. These will be “pop” quizzes (students will not be given advanced notice about the quiz). To receive credit, students must be seated in class at the time quizzes are distributed, and quizzes must be completed within the designated time. Since “pop” quizzes will cover any material discussed up to the time the quiz is taken, it is important for students to keep up with the assigned readings and to remember what has been covered throughout the semester.

Some weeks there will be a graded in-class activity instead of a quiz. These activities will include a graded component that require students to submit their work before the end of the class period. Details and instructions will be provided in class on the day of the assignment. The in-class quizzes/activities are unannounced and students must be in class to earn points for these assignments. To maintain fairness to all, make-up opportunities cannot be granted (see class policies for late assignments). Class attendance and attentiveness are thus strongly encouraged.

Homework assignment: Students will be required to complete 3 homework assignments. These are designed to provide students with the opportunity to thoughtfully apply principles that have been covered in class. More information about these assignments will be provided later in the semester.

Policies:

Grading: Students are not permitted to redo/re-take any assignments, quizzes, or exams, and so it is important to be prepared for class and on exam days. Please see me if you have questions about this policy.

Late assignments: If an exam, quiz or homework assignment deadline is missed due to illness, I must be notified by email within 12 hours of the scheduled due date. To turn in late work for reasons other than illness, students must contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled due date. A valid excuse must be provided for any missed work and students should wait for approval from me before assuming the excuse is acceptable. **Exams, quizzes and/or assignments that are not turned in, or are turned in late and fail to meet these regulations will result in a zero.**

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

Truth and honesty: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The university expects that both faculty members and students will honor these principles and in so doing protect the validity of university grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Compliance shall include compliance with the following specific rules:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

Plagiarism

Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for ideas/materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from Grand Valley. For further information see the Student Code.

Disability: If you are in need of accommodations due to a learning, physical, or other disability you must present a memo to me from Disability Support Resources (DSR), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested reasonable accommodations. If you have not already done so, please contact the Disability Support Resources office (4015 JHZ) by calling 331-2490 or email to dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received a copy of the DSR issued memo. All discussions will remain confidential.

Well-being: Your health and your family's health should be your priority. If you are dealing with illness, sick family members, travel difficulties, a bad internet connection, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issues, please reach out as soon as possible and we can talk about potential accommodations.

GVSU remains committed to supporting you because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and is here to help you in times of financial need, including technology requirements. Financial hardship funds may be available to help student's meet their basic needs, and help cover educational costs (such as housing, food, and textbooks) that a student could not otherwise pay out of pocket. Please visit the GVSU [Special Circumstance & Financial Hardship Requests](#) web page for more information.

Face Coverings

Face coverings, such as masks, are required to be worn in buildings on campus. Students who have forgotten their face coverings may get a disposable mask at a campus office. The evidence is clear that face coverings are a crucial part of keeping coronavirus at bay and support the university's commitment to providing all members of its community with an inclusive living and learning environment with equitable opportunities for success. GVSU's policy on face coverings is posted on the Lakers Together web site. Students who are not able to wear a face covering due to a medical condition should contact Disability Support Services (DSR) to discuss their situation.

Cancelled classes: If the university is closed and classes are cancelled, any scheduled exam will take place the next class meeting (unless you are notified otherwise by me).

Students are expected to read the assigned chapter before the first lecture of the week

Tentative Schedule

	Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1, starts Jan. 10	Syllabus Ch. 1: Introduction to Group Dynamics	
Week 2, Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO CLASS 1/17/22) Chapter 2: Studying Groups (Wednesday)	HW1 due 1/21/22 (by 11:59pm)
Week 3, Jan. 24	Chapter 3: Inclusion and Identity	Quiz/Activity 1
Week 4, Jan. 31	Chapter 4: Formation	Quiz/Activity 2
Week 5, Feb. 7	Chapter 5: Cohesion and Development	Quiz/Activity 3
Week 6, Feb. 14	Chapter 6: Structure	Quiz/Activity 4
Week 7, Feb. 21	Exam 1 (Monday) Chapter 7: Influence (Wednesday)	Exam 1 on 2/21/22
Week 8, Feb. 28	Chapter 7 continued	-Quiz/Activity 5 -HW2 due 3/4/22 (by 11:59pm)
Week 9, Mar. 7	Spring Break recess (NO CLASSES)	
Week 10, Mar. 14	Chapter 8: Power	Quiz/Activity 6
Week 11, Mar. 21	Chapter 9: Leadership	Quiz/Activity 7
Week 12, Mar. 28	Chapter 10: Performance	Quiz/Activity 8
Week 13, Apr. 4	Chapter 12: Decision Making	HW3 due 4/8/22 (by 11:59pm)
Week 14, Apr. 11	Chapter 13: Conflict	Quiz/Activity 9
Week 15, Apr. 18	Chapter 14: Intergroup Relations	-Quiz/Activity 10
Final (Exam 2) Monday, April 25; 12-1:50pm		