

PSYCHOLOGY 645: GROUP PROCESSES—SPRING, 2019

Monday, 12:30-3:15—EP 304

Instructor: Jim Halligan

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Office Hours: T/TH, 11:00-1:00 or by arrangement

Required Text:

Johnson, David W. & Frank P., Joining Together, Group Theory & Group Skills, 11th edition, Pearson Education, Inc., 2013.

Overview:

- Psychology 645 is an upper division course in which students will explore the nature of groups, the individual's role in groups, the dynamics that occur in groups, and the skills for being effective members of groups.
- We will utilize a variety of learning methods in this class such as readings, discussions, role-play exercises, lectures, written assignments, and group presentations. This class invites active participation in the learning process.

Objectives:

1. To observe, learn about and experience group dynamics
2. To improve understanding of ourselves in relation to groups
3. To understand the role of groups in our lives and society
4. To increase personal effectiveness in group functioning

General Policies:

- This class invites and encourages active participation in the learning process. You must join us to make a full contribution. Be present, **on time**, prepared, curious, and flexible. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session. If you need to miss class, please try to email or call me ahead of time.
- In addition, repeated lateness for class will be viewed as a partial absence and they will accumulate. Please let me know if you are experiencing extreme circumstances. I do consider these circumstances when determining final grades.
- Taboos: Out of respect for your fellow classmates and your instructor, please turn off your cells, smart phones, etc. while in class. Beverages and food in class are fine, as long as your eating and drinking don't affect the class in general or your participation.
- This course is meant to be a positive learning experience for the students and the instructor, and any form of plagiarism is not a part of this process.

Statement on Religious Holidays

- The faculty of San Francisco State University shall accommodate students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

Disability Accommodations Statement:

- Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email dprc@sfsu.edu.

Student disclosures of Sexual Violence:

- SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Dean of Students. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact:

→The Safe Place—415-338-2208; http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/

→Counseling and Social Services Center—414-338-2208; <http://psyserve.sfsu.edu/>

Required Assignments:

- **Group Observation Project & Presentation:** One of the goals of this course is to help you become more observant of group dynamics. As such, it is important that you begin to develop and refine your group observation skills. In this assignment, your base group will choose & watch a movie in which group dynamics are illustrated. You will then develop a presentation of what you observed. Additional information and requirements for this assignment will be provided in a few weeks.
- **Monthly Learning Reflections:** You will be expected to complete reflections based on the readings, and the class exercises and discussions for the first 3 months of the term. This should include objective observations of what happened in class, and subjective reactions, thoughts and feelings about what took place. The purposes of the reflections are (1) to record what you are learning about group dynamics that has personal meaning to you, (2) record how you behave within group situations, and (3) record thoughts related to the reading content or our discussions in class. Your reflections are also an opportunity for you to continue to flex and refine your writing skills, so your entries will be graded on content *and* writing. Each journal entry must be typed & double-spaced (12 point font) & are due at the beginning of class on the designated due dates.

Note:

- **February** reflections will include entries for the weeks of 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25: **due 3/4**
 - **March** reflections will include entries for the weeks of 3/4, 3/11, 4/8, 4/15: **due 4/22.**
 - **April** reflections will include entries for the weeks of 4/22, 4/29, 5/6: **due 5/13.**
 - **Also**, there will be an additional written assignment worth 20 points to be included with the April reflections. I will give details for this assignment in April.
- **Exams:** There will be 2 exams worth 20 points each. They will be of equal weight and size, & each test will cover about half of the semester's material. (The final will not be comprehensive). Both exams will include some multiple choice and two or three short essay questions.

GRADING:

Assignment	Points
1. Group Observation Project	25
2. Participation/attendance	20
3. Learning Reflections (15 ea)	45
4. 2 Exams (20 pts ea)	40
5. Short Writing Assignment	20
TOTAL:	150

SCALE:

A = 94-100	C = 73-75
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 66-69
B = 82-86	D = 63-67
B- = 79-81	D- = 60-62
C+ = 76-78	F = below 60

Schedule of Classes

Dates	Topics and Activities
1/28	Course outline and expectations, syllabus, overview experiential learning. Form base groups. Exercise: "Who Am I?" Introductions.
2/4	Chapter 1: "Group dynamics," "What is a group?" Effective vs. ineffective groups. Group Dynamics Exercise: "Dracula"
2/11	Chapter 1: Group Structure; Team Development Cycle. Chapter 3: Group Goals & Interdependence, Clear & Unclear goals, exercises: Interdependence and Goals.
2/18	Chapter 3: Social Interdependence theory; Developing & Maintaining Trust. • Discuss <i>Group Observation Project</i>
2/25	Chapter 4: "Communication in Groups." Introduction & Mystery Exercise; Group communication model
3/4	more Chapter 4: One-way communication; sending & receiving messages; <i>Exercise:</i> communication norms. Intro to Chapter 5: "Leadership" • February learning reflections due •
3/11	Chapter 5: "Leadership." How leaders function. Exercise: "Personal Leadership task." Tower Building exercise; organizational Leadership. <i>Exam Review</i>
3/18	Midterm Exam • Presentation planning & Observation forms
3/25	NO CLASSES—SPRING BREAK
4/1	NO CLASSES—CESAR CHAVEZ DAY
4/8	Chapter 6: "Using Power." Constructive/destructive power, power orientations, Dynamic-interdependence view of power, bases of power, Status card game.
4/15	Chapter 7: "Decision Making." Individual vs. group decision-making; decision-making exercises. Factors that hinder effective group decision making. Exercise: "Bean Jar."
4/22	more Chapter 7—Groupthink: film & discussion. • Presentation planning • March Learning Reflections due •
4/29	Chapter 9: "Managing Conflicts of Interest:" conflict theory, personal conflict strategies, conflict positive and negative groups; introduction to negotiation. Negotiation skills, processes, and exercises. • Presentation planning
5/6	Principled/Integrative negotiation. Inter Group Negotiation exercise, Intergroup conflict; contact theory.
5/13	Group Observation presentations • April learning reflections due • <i>Exam Review</i>
5/23	Final Exam

