

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## SW 442: Generalist Practice with Groups

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 0

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites:

This course requires the following prerequisite

SW 405 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course offers an overview of the basic knowledge, values, and skills applied in social work with groups. Students will become acquainted with the stages of group development and the dynamics, objectives, and tasks of each stage. General leadership skills will be explored as well as specific interventions with the individual group member, the group as a whole, and the group's external environment. The class will also examine groups as manifestations of societal/cultural norms and will discuss the specific knowledge, values, and skills related to working with groups that have diverse membership. The student will gain experience as a member and leader of a growth group and will apply the knowledge and skills learned and discussed in class to her/his growth group process.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 09/01/2019 - Present

**C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Students will learn to apply the components of generalist social work practice to group work practice.
2. Students will become acquainted with theories influential in the understanding of groups (e.g., systems theory, learning theory).
3. Students will become familiar with past and present group work practice models (e.g., social goals, interactional, mainstream).
4. Students will understand the application of general social work values and ethics and of group-work specific values and ethics to the practice of social work with groups.
5. Students will explore one's personal value system, its relationship to culture, religion, education, and other factors, and its relevance to social work practice.
6. Students will examine and understand the definition of group work practice as offered by textbook authors.
7. Students will examine and comprehend a typology of task and treatment groups and to relate them to one's history of group involvement.
8. Students will recognize the role of groups in promoting change at all practice levels and of furthering the purposes of the social work profession.
9. Students will become acquainted with the forces (group dynamics) that result from group members' interactions.
10. Students will distinguish between the various stages of group development, to discern how they relate to the generalist intervention model, and to become familiar with the characteristics of each stage.
11. Students will develop an understanding of how diversity and accompanying factors influence group dynamics.
12. Students will explore the bases of power used to guide the development of a group.
13. Students will become familiar with Toseland's and Rivas' conceptual framework for working with diverse groups.
14. Students will become acquainted with the various steps in planning a group.
15. To become familiar with intrapersonal, interpersonal, and environmental interventions with individual group members.
16. To become familiar with interventions with the group as a whole.
17. To understand methods for changing the group's environment.
18. To become acquainted with evaluation methods for determining group effectiveness and efficiency.

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

None

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted