I. Course Code: HS 204

II. Course Title: Group Dynamics

III. Prerequisite: HS 203 Counseling Techniques

IV. Number of Credits: 3

V. Instructor’s Name: Jennifer Gasparino, MSW, LCSW
   Office Location: Room A155
   Passaic County Community College
   One College Boulevard, Paterson, NJ 07505
   Telephone: 973-684-4825 (office) or 973-619-2375 (cell)
   Email: jgasparino@pccc.edu
   Office Hours: Posted on office door

ADDENDUM TO SYLLABUS AND PROGRAM POLICIES
and COURSE MATERIALS
ARE LOCATED ON BLACKBOARD
AND THE HUMAN SERVICES LIBGUIDE
VI. **Course Description:**

This course focuses primarily on acquiring the skills to facilitate a group, understanding the group process and factors involved in group cohesion and conflicts, communication styles, and role identities within the group. Screening, Intake, Orientation, Assessment, Treatment Plan, Case Management, Intervention, and other core functions of the counseling process are reviewed.

VII. **Course Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify group problems or conflicts and institute strategies for problem and conflict resolution
2. Facilitate a group
3. Identify the ethical, cultural, and legal issues concerning the human services profession
4. Apply theories specific to group core functions in the counseling process
5. Apply research concepts to current practice related to the human service profession

VIII. **Course Outline:**

**Week 1: Welcome to Group Dynamics**
- Overview of course;
- Student Introductions
- **Read:** Section 2, Chapter 2, OVERVIEW: Group Counseling

**Week 2: Understanding Group Dynamics**
- Lecture – Group therapy/counseling
- Group activity
- **Review:** Section 2, Chapter 2, OVERVIEW: Group Counseling

**Week 3: Types and Stages of Group**
- Lecture – Types and stages of groups
- Group activity
- **Review:** Section 2, Chapter 2, OVERVIEW: Group Counseling.
- **Read:** Section 2, Chapter 4, Education, Referral, Reports, and Recordkeeping
- **Research Paper Topic** * due

**Week 4: Referral and Leadership in Group Dynamics**
- Lecture - Client Referral & Leadership Styles
- Group activity
- **Review:** Section 2, Chapter 4, Education, Referral, Reports, and Recordkeeping

**Week 5: Evidence-Based Practice**
- Lecture – Evidence-Based Practice
- Group activity
- **Review:** Section 2, Chapter 4, Education, Referral, Reports, and Recordkeeping
Week 6: Who? What? How?
• Lecture – Population, Presenting Problem, Topic
• Group activity
• Mid-Term Exam**

Week 7: Group Activities
• Lecture – Planning group activities
• Group activity

Week 8: Group Activities
• Lecture – Planning group activities
• Group activity
• Review: Section 2, Chapter 4, Education, Referral, Reports, and Recordkeeping
• Research Paper * due

Week 9: Reports and Recordkeeping
• Lecture - Documentation
• Group activity
• Read: Section 2, Chapter 2, Counseling the Family and Significant Others

Week 10: Family Counseling
• Lecture - Family Counseling
• Group activity
• Review: Section 2, Chapter 2, Counseling the Family and Significant Others

Week 11: Outline and Student Group Presentations *** due

Week 12: Outline and Student Group Presentations *** due

Week 13: Outline and Student Group Presentations *** due

Week 14: Outline and Student Group Presentations *** due

Week 15: Termination Group Activity

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH BLACKBOARD AND WILL BE CHECKED FOR PLAGIARISM. HARD COPIES MUST ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO INSTRUCTOR ON DUE DATE AND MUST MATCH THE SUBMISSION TO BLACKBOARD.
ASSIGNMENTS

- Research Paper on Group Topic
- Mid-Term Exam
- Outline and Group Topic Presentation
- Discussion Board

Discussion Board
Students will be required to respond to a weekly discussion board question. Each discussion board question will be available for one week; the question will open at midnight on the day of the class and will close at 11:59 pm the day before the next week’s class. For example, if the class meets on Wednesdays, the discussion question will open at midnight Wednesday and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday. If there is no response to the question in the time frame allotted, the points allocated to the question will not be received. Response to the discussion board is worth 10% of the final grade. **DO NOT ASK FOR THE QUESTION TO BE RE-OPENED IF YOU MISS IT.**

* Research Paper
Students will be required to complete a Research Paper on a topic appropriate to group counseling. A formal assignment can be found on the HS-204 Group Dynamics Libguide. **The Topic must be approved by the instructor and is due by Week 3.** Students will be required to coordinate their Research Paper with their group presentation. The paper must be 4-5 pages. A minimum of four (4) scholarly sources must be used, one of which must be on how to facilitate a group. Any papers, including drafts that are turned in past the assigned due date, **will receive a grade reduced by 5 points per day.** The paper must be written, cited, and formatted in APA. Students must use the approved APA Paper Template, which can be found on the Human Services Program Information LibGuide. Directions for the Research Paper will be posted on Blackboard under the assignments tab. **The Research Paper is due on Week 8.**

** Mid-Term Exam
The mid-term exam will be taken on Blackboard during Week 6. Instructions for completing the exam will be discussed in class. Exam material will be based on the course readings and lectures.

*** Outline and Group Presentation
A formal Outline will be required and is due on the assigned day to present. The Outline should be formatted using the approved APA style template found in the Human Services Program Information Libguide. Be sure to include any references used for the group activity. Each student will complete a Group Presentation, which will allow the student to facilitate a group specific to the Group Research Paper. The presentation will be an activity carried out in a role play involving the entire class. The activity must relate to the Research Paper topic. Directions for the Outline will be posted on Blackboard under the assignments tab.

eTutoring
eTutoring is a professional tutoring service, paid for by PCCC, provided free to all PCCC students. The URL is [www.etutoring.org](http://www.etutoring.org). Students upload writing assignments (for this or any class) to eTutoring and receive feedback on their assignments within 48 hours.
Information on using eTutoring is available in the Writing Center and at http://pccc.libguides.com/etutoring.

Tutoring Center
Help with this paper is available at the Tutoring Center on the second floor of the Memorial Building.

Writing Center
Students may take any writing assignment to the Writing Center for extra help. The Center also offers a series of workshops designed to help students with general writing concerns. The Writing Center’s libguide (website) is located at http://pccc.libguides.com/writingcenter and gives information about the Center, scheduling appointments, and upcoming workshops.

Students MUST make an appointment to use the Writing Center. Information on setting up an account and using WC Online (the scheduling software) can also be found at http://pccc.libguides.com/writingcenter (the Writing Center LibGuide), by clicking on the “Meeting with a Writing Consultant” tab. Going to the Writing Center unprepared will prevent the student from getting help with their writing.

Source Citation Examples
There are examples of source citations at OWL Purdue: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/

IX. Addendum to Syllabus and Program Policies:

The Addendum to Syllabus and Program Policies document located on the Human Services Program LibGuide is part of this syllabus.

X. Text(s), Journals, and Other Materials Used in the Course:

Required Text:
Scheel, K. (2014). The fundamentals of counseling: A primer (7th ed.). Santa Fe, New Mexico: Distance Learning Center, LLC.

XI. Methods of Evaluation:

A. Grade Determinants:

- 25%  Research Paper on Group Topic
- 25%  Mid-Term Exam
- 20%  Presentation and Outline
- 15%  Discussion Board
- 15%  Attendance
B. Course Grading:

- A  95-100
- A- 90-94
- B+ 87-89
- B  84-86
- B- 80-83
- C+ 77-79
- C  70-76
- D  60-69
- F  Below 60

XIII. Notification for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and believe you need accommodations in this class, please contact Disability Services staff at 973-684-6395 or email ods@pccc.edu to make an appointment. You should do so as soon as possible at the start of each semester. If you require testing accommodations, you must remind the Instructor one week in advance of each test.

More info at pccc.edu/ods.

“*The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.*”

-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.