REH 6250: Group Counseling (3 credits) Summer 2020 - Course Syllabus

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Location:
Main Classroom: https://connect.usu.edu/reh6250su20main
Group #1: https://connect.usu.edu/reh6250su20group1
Group #2: https://connect.usu.edu/reh6250su20group2

Course Meeting
- Classes meet on Monday nights at 5:00 PM Mountain; May 4th through August 7th, 2020:
  - The course will run for the Summer 2010 semester.
  - The Live Broadcast portion of this course begins May 4th, 2020 and runs through July 6th, 2020.
  - The asynchronous portion of this course will run from July 7th, 2020 through August 5th, 2020.
  - All assignments are due on the dates and times (typically 11:59 PM) noted in CANVAS (keep in mind, the time zone reflected is Mountain, so adjust accordingly).

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is an introduction to group counseling, including theory and practice specific to persons with disabilities. Students participate in small and large group sessions while learning about group formation, significant stages of the group process, and ethical/legal issues related to group counseling. The course is broken up into two parts:
- First part of class, Lecture: (5:00 PM to 6:10 PM)
• 10 Minute Break
• Second part of Class, In-class Group Experiences (6:20 PM to 7:30 PM)

**READINGS**

Extensive readings will consist of book chapters from the required and optional texts and supplemental empirical articles (posted in Canvas). Supplemental readings can be downloaded from the course website. Students must complete all readings prior to the class period for which they are assigned, and come prepared to discuss the readings in class. Many readings are technical and somewhat difficult. Students should expect to study the readings as necessary to understand the material. If you are having trouble with CANVAS, contact CANVAS Support at (877) 399 1958.

- **Additional Readings**: Available in CANVAS.

**Purposes and Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the methods and practice of group counseling. As such, this course provides theoretical rationale for understanding group development, process, and dynamics and discusses the specific functions of group interaction. This course explores the organization and maintenance tasks associated with group leader/facilitator roles. In addition, this course introduces the basic skills needed to effectively conduct group counseling sessions. Special group management issues and disability applications are explored. Finally, this course provides a basic understanding of how to formulate, start, maintain, and conclude a variety of groups such as support, psychoeducation, job club, and counseling.

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Understand the theoretical foundations of group counseling and group work (*CACREP Standard, 2.F.6.a*);
2. Understand group dynamics, group process, and stages of group development (*CACREP Standard, 2.F.6.b*);
3. Understand therapeutic factors and how they contribute to group effectiveness (*CACREP Standard 2.F.6.c*);
4. Understand characteristics and functions of effective group leaders (*CACREP Standard 2.F.6.d*);
5. Understand approaches to group formation, including recruiting, screening, and selecting members (*CACREP Standard 2.F.6.e*);
6. Understand types of groups and other considerations that affect conducting groups in varied settings (CACREP Standard 2.F.6.f);
7. Understand ethical and culturally relevant strategies for designing and facilitating groups (CACREP Standard 2.F.6.g);
8. Have participated in direct experiences… as group members in a small group activity, approved by the program for a minimum of 10 clock hours over the course of one academic term (CACREP Standard 2.F.6.h).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Student Learning Outcome #1: Students will understand the theoretical foundations of group counseling and group work and be able to apply these in their practice setting.

- Assessment Method
  - Live participation in selected group activities.
  - Depending on course enrollment, leading one to two in-class group activities over the course.
  - Journaling, quizzes, and final exam to review for specific content.

Student Learning Outcome #2: Students will participate in a minimum of 10 hours of group related exercises in this class.

- Assessment Method
  - Live participation in selected in-class group activities.
  - Live participation in selected out-of-class group activities.

General Course Policies
Distance learning presents some pedagogical challenges for both instructors and students. Therefore, to maximize learning in this course, students are expected to participate in all Adobe connect sessions in a professional manner. Students should minimize distraction by turning off other electronic devices (e.g. televisions, cell phones, etc.) and minimizing other Internet web pages while class is in session. Students are required use the raise hand feature on adobe connect to ask questions and dialogue with the instructor. Students are also required to participate in in class group activities. During these discussions, students must use their microphone. Please remember to mute the adobe connect microphone when you are not speaking.

Learning Environment
Proper decorum is to be observed in the virtual classroom, as outlined in the student code (http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=581). Students are expected to engage in reasonable and substantial preparation for their coursework, to follow course and class guidelines as set forth in syllabi and as enunciated by their instructor, and to complete all academic exercises with integrity. All interactions with faculty members, staff members, and other students shall be conducted with courtesy, civility, decency, and a concern for personal dignity. The
following are the course policies that should be followed during all online discussions, activities, presentations, and testing.

1. Refrain from the use of excessive profanity or derogatory statements about sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, race, gender, age, etc.
2. Respect your peers (e.g., do not judge opinions or monopolize the discussion thread).
3. Sharing of personal experiences is encouraged in the context of the course material. However, the instructor and the students are expected to maintain confidentiality and are asked not to discuss personal accounts shared by colleagues outside of the class setting.
4. Remember, cameras are required for full participation. Some classes may require the camera to be on all the time, other courses may require limited or no cameras. However, we encourage you to consider your actions and environment while on camera that may impact the learning environment for the class.
   a. It may be necessary for you to arrange options for child care and pet care to minimize distractions.
5. Assignments are due on the dates noted in the course syllabus. Late work is not accepted.
6. Audio signals on cell phones, pagers, and watches should be turned off, or, if you must be available, set them to vibrate. If you get a call that you need to take, take it outside of the “classroom”. Leave and return quietly with as little disruption as possible.
7. Please use your laptop only for class activities or discussions.

Professional Performance Standards
Part of performing at your best level in this program will require a high degree of self-awareness. The following information is quoted from the Utah State University (USU) Rehabilitation Counseling Education Program performance policy…

The relationship between personal behavior and professional competence has long been recognized in the rehabilitation counseling field. Rehabilitation counselors must be aware of the impact of their own physical, mental, and/or emotional issues on the counseling process, and the potential harmful effects these unresolved issues can have on consumer progress and outcomes.


Section D.3.a - IMPAIRMENT. Rehabilitation counselors are alert to the signs of impairment from their own physical, mental, or emotional problems and refrain from offering or providing professional services when such impairment is likely to harm the client or others. They seek assistance for problems that reach the level of professional impairment, and, if necessary, they limit, suspend, or terminate their professional responsibilities until such time it is determined that they may safely resume their work. Rehabilitation counselors assist colleagues or supervisors in recognizing their own professional impairment and provide consultation and assistance when warranted with
If you feel you are struggling in any way, we as faculty encourage you to reach out to us. We will work together to find suitable methods for supporting you.

In addition to meeting the academic standards set forth in the USU Rehabilitation Counseling Program, students are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical, responsible and professional manner. They must be knowledgeable of and at all times adhere to the general standards of professional ethics and practice set forth by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC, see the code of ethics page referenced above). More specific to this class and the overall rehabilitation counseling program, specific Professional Performance Standards include:

1. Openness to new ideas
2. Flexibility
3. Cooperativeness with others
4. Willingness to accept and use feedback
5. Awareness of own impact on others
6. Ability to deal with conflict
7. Ability to accept personal responsibility
8. Ability to express feelings effectively and appropriately
9. Attention to ethical and legal considerations
10. Initiative and motivation
11. Awareness of and attention to the unique cultural and societal issues related to disability

The rehabilitation counseling program has also adopted a set of professional dispositions to be demonstrated by all students. The professional dispositions include:

- Self-awareness, including humility, self-reflection, and understanding of place in history
- Integrity, including personal responsibility, maturity, honesty, courage, and congruence
- Commitment, including counseling identity, investment, advocacy, collaboration, and interpersonal competence
- Openness to idea, learning, change, giving and receiving feedback, others, and self-development
- Respect to self and others, including honoring diversity, self-care, and wellness

Skills: At a minimum, students are expected to develop a graduate-level understanding of the following skills: research, writing, presentation, collaboration, technology, and critical thinking. It is also important that you do not make assumptions regarding the content, policy, or other elements of this class. Please feel free to contact me directly to address any questions or concerns you may have.
Professional Writing: Within graduate school and as a professional, it is expected that we be able to communicate clearly with precision and formality. Before any submission of any assignment, students can approach the Writing Center at USU for support in editing. The Writing Center has a link so you can schedule an online session if necessary. They can be reached by phone: (435) 797 - 2712, or Email: usuwritingcenter@gmail.com. More detailed information about the Writing Center can be accessed at: https://writing.usu.edu

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all AdobeConnect sessions. Attendance is a critical aspect of student success and classroom engagement. Students should let the professor know in advance if they need to be absent. In the event of a personal emergency, getting word to the professor about personal absences, as soon as possible, is appreciated. Should absences occur, students are expected to follow-up with peer colleagues regarding missed content, and then with the instructor for consultation, if further elaboration on content is needed.

Participation: Students are expected to participate in all teaching activities. Participation is a critical aspect of student success and classroom engagement. Sharing professional and personal experiences related to the topic under discussion is invited as a way of adding to the overall learning environment whether we are meeting online or in-person. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for one another in the way that they ask questions, make comments, and engage in the overall academic exchange of concepts, topics, and ideas.

Utah State University Campus Policies (https://studentaffairs.usu.edu)

Utah State University (USU) is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination, and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting. The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity (AA/EO) Office for available options and resources or clarification, leading to an informal resolution of the matter. All USU employees are required to report any disclosures of sexual misconduct to the USU Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions are for those who provide health care, mental health services and victim advocacy. Learn more and access information and forms for reporting an incident to USU.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format
materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice. Their website can be found at: [https://www.usu.edu/drc/](https://www.usu.edu/drc/)

**Emotional and Mental Wellbeing:**

Graduate school can be a very stressful experience. Utah State University has a mission to support students in all facets of life including their emotional well-being. All USU students have access to confidential mental health services through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). This includes a full range of counseling services, workshops, and support/therapeutic groups. If you live in the Logan area, CAPS is located in the Taggart Student Center (TSC 306, 435-797-1012). If you live outside the Logan area, please contact Justin Barker, PsyD at justin.barker@usu.edu. Services you may be eligible for include:

- Consulting, referral, and therapy via video conferencing
- Referrals to providers throughout the State of Utah
- Initial consultation and help with referral to out-of-state students
- Recorded and live workshops on common topics such as sleep, stress/anxiety, depression, etc.

If suicide is an issue, you can get help from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

**Title IX – Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 ([https://www.usu.edu/policies/339/](https://www.usu.edu/policies/339/)) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity (AA/EO) Office for available options and resources or clarification, leading to an informal resolution of the matter. Further information and forms for reporting an incident to USU can be found here: [http://aaeo.usu.edu](http://aaeo.usu.edu).

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, please contact the Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information office (SAAVI) at 435-797-7273 or see their website at [www.usu.edu/saavi/](http://www.usu.edu/saavi/), or contact the CAPSA 24-hour crisis line at (435) 753-2500. If you or someone you know needs emergency services for trauma or life-threatening situations please call 911.
Additional Resources
Emergency services for trauma or life-threatening situations, please call 911.
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).
Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information office (SAAVI): 435-797-7273
Domestic Violence services –
  • National Domestic Violence Hotline
    o 1-800-799-SAFE
  • More information about Domestic Violence and Services
  • CAPSA
    o 24-Hour Cache Valley Crisis Line: 435-753-2500.
Utah State University Rehabilitation Counseling Master’s Program
  • Kris Wengreen, Advisor kris.wengreen@usu.edu or 435-797-3246

Grading Guidelines & Policies

Course Assignments & Grading

Exam: Closes Wednesday, August 5th at 11:59 PM MST
There will be a final exam that will be available on CANVAS from July 29th, 2020. You will have two hours to complete this exam. Please note: once you open the exam online, the clock starts ticking and continues until time is up. This is the case even if you immediately close and decide to take the exam online at a later time. This exam is open book, open note, but not open partner. The exam consists of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer question (50 pts.).

Group Evaluation & Journal Writing
After each group session led by a student, you will fill out an evaluation form (available in CANVAS) and turn this in with your weekly journal writing (see template in CANVAS). For your journal entries, you will be asked to keep a weekly journal writing reflecting on your group experience(s) during the week. You may write about your personal responses/reactions regarding your group experience from class or in groups attended outside of class; your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the classroom material; or other personal reflections pertaining to group work. Weekly journal entries are worth five points (9 submissions @ 5 pts. each, total of 45 pts.). These will be uploaded into the corresponding location in CANVAS.

In Class Work and Attendance
Classroom attendance is important for several reasons. Besides the obvious reason of learning, our program must demonstrate that students participate in 10 clock hours of group work over the course of one semester (CACREP Accreditation Guidelines). Unless otherwise cleared by the instructor, students who miss all or part of class time will lose points and may need to make up
missed hours. Working in small groups, you will participate in 9 campus-based groups sessions with your peers. This is worth 2 points per small group practice session (18 pts possible).

- CACREP Standard, 2.D.6.h: direct experiences in which students participate as group members in a small group activity, approved by the program, for a minimum of 10 clock hours over the course of one academic term

Outside of Class – Group Attendance/Experience
You will find an open group in your local community. You will discuss this group with your instructor to ensure its appropriate match to the course and intent. You will contact the group leader/agency to get permission to attend, let them know you are master’s student in a group counseling course and need to attend three sessions (at a minimum) of group work. You will explain that your primary role is to observe and learn, but that if they would like, you are willing to participate fully as called upon. These experiences will augment the in-class group experiences. You will provide documentation of the date/time you attended the group and the topic for each of the three sessions (25 pts. each, total of 75 pts.)

- CACREP Standard, 2.D.6.h: direct experiences in which students participate as group members in a small group activity, approved by the program, for a minimum of 10 clock hours over the course of one academic term

Skills Demonstration
Dr. Landon will evaluate students for a basic level of group counseling competency via group observations at some point during the on-campus week. This will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. There is a subjective component to this evaluation. Students that are not fully engaged, demonstrating problem behaviors, and otherwise disrupting the group will be asked to leave the group for the evening. Should this happen again, the student will be removed from the course, receive an overall failing grade, and expected to complete the course at a future date.

Personal Evaluation
After the completion of the campus-based groups, the recordings of the sessions you led will be made available to you. You are to evaluate yourself using the same evaluation form you used to evaluate your peers that was mentioned previously as a guide (found in CANVAS). A three to four-page self-evaluation write up will be loaded into CANVAS. Use APA Style and form (Cover Page is appropriate; an abstract is not required). Do not count the title page towards the 3 to 4-page requirement. This evaluation of self should critically analyze the following:

1) What were your goals?
2) How well were those goals achieved?
3) What skills worked well?
4) What skills require improvement?
5) If you had the opportunity to repeat the sessions, what would you have kept the same?
6) If you had the opportunity to repeat the sessions, what would you have done differently?
Open Book/Reading Quizzes
Students will complete three (15 pts each) open book/open reading quizzes. These quizzes are meant to review materials covered in class and prepare the student for the final exam.

Total Points:
- Journal Writing: 45 (9 at 5 pts. each)
- In-Class Group: 18 (9 at 2 pts. each)
- Outside of Class Group: 75 (3 at 25 pts. each)
- Open Book Quizzes: 45
- Personal Evaluation: 25
- Exam: 50

Total points possible: 263

Grading:
- 244 to 263 points: A
- 197 to 209 points: C+
- 184 to 196 points: C
- 157 to 183 points: D
- Below 156 points: F

Special Education and Rehabilitation Department Policies for Grading Guidelines
1. Criteria for the awarding of each letter grade should be specified in the course syllabi for all courses.
2. Grades given in all courses should truly reflect differences in student performance, not just meeting minimum criteria.
3. All graduate students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to remain an active student in the graduate program (a USU Graduate School policy).

Academic Honesty
It is expected that students’ work will conform to the highest standards of academic honesty. Incidences of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on tests, plagiarism, lying to supervisors and cooperating teachers) will be referred to program committees for disciplinary action.

Notice of Academic Dishonesty
The University expects that students and faculty alike maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. For the benefit of students who may not be aware of specific standards of the University concerning academic honest, the following information is quoted from the code of Polices and Procedure for Students at Utah State University, Article V, Section 3; Violations of University Standards, Acts of Academic Dishonesty:

A. Cheating includes intentionally: Using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity; Depending upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other
assignments; Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work; Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission; and Engaging in any form of research fraud.

B. Falsification includes the intentional and unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

C. Plagiarism includes knowingly representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140&hl=Integrity&returnto=search).

Violations of the above policy will subject the offender to the University discipline procedures as outlined in Article VI, Section 1 of the Handbook. Those procedures may lead to: (a) a reprimand; (b) a grade adjustment; (c) being placed on warning or probation; (d) suspension from the University; or (e) expulsion from the University.

Learn more about the USU student code of conduct.

Grievance Process (Student Code)
Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking - which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII Grievances (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7).

Course Schedule

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<th>Week &amp; Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Reading(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week #1 – May 4th</td>
<td>• Getting Started</td>
<td>Jacobs et al.: Chapter 1</td>
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<td>• Beginning the Group (Group Selection Criteria and Methods, Establishing Rules)</td>
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<td>• In-Class Group Experience #1</td>
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<td>• CACREP D.6.b and D.6.e</td>
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<td>Week #2 – May 11th</td>
<td>• Purpose &amp; Types of Groups</td>
<td>Jacobs et al., Chapter 3</td>
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<td>• Planning</td>
<td>Jacobs et al., Chapter 4</td>
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<td>• In-Class Group Experience #2</td>
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<td>Week #3 – May 18th</td>
<td>CACREP D.6.a and D.6.f</td>
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<td>Stages of Group Development</td>
<td>Jacobs et al., Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Principles of Group Leadership</td>
<td>Corey, Chapter 4</td>
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<td>In-Class Group Experience #3</td>
<td>Corey, Chapter 5</td>
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<td>CACREP D.6.d</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week #4 – May 25th</th>
<th>No Formal Class – Pre-recorded Lecture</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical Considerations for Group Work</td>
<td>Corey, Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week #5 – June 1st</th>
<th>Specific Leadership Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>Establishing, Holding, Shifting, and Deepening</td>
<td>Jacobs et al., Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Group Experience #4</td>
<td>Corey, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>CACREP D.6.d</td>
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<th>Week #6 – June 8th</th>
<th>Use of Theory</th>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling and Therapy in Groups</td>
<td>Jacobs et al., Chapter 13</td>
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<td>In-Class Group Experience #5</td>
<td>Jacobs et al., Chapter 14</td>
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<td>CACREP D.6.a and D.6.c</td>
<td>Corey, Chapter 17</td>
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<th>Week #7 – June 15th</th>
<th>Psychoeducational Groups</th>
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<td>Support Groups</td>
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<td>In-Class Group Experience #6</td>
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<td>CACREP D.6.f</td>
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<th>Week #8 – June 22nd</th>
<th>Cognitive Behavioral Groups</th>
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<tr>
<td>Solution Focused Brief Therapy and Motivational Interviewing in Groups</td>
<td>Corey, Chapter 13</td>
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<td>In-Class Group Experience #7</td>
<td>Corey, Chapter 16</td>
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<td>CACREP D.6.f</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week #9 – June 29th</th>
<th>Working with Specific Populations (e.g., Adolescents, Substance Use Disorders, Disabilities, Survivors of Trauma, etc.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Group Effectiveness</td>
<td>Jacobs et al., Chapter 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Group Experience #8</td>
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<td>CACREP D.6.f</td>
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| Week #10 – July 6th | • Dealing with Problems  
• Closing a Group  
• In-Class Group Experience #9  
• CACREP D.6.b and D.6.f | Jacobs, et al., Chapter 15  
Jacobs et al., Chapter 16 |
|---|---|---|
| Week #11 – July 13th | Open Book Quiz #1  
* Jacobs Chapters 1-6  
* Corey Chapters 3, 4, & 5 | |
| Week #12 – July 20th | Open Book Quiz #2  
* Jacobs Chapters 7-12  
* Corey Chapters 2, 13, & 16 | |
| Week #13 – July 27th | Open Book Quiz #3  
* Jacobs Chapters 13-17  
* Corey Chapter 17 | |
| Week #14 – Aug. 3rd | | August 5th - Final is due by 11:59 PM Mountain. |

**Disclaimer**  
Adjustments in syllabi are often necessary to best achieve the purpose and objectives of the course. I reserve the right to change readings, assignments, and the relative importance of the assignments for the final grade. If changes are necessary, students will be given reasonable advanced notice and rational for changes. In the event changes are made, the amended syllabi will be discussed in class and uploaded into CANVAS.