



Course Syllabus: Practice II
College of Health Sciences and Human Services
SOWK 3833 TR 8:00-9:20AM Centennial Hall 101
Spring 2024: January 16-May 3, 2024
3 Credit hours

Contact Information

Instructor: Sarah Olson

Office: Centennial Hall #450

Office hours: by appointment or Zoom meetings by appointment

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Course Description

Students learn generalist practice skills, theory, and knowledge about group processes. Experiential learning provides opportunity to learn group leadership skills and to experience group dynamics. Research, theory, practice skills, and experiential learning provide an integrative learning experience.

This course is designed to develop skills and techniques necessary for generalist practice with individuals in the group setting and with groups. The course provides both theoretical and experiential understandings of group purpose, development, dynamics, theories, methods and skills, and other group approaches in a multicultural society.

A study of the knowledge, skills, values, and ethics required for generalist social work practice with groups, organizations, and communities. Using social systems, strengths, and empowerment perspectives, groups, organizations, and communities are viewed within the larger social context with emphasis on cultural competency and strategies for addressing the needs of various group, organizational, and community structures.

This course will be taught through small group discussions, audiovisual presentations and lectures. Students are expected to attend classes and to actively participate in discussions. The expectation is that students will have read the assigned reading to facilitate class dialogue and interactions.

Course Delivery

This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Spring 2024. To keep everyone safe and to reduce close contact that could result in quarantine, **face coverings are strongly recommended**. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled rooms all scheduled days. **Students with health concerns or any symptoms of illness should not attend in person but rather communicate with the professor in advance so that they may attend live classes via zoom.** Students attending by Zoom without medical need will be given a daily participation grade of zero.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of principles of group dynamics, including group process components, developmental stage theories, group members' roles and behaviors, and therapeutic factors of group work. (*Knowledge, Skills, Cognitive & Affective Processes*)
2. Recognize group leadership or facilitation styles and approaches, including characteristics of various types of group leaders and leadership styles. (*Knowledge, Values, Skills, Cognitive & Affective Processes*)
3. Demonstrate knowledge of group counseling methods, including group counselor orientations and behaviors, appropriate selection criteria and methods of evaluation of effectiveness. (*Knowledge, Values, Skills, Cognitive & Affective Processes*)
4. Evaluate one's own professional use of self in working with groups, organizations, and communities. (*Knowledge, Values, Skills, Cognitive & Affective Processes*)
5. Utilize critical thinking skills, and conceptual frameworks to engage, assess, intervene and evaluate groups. (*Knowledge, Skills, Cognitive & Affective Processes*)
6. Examine theories of group counseling, including commonalities, distinguishing characteristics and pertinent research and literature. (*Knowledge, Skills*)

Core Competencies	Course Objectives	Practice Behaviors	Assignments
Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	All the course objectives	Practice personal reflection and self-correction; attend to professional roles and boundaries	All the assignments and class exercises
Engage in Practice Informed Research and Research informed Practice	1, 2, 3 & 5	Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge	Assignment # 2
Engage with, Assess, Intervene, and Evaluate Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	All the course objectives	Prepare for action with groups, organizations, and communities; collect, organize, and interpret client data; select appropriate intervention strategies; implement prevention interventions; critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions	All the assignments, reading quizzes, final exam, class exercises, and class presentations

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Corey, M.S., Corey, G., & Corey, C. (2018). *Groups: process and practice* (10th ed.) Cengage Learning.

- **List price: \$39.99(rental) -250.95** (prices may vary depending on the vendor). There also appears to be a "subscription" for Cengage every 6 months at least.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

- **List price: \$34.99** (prices may vary depending on the vendor)

Class Participation

It is expected that students will contribute to the maintenance of a healthy learning environment, by paying attention to lectures, to fellow students' contributions in the class and by not being disruptive in class. It is expected that students actively participate in class discussions and exercises. It is also expected that everyone who shares ideas/views is respectful of others' time and ideas/views. **We could agree to disagree, but we ought not to be disagreeable.**

Class participation is expected not only at the time of class discussions but also during lectures by raising pertinent questions, by contributing relevant ideas and by sharing relevant examples. Students will be expected to read all the assigned materials prior to class and be prepared to engage in class discussions related to the class topics.

Laptop and Cell Phone regulation

No Photographing, recording, text messaging is allowed without the permission of the instructor. Please turn off or set cell phones on vibrate. Please do not surf the internet or listen to music while in class. Please note that using electronic devices during class time will have an adverse impact on participation grade. Also, very importantly, during the final in May, we will have all cell phones, headphones and smart watches put away and turned off. We also have the option to put them up at the front of the classroom.

Writing Assistance

Begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the [Tutoring & Academic Support Programs](#), located off the first floor of the Moffett Library. The MSU TASP Learning Center offers drop-in tutoring support for most general subject areas including but not limited to Writing, Math, Science, Business, and Foreign Languages. Students check in to work one-on-one with a tutor typically for an hour regarding specific concepts.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Social Work Program Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all meetings of this class. If unable to attend class, please inform the instructor directly via email or office phone before the class start time. If unable to attend class due to an emergency, please inform the instructor as soon as possible. Please note that **for each "uninformed class absence" a 0 will be assigned for the class period participation grade. Coming late to class, inattentive or disruptive behavior during class (including inappropriate cellphone use), and leaving early from class will have an adverse impact on attendance and participation grade.**

Students are allowed three excused absences as defined by MSU absence policy. For an absence to be excused the **student must inform the instructor of the reason for the absence** and provide documentation supporting the need for the class absence. Please note that **for each absence beyond the 4th, 5 points will be taken off from the student's final course (average) grade.** A **student who has missed six classes** (including the three excused absences) will **receive a full lower letter grade (10 points). After six absences the student will be dropped from the class.**

Authorized absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the college dean or Athletic Director and the Provost. These absences will not count against the student when the student presents a signed letter to the instructor at least two class days prior to the date of the absence. Only prior notification can guarantee lack of penalty for these absences. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make up all work missed during an authorized absence. Academically-related activities (class field trips, attendance at conferences, etc.) which result in absences require the cooperation of individual faculty members. Even though such activities are educational in nature, they do not qualify as university-sponsored activities.

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Instructor Class Policies

All students registered for courses in the Social Work Department are expected to adhere to the responsibilities, and behavior as articulated in both the [Student Handbook](#) and the NASW (National Association of Social Workers) [Code of Ethics](#). An essential feature of these codes is a commitment to maintaining intellectual integrity and academic honesty. I have a **zero-tolerance policy for cheating, collusion, or plagiarism**, and violations will result in substantial penalties including a failing grade on the assignment with no make-up opportunity and/or a referral to the Dean of Students.

Repeated **accidental or willful cheating or use of someone else's words, ideas, or evidence without attribution will be met with a failing grade in the course and a referral to the Dean of Students**, regardless of whether the first occurrence was in this course. If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please do not hesitate to contact me. This will also be monitored with Turnitin on D2L.

Students are expected to display professional decorum at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, respecting classmates and the instructor. In this regard, it is expected that students will not hold side conversations, use cell phones, or engage in other types of unprofessional behaviors once class has begun.

Professional Expectations of Student Behavior

Midwestern State University Department of Social Work is mandated by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to foster and evaluate professional behavioral development for all students in the social work program. The Department of Social Work also bears a responsibility to the community at large to produce fully trained professional social workers who consciously exhibit the knowledge, values, and skills of the profession of social work. The values of the profession are codified in the NASW Code of Ethics. Given this context, all students in the social work program will be expected to exhibit the following ethical standards of behavior.

1. **Accountability:** Attend class, arrive on time, and return from break in a timely manner.
Participate in group activities and assignments at a comparable level to peers.
Complete work in a timely fashion and according to directions provided.
Come to class prepared, with readings and other homework completed.
2. **Respect:** Treat all your peers, your instructors and all those you come in contact with, with dignity and respect at all times.
Listen while others are speaking.

*Give feedback to peers in a constructive manner.
Approach conflict with peers or instructors in a cooperative manner.
Use positive and nonjudgmental language.*

3. **Confidentiality:** Treat any personal information that you hear about a peer or an instructor as strictly confidential.
*Maintain any information shared in class, dyads or smaller groups within that unit.
Use judgment in self-disclosing information of a very personal nature in the classroom. (Class time should not be used as therapy or treatment. If students feel the need to talk about issues they are struggling with, they may consult with their instructor to receive a referral for counseling.)
Never use names of clients or disclose other identifying information in the classroom.*
4. **Competence:** Apply yourself to all your academic pursuits with seriousness and conscientiousness, meeting all deadlines as given by your instructors. Constantly strive to improve your abilities.
*Come to class with books, handouts, syllabus, and pens.
Seek out appropriate support when having difficulties to ensure success in completing course requirements.
Take responsibility for the quality of completed tests and assignment.
Strive to work toward greater awareness of personal issues that may impede your effectiveness with clients.*
5. **Integrity:** Practice honesty with yourself, your peers, and your instructors. Constantly strive to improve your abilities.
*Academic: Commit yourself to learning the rules of citing other's work properly.
Do your own work and take credit only for your own work.
Acknowledge areas where improvement is needed.
Accept and benefit from constructive feedback*
Submission of Papers: Students will submit their written assignments electronically. Electronic copies will be subject to plagiarism analysis and will be kept in electronic file for future reference. A student may not submit the same paper, or essentially the same, paper, project, assignment, or finished project to an instructor, which has been submitted to another instructor, unless specifically authorized by both instructors to do so.
6. **Diversity:** Strive to become more open to people, ideas, and creeds that you are not familiar with. Embrace diversity.
*Maintain speech free of racism, sexism, ableism, heterosexism, or stereotyping.
Exhibit a willingness to serve diverse groups of persons.
Demonstrate an understanding of how values and culture interact.*

7. **Communication:** Strive to improve both verbal and written communication skills as these skills are used heavily in interactions with clients and peers and also with creating client records.
*Demonstrate assertive communication with peers and instructors.
Practice positive, constructive, respectful and professional communications skills with peers and instructor: (body language, empathy, listening)*
8. **Social Justice:** Strive to deepen your commitment to social justice for all populations at risk.
*Demonstrate an understanding of how institutional and personal oppression impede the experience of social justice for individuals and groups.
Strive to learn about methods of empowering populations and enhancing social justice at micro, mezzo, and macro levels.*

Grading

Table 1: The student’s achievement will be evaluated on the basis of written assignments, class exams, class participation, and class presentation.

Assignments	Weight
Quizzes (10 quizzes averaged for total)	20%
Class Participation	10%
Assignment 1-12 Angry Men	20%
Assignment 2- Group Proposal	20%
Final Exam	20%

Table 2: Weighted average will be used to calculate final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Social Work Program Grade Policy

A course grade of below a C or an average of below 70% will be considered a failing grade. ***Social work students must repeat social work courses in which they receive a grade of D or F.***

Homework

Questions may be assigned for selected chapters to be answered and handed in at the next class.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be completed outside of class through D2L. Students will complete weekly quizzes by 11:30 pm on Fridays based on the required book chapters and lectures as indicated in the class schedule. Assigned reading should be completed before beginning each quiz. The **quizzes are open book and notes**, but there will be limited time to complete them. Ten quizzes will be required. Eleven quizzes will be available and students completing all 11 will have their lowest quiz grade dropped. No requests for late access will be considered unless the student has submitted documentation through the Dean of Student's office proving incapacitation for the entire week that the quiz was available. Anything presented via assigned readings or in class may be included in quizzes.

Final Exam

There will be a final exam that is **closed book and note**. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, true or false statements, and short answer or essay questions. Since class instruction will be based on the text as well as materials from other sources, what is presented in class will be included in the final exam. **Students have to put their cell phones away and turned off, along with no smart watches and headphones.**

Projects Required

APA style formatting is required for all written work in this course. Be sure to use appropriate APA style citations for any information you take from the textbook, handouts, lectures, reference materials, websites, or other outside sources while completing written assignments.

ASSIGNMENT #1: Reflection Paper: The Group Process- "Twelve Angry Men"

Watch the movie titled, "Twelve Angry Men," (1957 cast). The DVD is available in reserve at the library. You may also be able to find on streaming services and appears free on Tubi. After you view the movie, write a paper incorporating your thoughts concerning the movie incorporating the questions below. The questions will act as a spring board for the discussion of the movie and its application to the group process.

The paper should be between **3 to 4 pages (not counting title and reference pages)**. Due to the nature of the paper, references may not be needed, however if used, outside information it must be cited and referenced as required by APA.

The questions:

Identify the group purpose, tasks, goals and norms.

Identify the group members' roles that emerge (i.e., leader, clown, peacemaker etc.)

Note the power structure- who influences whom? The communication structure- who talks to whom? The subgroups (cliques) that form?

Identify the stages of group development. (Pages 149-150 of the textbook may be helpful with this. Be sure to reference where you found the stages of group development model that you use in your writing.)

Note the group process (e.g., changes in conditions that take place such as the nature of the interactions, individual goal changes, values, etc.).

Assignment # 2: Group Proposal (80% of Assignment)

Develop a proposal for a group (specify if it is a task group, educational group, psychodynamic, etc.) providing all necessary information for consideration of group establishment. This assignment may be done independently or with 1 partner. If two students submit the proposal, submit evidence indicating what contributions each student made.

Proposals should be written in an APA style paper that describes the group's purpose, what the group's specific and measurable goals and objectives are including plans for evaluation of how well they were met, and who the targeted membership will consist of. Proposals must answer the following questions:

Who will the designated leader be? Will group membership be open or closed?
What is the length that the group will be expected to meet for?
What curriculum will you use? What will it consist of? It is evidence based?
Where will the group meet? How will this space allow confidentiality?
What will the group expenses be and how will they be funded?
How does the targeted person complete the group?
What does the termination phase consist of?

Please refer to page 153 of the text for additional guidance. This needs to be minimum of 5 pages of content, not including title and reference pages.

Assignment 2, Part 2: Group Proposal Presentation (20% of Assignment)

You will present your group proposal to the class as if you were seeking approval from a committee or board to begin conducting the group. Presentation grades will include consideration of the quality of information presented, feasibility of the plan, attending behavior of the presenter(s), effective use of relevant aids to enhance the message (such as PowerPoint, handout), audience engagement (including opportunities for questions), and effective use of time (8-12 minutes). If two students present, each student should make equal contributions to the presentation.

Late Work

All assignments must be submitted on time. Students who need additional time to complete assignments must meet with the instructor at least one class session prior to the assignment due date to discuss the accommodations that need to be made. It is the student's responsibility to request this meeting.

Late work will be penalized ½ letter grade per 24-hour time period. Failure to submit any assignment within 7 calendar days of the due date will result in a failing grade for the assignment. You should get with the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency occurs interfering with your ability to meet a due date.

EXTRA CREDIT

I would love for everyone in this class to attend a group such as an open AA meeting or a support group to observe. At this time, I cannot require this at the time. If you attend, I need to know when and where the group was a page typed of observation, with not using group member identifying names.

Participating in Group Work

This class and others in the Social Work Department have group projects. This is for a myriad of reasons, including that when you are in the field, you will be working in teams. The expectation is that you contribute equally to your group. If members are seeing a lack of participation with group members, they need to contact me and there will be further discussion.

Make Up Work/Tests

Make up work will only be considered in cases of university excused absences or verifiable emergencies. Students will not be allowed to take make up exams after the original exam has been given. If you cannot take the exam on the required day and time, you must make arrangements in advance to take it PRIOR to the scheduled administration of the exam.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 19, 2024

Deadline to file for graduation: February 12, 2024 for May Graduation

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" February 28, 2024

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

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For additional university-wide policies and regulations, see the MSU [Undergraduate Catalog](#). This web site contains information on grading, incomplete grades, cheating on exams, plagiarism, and expectations of student behavior.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. Two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process.

Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to

watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Course Changes at the Discretion of Instructor

Although much thought, study, and research has gone into designing the course and learning opportunities, often the most significant learning comes in unexpected moments. The instructor cannot predict these times but respond to them. Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Practice II Course Schedule
(The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus schedule as needed.)

Week & Dates	Chapters	Assignments
Week 1 January 16 – January 19	Course Introduction. Professor Olson will be gone for most of the first class. Discussion of course assignments - Ch. 1: Introduction to Group Work	- Quiz 1
Week 2 January 22 – January 26	- Ch. 2: The Group Counselor	- Quiz 2
Week 3 January 29 – February 2	- Ch. 3: Ethical and Legal Issues in Group Counseling	- Quiz 3
Week 4 February 5– February 9	- Ch. 4: Theories and Techniques of Group Counseling	
Week 5 February 12– February 16	- Ch. 4: Theories and Techniques of Group Counseling (cont.)	- Quiz 4 -- Assignment #1 due, February 16, 2024
Week 6 February 19– February 23	- Ch. 5: Forming a Group	
Week 7 February 26 – March 1	- Ch. 5 Forming a Group (cont.)	- Quiz 5
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Week & Dates	Chapters	Assignments
Week 8 March 4 – March 8	- Ch. 6: Initial Stage of a Group	Quiz 6

Week & Dates	Chapters	Assignments
Week 9 March 10 – March 16	Spring Break NO CLASS	No class!
Week 10 March 18 – March 22	- Ch. 7: Transition Stage of a Group - NASW-SWAD-TX 2024 in Austin. Attendance not required for this class.	- Quiz 7
Week 11 March 25- March 29	- Ch. 8: Working Stage of a Group NO CLASS MARCH 28	- Quiz 8
Week 12 April 1- April 5	Ch. 9: Final Stage of a Group	-Quiz 9 - Assignment #2: Group Proposal due April 5
Week 13 April 8- April 12	- Ch. 10: Groups in School Settings	- Quiz 10
Week 14 April 15- April 19-	- Ch. 11: Groups in Community Settings, possible Catch up and Review	- Quiz 11

Week & Dates	Chapters	Assignments
Week 15 April 22- April 26	-Class Presentations; possible Catch up and Review	Each presentation is 10-15 minutes. Have to turn in Power Points as part of assignment and use them for presentation.
Week 16 April 29-May 3	Final Exam review. Final during this week rather than Finals week	Final Exam May 2, <i>unless</i> we get so behind, then it will need to be the Official Week of Finals, May 6-10.

Practice II

STUDENT COURSE AGREEMENT

Please review the course syllabus. Once you have read and understand the syllabus and all faculty expectations, please sign and return this agreement. Please pay special attention to attendance and late/make-up work policies as well as the Instructor Class Policies and Professional Expectations of Student Behavior sections. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.olson@msutexas.edu

This agreement of understanding should be completed only after thoroughly reading the course syllabus. Sign, date & return this document to Instructor Olson by the second class session.

Semester

Printed Student Name

I have read and understand the syllabus and faculty expectations for this course. I agree to come to class prepared and to participate fully in this course.

Date

Signature