

GROUP DYNAMICS

This course was formerly titled “Interpersonal Processes and Group Behavior.” Students who took “PSY 337” under that title may not repeat it except for grade improvement.

PSY 3370 S001, Winter 2018, Oakland University
T/R 3:00 – 4:47 pm; Room 120 Mathematics and Science Center

INSTRUCTOR

Tara DeLecce, Ph.D.

Office Hours: T/R 10:15-11:15 am and by appointment

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COURSE OVERVIEW & EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course focuses on group structure, function, and process. We will discuss how individuals affect the behavior of people in groups, and how the group affects the behavior of individuals.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize, recall, and define theories and concepts about (1) the function and structure of groups, (2) the influence of individuals on groups, and groups on individuals, (3) intragroup processes that help and hinder group performance and productivity, (4) intergroup processes that generate bias and conflict.
- Apply concepts from the course to personal experiences and real-world phenomena
- Synthesize information from the course to describe and analyze a real-world group

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Requisites: Completion of PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher

COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials will be provided via Moodle: <https://moodle.oakland.edu/login/index.php>

There is no required textbook. The suggested textbook is: *Forsyth (2013). Group Dynamics*

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is segmented into weekly modules typically consisting of the following content:

- Power-point lecture on key course content
- Supplemental materials that complement the lecture for the week, including:
 - Popular press readings (e.g. The New Yorker, The Atlantic)
 - Psychological journal articles
 - TED talks or podcasts
- Multiple-choice quiz assessing mastery of the week's material

EVALUATION

Your performance in this course will be evaluated via a combination of assessment techniques, including multiple-choice and short-essay exams and in-class exercises and quizzes.

Assignment	Points	% of Total
Exams (3)	300	75%
Quizzes	50	12.5%
Course Participation	50	12.5%
Total	400	100%

**Total points will vary as a result of the number of activities and quizzes, but will be scaled to be worth 50 total points, or 12.5% of your final grade.*

1. EXAMS (75%)

There will be three, non-cumulative exams, each worth 25% of your course grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-essay questions. Exams will assess your mastery of the main objectives described in the course overview.

What happens if I miss an exam? Make-up exams will only be provided for DOCUMENTED medical problems or serious personal/family problems (e.g., death in the family). I reserve the right to deny you a make-up exam if you do not contact me BEFORE the exam. Appropriate professional documentation for the missed exam must be provided and missed exams made up no later than 1 week after the missed exam.

2. QUIZZES (12.5%)

Closed-note quizzes will be given once per week, covering material from lecture and the primary source readings.

What happens if I miss a quiz? You will be given a zero for that quiz. *There will be no opportunities to make-up these points*, however, the lowest **two** quiz grades will be dropped.

3. COURSE PARTICIPATION (12.5%)

Although attendance will not be formally recorded, active involvement in classes will have a direct effect on your grade. Throughout the course, you will complete a number of in-class exercises and activities. These are meant to help solidify course concepts and give you hands-on practice applying what you learn in class. Full credit for is awarded to everyone that completes the task.

What happens if I miss an in-class exercise? You will be given a zero for that exercise. *There will be no opportunities to make-up these points.*

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance will not count directly toward your final grade. However, because there is no required textbook for this class, it should be clear that the more lectures you attend, the better grade you will get. If you miss a lecture you should borrow one of your classmate's notes and then arrange a meeting with the instructor or TA to go over your questions.

Climate & Technology: I expect students to respect my right to teach, and students' desire to learn, in a safe and non-distracting environment. As such, **students are not permitted to use their phones during class. Students who wish to use a laptop during class are required to sit in the back row(s) of the classroom.** Please also refrain from other rude behaviors such as coming to class late or leaving early or talking while I or your classmates are speaking. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class if I feel you are being a distraction to the learning process.

GRADING SCALE

Percentage	OU Grade	Percentage	OU Grade
100	4.0	79	2.9
99	4.0	78	2.8
98	3.9	77	2.7
97	3.9	76	2.6
96	3.8	75	2.5
95	3.8	74	2.4
94	3.7	73	2.3
93	3.7	72	2.2
92	3.6	71	2.1
91	3.6	70	2.0
90	3.5	69	1.9
89	3.5	68	1.8
88	3.4	67	1.7
87	3.4	66	1.6
86	3.3	65	1.5
85	3.3	64	1.4
84	3.2	63	1.3
83	3.2	62	1.2
82	3.1	61	1.1
81	3.1	60	1.0
80	3.0	≥ 59	0.0

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Special Considerations

A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the Office of Disability and Support Services, 121 North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during first week of classes. For more information, visit: <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>

Policy on Academic Misconduct

Unless authorized, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, quizzes, and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop **original** work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Plagiarism is using someone else's ideas or work as your

own. Proper citation of other's ideas and work in APA style is a requirement of this course. Both the use of quotation and paraphrasing must be referenced.

The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog.

Excused Absence Policy

University excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the excused absence policy, see: <http://www.oakland.edu/?id=6850&sid=175>

Audio-Recording Policies

Students who wish to audio-record lectures may request permission to do so. These recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the professor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices.

Veterans Support

The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons: 116 North Foundation Hall, 248-370-2010.

Respect for Diversity

A core value of Oakland University and an essential factor to our academic excellence is diversity and inclusion. Diversity and inclusion at Oakland University include the dimensions of race, sex, gender, identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age height, weight, disability, color, religion and creed, national origin or ancestry, marital status, familial status or veteran status. An effort will be made to respect and protect the diversity of students, including an objective consideration of student requests regarding diversity issues (e.g., use of a preferred name or pronouns). Students may request scheduling changes in observance of religious holidays, involvement in OU athletics, OU-sponsored student organizations, military service (National Guard), etc. An effort will be made to accommodate such requests, within reason.

Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns

Students have an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with their instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns at: <https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf>.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (*subject to change*)

NO	Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1	Jan 9	Introduction to Course and Syllabus	NO CLASS
	Jan 11		
Week 2	Jan 16	Introduction to Group Dynamics	
	Jan 18		
Week 3	Jan 23	Groups and Their Functions	
	Jan 25		
Week 4	Jan 30	Social Influence	
	Feb 1		
Week 5	Feb 6	Power and Leadership	EXAM 1
	Feb 8		
Week 6	Feb 13	Dark Leadership and Followership	
	Feb 15		
Week 7	Feb 20		WINTER BREAK
	Feb 22		WINTER BREAK
Week 8	Feb 27	Group Decision Making	
	Mar 1		
Week 9	Mar 6	Group Performance and Productivity	
	Mar 8		
Week 10	Mar 13	Intragroup Cooperation And Conflict	EXAM 2
	Mar 15		
Week 11	Mar 20	Culture	
	Mar 22		
Week 12	Mar 27	Social Categorization	
	Mar 29		
Week 13	Apr 3	Intergroup Cooperation And Conflict	
	Apr 5		
Week 14	Apr 10	The Role of Gender	
	Apr 12		
Week 15	Apr 17		NO CLASS
	Apr 19	Final Exam	EXAM 3 (12-3 pm)

