Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration and Human Services Department

Course Prefix and Number: HUMS 335

Course Title: Working with Groups

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This course presents theoretical foundations, knowledge, values and skills of human service practice as they apply to working with groups. Prerequisites: HUMS 105 or instructor's permission. Offered Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): HUMS 105 or instructor's permission.

Text(s): Textbooks listed are not necessarily the textbook(s) used in the course. The textbook chosen should include theory and technique appropriate for baccalaureate level practice.

Most recent edition of:


Course Objectives:

- To understand basic principles and theoretical concepts of the Human Services profession as they apply to working with groups.
- To understand the ethical standards for Human Services practice with groups.
- To understand the basic concepts of group development.
- To demonstrate learning skill-based competencies in planning, facilitating, observing and evaluating small groups.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to differentiate between theories as they apply to working with small groups.
- Differentiate between different types of groups.
- Identify the major characteristics of each of the stages of a group.
- Identify the major tasks and roles of group leadership at each of the stages of a group.
- Identify the roles and expectations of group members at the various stages of a group.
• Describe how group leaders can effectively work with issues of cultural diversity in a group setting.
• Discuss the importance of building a climate of trust in a groups setting.
• Demonstrate an ability to formulate an agenda for a group session.
• Apply specific skills that help members formulate personal goals in a group.
• Demonstrate beginning level skills in planning, facilitating, terminating, and evaluating a small group.
• Demonstrate the ability to evaluate their own practice effectiveness.
• Demonstrate knowledge of group dynamics.
• Demonstrate an ability to appropriately apply various strategies of handling conflict in groups.
• Demonstrate knowledge of ethical standards for human services practice with groups.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

Note: This class will emphasize writing in the APA format and students are expected to improve their research and writing skills.

• Introduction to group work
• Ethical standards for human services practice with groups
• Group theory
• Group development
• Leadership theory
• Forming a group
• Group dynamics
• Conflict in groups
• Strategies of interventions
• Leading a group
• Evaluating and terminating groups

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 25

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

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Name _______________________________ Signature _______________________________

Date: April 21, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.