

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
FACULTY OF HEALTH
PSYC 3430 3.0N
BEHAVIOUR IN GROUPS
Lectures: Tuesdays from 2:30-5:30 pm

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Office Hours: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays
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Teaching Assistants: Sheila Konanur & Azin Taher
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The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the fundamental aspects of human behaviour in groups of various sizes (from dyads to entire cultures). The investigation of human behaviour in group situations will be investigated from theoretical, empirical, and applied perspectives. The topics that will be explored include issues of group development, performance, and leadership. The course is designed to engage students with the material experientially through the integration of small group activities with lectures and audiovisual presentations.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the basic characteristics of groups and their functions
- Explain the role measurement, research design, and theory play in the scientific study of groups.
- Understand the basic assumptions of social identity theory (construction of the self through groups).
- Understand the impact of personal and situational factors on group formation.
- Conceptualize the construct of cohesion, as well as contrast between the theories/models of group development
- Explain how power processes influence individual and group performance.
- Compare and contrast trait, situational, and interactionist approaches to leadership

Prerequisites: AK/AS/SC/PSYC 1010 6.0 with a minimum grade of C

Required text: Forsyth, D.R. (2013). *Group Dynamics (6th edition)*. Belmont, CA: Thomson-Wadsworth. **Additional materials to be determined by the instructor.**

Course Management

The Course Director and Teaching Assistants will work as a teaching team. Although the Course Director will coordinate the classes, the teaching Assistants will participate in the running of the classes. Students requiring assistance should seek it first from the Teaching Assistant, especially in matters of a practical or procedural nature.

York University Students Rights & Responsibilities

<http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/pdfs/CodeofRightsandResponsibilities.pdf>

Course Evaluation:

1) First Test:	February 4, 2014	15%
2) Second Test:	March 11, 2014	25%
3) Research Assignment	March 25, 2014	30%
4) Final Exam:	April 8-24, 2014	30%

Tests and the final exam are composed of multiple choice questions. The questions will be based on material presented in class, assigned readings from the textbook, audio-visual aids, and additional materials handed out by the instructor.

Research Assignment: Due: March 25, 2014

Worth: 30% of the final grade - Submitted in Class – No email copies (electronic copies will also be submitted through turnitin.com)

General Purpose of Project:

- To provide a critical examination of human behaviour by reflecting on personal experiences and linking them to theory and research.
- To provide experiential learning opportunities about behaviour in groups.

Specifics:

In this essay, you will reflect upon and discuss the nature of your changing experience as a member of your small in-class experimental group. You will also be asked to reference your experience with pertinent theories and research to account for your experience. The essay will be no more than 10 double spaced typed pages (12 point font, 1 inch margins) excluding the title page and references. The paper must be in APA style; consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA, 2009). You must have at least 10 scholarly, peer review text (a minimum of 5 must be current journal articles – the 2007+ - e.g., Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice; Group Processes & Intergroup Relations; Small Group Research).

The report should include the following areas:

1. Introduction
2. Group Formation and Structure
3. Leadership
4. Conflict
5. Conclusion

There will be a 1% deduction (from your overall mark out of 30%) for each day that the document is handed in after the deadline.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS

You can earn extra marks by various means. One method is by completing an academic integrity survey online (www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity). The *Academic Integrity Tutorial* is designed to help you learn about issues of academic integrity. It explores plagiarism and related matters with case examples and positive strategies you can use to improve your academic efforts. Once you have completed the tutorial and the self-test, please bring in a copy of your score sheet (100% on the test) and you will receive the bonus. The extra credit needs to be submitted to the Course Director or TAs by January 21st.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs of all members of the community and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for in-class examinations pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods, students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from the Registrar's Office.

<http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2013-2014/policies/accommodation/>

SENATE POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Please read the Academic Honesty sections in the York University Calendar (<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>). Any case of suspected academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accord with the procedures and regulations set down by the University Senate.

POLICY FOR MISSED TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

1. The student must contact the instructor or TA in-person or by e-mail within 48 hours of the examination. Be sure to clearly state your name, student number, course, and a number and time at which you can be reached. If you are unable to contact the course instructor or TA before the exam, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

2. Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed examination must be provided prior to arranging the MAKE-UP test. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed test.
- A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of medical or mental health circumstances must be supported by an **Attending Physician's statement** or a **statement by a Psychologist or Counsellor**. The statement must include: (i) full name, mailing address and telephone number of the physician; (ii) the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered); and, (iii) indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question. Note: The physician's office may be contacted to verify the information provided.

 - B. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation (i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus ticket/receipts with date of booking on ticket, etc.). Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure and return dates.
3. In the case of a make-up test/exam, the student must be prepared to write within the week following the missed test (a date will be set by the instructor). Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original test/examination. It is the student's responsibility to check with the instructor or TA as to the date/time of the make-up. A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up. If a student misses a make-up opportunity for good reasons (see points A and B above), then either the prorating option is applied, or a second and final opportunity for a make-up will be arranged. Missed make-ups must be supported by appropriate documentation (see points A and B above). Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed test.

http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising_missedtests.html

LECTURE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
January 7	Orientation to the Course Syllabus Review Group Introduction	
January 14	Introduction to Group Dynamics	Chapter 1
January 21	Studying Groups	Chapter 2
January 28	Individual and the Group	Chapter 3
February 4	Test #1: Chpts. 1, 2, & 3 Powerpoints & Handouts from Jan. 7-28	
February 11	Formation	Chapter 4
February 18	No Class	
February 25	Structure	Chapter 6
March 4	Cohesion & Development	Chapter 5
March 7	Last day to withdraw from Winter half courses without a grade. http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw13.htm	
March 11	Test #2: Chpts. 4-6 Powerpoints & Handouts from Feb. 11-March 4	
March 18	Leadership	Chapter 9
March 25	Power Research Assignment Due	Chapter 8
April 1	Decision Making	Chapter 11
April 8-24	Final Exam: Chpts. 8, 9, 11 Powerpoints & Handouts from March 18-April 1	