Web: http://webservice.ship.edu/jacamp/grad_groups.htm

Readings
Articles available on D2L at http://d2l.ship.edu/

Course Purpose
The purpose of the course is to provide students with a broad overview of the various theories and research pertaining to group dynamics. We will examine the factors that influence group membership and how the structure and development of groups progresses over time. We will look at intragroup dynamics and how the perceptions of our ingroup members influence attitudes, judgments, and performance. We will also explore how our social identities influence perceptions of outgroup members as well as our intergroup relations. Lastly, we will examine how situational factors and emerging technologies influence both intra- and intergroup behaviors.

Course Format
This course will be conducted in a seminar format. While no one is expected to be an expert in the field of group dynamics, everyone is expected to voice their opinions, ask critical questions, and assist in the overall understanding of the material.

Every class period, student teams will serve as discussion leaders for the week’s readings. Discussion leaders should plan on spending 20-30 minutes analyzing each of the week’s readings. They should prepare 4-5 questions per article that will be used to generate thoughtful discussion and critical examination of the readings. You should post your discussion questions on D2L at least 24 hours in advance. I am also available to meet with discussion leaders prior to their class facilitation (strongly recommended).

Since this class employs a seminar format, preparation and class participation are crucial. It is expected that each student prints out and answers each of the week’s discussion questions prior to our class meeting, and actively participates in the class discussions. Class members may also generate questions of their own and present them during our discussions. Remember that everyone will have to lead a discussion, so it would be wise to help out your fellow classmates and chances are they will return the favor.

Course Requirements
Class Facilitation (50 points)
Each week teams of students will be responsible for leading the class discussion. You will be responsible for providing 4-5 questions per article and posting them on D2L at least a day before your facilitation. Your task is not to lecture the class, but to provide a structure and framework for the class that will generate discussion and critical analysis of the readings. You do this by integrating the articles with other readings/theory from the course, critically examining the
design and methods of the study, and discussing how the work enhances the field of group dynamics.

Reaction Papers (50 points)
Students are responsible for writing five reaction papers (2-3 pages) over the course of the semester. Each paper should cover the readings associated with one of the various topics that we will cover in class. These papers should provide a critical analysis of the readings associated with that topic. You should discuss the relevant implications of the research as well as the interconnections among the readings from the current and previous weeks. Reaction papers should be typed and double-spaced. Your paper for each specific topic is due the class period that we discuss that topic. Late and/or emailed papers will not be accepted. You cannot write a reaction paper for a week that you are facilitating class discussion.

Research Outline (25 points)
The final project for the class will be for students to submit an original research proposal pertaining to any area of group dynamics. This project will give you an opportunity to explore in detail some specific aspect of group dynamics that interests you. Prior to writing your proposal, you are required to submit a research outline that briefly describes your research questions, methods, plan, and materials that will comprise your proposed line of research. Your outline should include a brief overview of the literature (2 articles minimum), your basic question/hypotheses, and a brief methodology for data collection. Your paper should be roughly 3-5 pages in length and formatted in accordance with APA style (e.g citations, reference page). DUE MAR. 3.

Research Proposal (100 points)
Your research proposal will be an extension of your outline. You should choose an area of group dynamics that appeals to your interest, and develop a well-thought-out research proposal. Your proposal should be an original study that would add something to the field of group dynamics. It is often helpful to focus your proposal on a topic that you facilitated during the semester. Although you are not required to actually carry out the research, this proposal can serve as a connection or stepping-stone towards a master’s thesis. The proposal should be a maximum of 20 pages (not including references) and must be written in accordance with the APA Publication Manual (6th ed.) DUE APRIL 28.

Class Participation (75 points)
Everyone is expected to come to class having read (not skimmed) all of the assigned articles and questions posted on D2L. It is a good idea to take notes on each article while you are reading. Because this class uses a seminar format, group discussion and constructive criticism of the material is essential to successful learning. Class discussion and debate will help us to all understand and critically analyze the various research topics.

Schedule and Reading List

Jan. 20 Overview

Jan. 27 Introduction


**Feb. 3 Group Structure and Composition**


**Feb. 10 Socially Shared Cognition**


**Feb. 17 Time and Groups**


**Feb. 24 Deviance and Ostracism**


**Mar. 3 Group Productivity**


**Mar. 5-13 SPRING BREAK**

**Mar. 17 Decision-making and Problem Solving**


**Mar. 24 Leadership**


**Mar. 31 Social Identity and Intergroup Behavior**


**April 7 Reducing Intergroup Bias**


**April 14 Mood, Emotions, and Groups**

Grawitch, M. J., Munz, D. C., & Kramer, T. J. (2003). Effects of member mood states on
creative performance in temporary workgroups. *Group Dynamics, 7*, 41-54.


**April 21 Emotional and Behavioral Synchrony**


**April 28 Technology and Groups**


