Course Name: The Theory and Practice of Group Therapy  
Instructor: Sam S. Hill, III, Psy.D.
Course Number: PSYC 5355.001  
Semester: Fall 2012
Office: BH 315  
Room: BH - 127
Meeting Times: T 4:20 to 6:50 PM  
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SYLLABUS

I. TEXT (Required)


TEXT (Optional)


II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology 5355 is a graduate level course in the general dynamics of group processes and in group therapy specifically. We will examine five theoretic approaches to group therapy. Interpersonal, Psychodynamic approaches of Object Relations theory and Analytical Psychology, Cognitive Behavioral and Interpersonal Problem Solving. Prior to the examination of these theories we will create a foundational base in the general principles and applied aspects of group therapy.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course the student can expect to:

1. Learn the psychological principles of group process in general and group therapy and demonstrate these principle in their role as group facilitator.

2. Develop a better appreciation of the importance of establishing clear goals for group therapy and measuring these goals. They will show this understanding in their "self-critique" submitted at the end of the course.

IV. EXAMS AND COURSE EVALUATION

There will be two take home examinations worth 150 points each. The basis of the critique is your understanding and implementation of the readings and your experience as
a group member and group facilitator. The form of the self-critique will be provided to you.

VI. **ATTENDANCE**

You are expected to attend class at the hours scheduled. If you miss a class you cannot attain the full points allowed for participation. However, you still will be held responsible for all that transpired during that class, including schedule changes, material covered, and exams given.

VII. **DETERMINATION OF GRADES**

Course grades will be based primarily on the total number of points earned by the end of the semester. There are 300 possible points. To receive an "A" for the course, you will need 271 points (or 90% of the possible points). A "B" requires 241 points (80%), a "C" requires 211 points (70%), and a "D" requires 181 points (60%).

At the discretion of the instructor a student's grade may be raised but never lowered, for any of the following reasons:

1. quality of class participation,
2. improvement throughout the course
3. isolated low grade.

These exceptions to the "total points" rule will be considered only when a student's final average is within a few points of the cut-off for the next highest grade.

VIII. **STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

The Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

IX. **ACADEMIC ADVISING**

If you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see your Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation.

X. **ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY**

The current University Catalog and Student Handbook discuss plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Any student violating these codes will be held responsible.
XI. GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

XII. OFFICE HOURS

M, T  6:00 PM until 7:00 PM
TR  1:00 PM until 2:00 PM

And by appointment.

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNED READINGS

08/28  Course Introduction, Administrative matters
       Chapter One – The Therapeutic Factors  Pages 1 – 18

09/04  Chapter Two – Interpersonal Learning  Pages 19 – 52

09/11  Chapter Three – Group Cohesiveness  Pages 53 – 76

09/18  Chapter Four – The Therapeutic Factors: An Integration.  Pages 77 – 116

09/25  Reschedule EREV YOM KIPPUR  Chapter Five – The Therapist: Basic Tasks
       Pages 117 – 140

10/02  Reschedule SUKKOT II  Chapter Six – The Therapist: Working the Here-and-Now
       Pages 141 – 200

10/19  Reschedule SIMCHA TORAH  Chapter Seven – The Therapist: Transference and Transparency
       Pages 201 – 230
10/16 Chapter Eight – The Selection of Clients Pages 231 – 258

10/16 Self-Critique #1

10/23 Chapter Nine – The Composition of Therapy Groups Pages 259 – 280

10/30 Chapter Ten – Creation of the Group Place, Time, Size, Preparation Pages 281 – 308

11/06 Chapter Eleven – In the Beginning Pages 309 - 344

Chapter Twelve – The Advanced Group Pages 345 – 390

11/13 Chapter Thirteen – Problem Group Members Pages 391 - 428

Chapter Fourteen – The Therapist: Specialized Formats and Procedural Aids Pages 429 – 474

11/20 Chapter Fifteen – Specialized Therapy Groups Pages 475 – 524

Chapter Sixteen – Group Therapy: Ancestors and Cousins Pages 525 – 542

11/27 Chapter Seventeen – Training the Group Therapist Pages 511 - 532

12/04 Closure and termination

12/11 Self-Critique #2