PSYCHOLOGY 517 – GROUP DYNAMICS AND LEADERSHIP
SPRING 2012 (4 units)
GFS 210 – Wednesdays - 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Instructor: C. Miranda Barone, PhD
Phone: (213) 740-5504 (email preferred)
Hours: Thursday 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Office: SGM 529
E-mail: cbarone@usc.edu

Required Texts:

The textbooks will provide a basic foundation. Additional readings are available on BlackBoard. Please check for weekly readings.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to be an interactive exploration of group dynamics and leadership. Through the introduction of current theories and models, students will learn to work effectively in groups, increase their understanding of leadership, make effective decisions, and stimulate the development of new skills through demonstration and practice. Readings, discussions, reflections, and experiential activities will examine self-development and understanding, group dynamics, change, ethics, and teamwork. Students will use experiences in groups and teams to provide raw materials for discussion of class material.

Learning Objectives:
1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of different types of groups.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of group leadership characteristics.
3. Demonstrate ability to identify the major characteristics of each of the stages of a group.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the major tasks of group leadership at each of the group stages.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and expectations of group members at the various stages of a group.
6. Develop a personal philosophy of working with individuals in a group that respects human diversity.

Course Format

Students will report on group participation throughout the semester. This will provide a context for experiencing and learning about the effects of group membership first hand. Students will participate in a variety of group exercises followed by class discussions of how participant's experiences reflect relevant theoretical constructs. Group discussion periods, written assignments, and activities will provide many opportunities for students to discuss, reflect on, and explain their group's functioning.
Methods of Evaluation

All students will be required to select an ongoing group to observe for the semester. Different methods of evaluation utilized to assess your mastery of course material include the following:

Participation
Participation includes attendance, preparation for, and participation in classroom activities and discussions. Class participation evaluations are based on: 1) Contributions to class discussions, including preparation for class; concise, analytic use of theory from class readings and lectures; and comments which move the group analysis toward an understanding of the person or situation outlined by the case;

Written Application Paper
There will be an independent project to give you an opportunity to apply what you have learned and utilize critical thinking skills. One of the goals of this class is that you learn to apply the information you are learning to your understanding of the world at large. This paper assignment should help you do that. You will be required to observe an ongoing group for the entire semester. In your paper, you should make sure to summarize events or issue that you are discussing, analyze that event through theories or concepts from the readings or class discussion, describe leadership and organizational structure, etc. Describe any empirical evidence that would support your descriptions and assertions.
Students will present their papers to class on March 7th (10-15 minutes).

Application Skills: Focus Group
Group Assignment: Students will design and conduct a Focus Group. Groups will be facilitated from March 21 to April 18th. Each group member will have an opportunity to take on different roles.

Leadership Case Study
Each student will give oral presentations (10-15 minutes long) depicting leadership figures (in Business, Politics, etc.). Presentations should provide some brief biographical information about the leader and then provide an assessment/critique of their leadership behaviors (implied or explicit). Outstanding presentations will be educational and critically succinct. Presentations are due on April 25 and the final paper is due on May 2nd.

Grading
Grades will be based on points:

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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Case Study</td>
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<td>Focus Group</td>
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<td>Presentations (25 each)</td>
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Requirements for achieving a specific grade:

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Course Schedule

Week 1. Jan. 11
Orientation and introduction to Groups Dynamics and Leadership

*Chapters 1 & 2 in Forsyth*
*Readings on BlackBoard*

Week 2. Jan. 18
Inclusion and Identity and Group Formation

*Chapters 3 & 4 in Forsyth*
*Readings on BlackBoard*

Week 3. Jan. 25
Cohesion and Development, Group Structure

*Chapters 5 & 6 in Forsyth*
*Readings on BlackBoard*

Week 4. Feb. 1
Power and Performance

*Chapters 8 and 10 in Forsyth*
*Focus Groups*
*Readings on BlackBoard*

Week 5. Feb. 8
Decision Making and Teams

*Chapters 11 and 12 in Forsyth*
*Focus Groups*
*Readings on BlackBoard*

Week 6. Feb. 15
Conflict and Intergroup Relations

*Chapters 13 & 14 in Forsyth*
*Focus Groups*
*Readings on BlackBoard*

Week 7. Feb. 22
Groups in Context and Change

*Chapters 15 & 16 in Forsyth*
*Focus Groups*
*Readings on BlackBoard*
Week 8. February 29
Crowds and Collective Behavior
  Chapter 17 in Forsyth
  Focus Groups
  Readings on BlackBoard

Week 9. March 7
  **Presentations and Application Paper due**

Week 10. *Spring Break*

Week 11. March 21
Leadership - Intro and Approaches
  Chapters 1 to 3 in Northhouse
  Readings on BlackBoard

Week 12. March 28
Leadership – Approaches and Research
  Chapters 4 to 6 in Northhouse
  Readings on BlackBoard

Week 13. April 4
Leadership – Theories and Research
  Chapters 7 to 9 in Northhouse
  Readings on BlackBoard

Week 14. April 11
Leadership – Contemporary Views
  Chapters 10, 11, 13 in Northhouse
  Readings on BlackBoard

Week 15. April 18
Leadership – Culture and Ethics
  Chapters 14 and 15 in Northhouse
  Readings on BlackBoard

Week 16. April 25
  **Presentations**

*Final week May 2  Final Paper Due*
Policies and Procedures

- **Attendance and Participation**
  Participation, and therefore attendance, is expected.
  - Assignments must be submitted on time. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Points will be deducted for late assignments.

- **Students with Disabilities**
  Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

- **Academic Integrity**
  USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:
  http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards

**Statement on Academic Integrity**
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Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/