Purpose: This course will provide you with a survey of theories and research on group dynamics. We will examine issues related to group formation and development, group processes, social influences, group decision-making, group performance, and leadership. This class will follow a seminar format. This means that you should read the assigned articles before class time and be prepared to discuss/critique them.

Outline of Topics:

I. Overview, Definitions, and a Historical Perspective
II. Foundations
III. Group Processes
IV. Group Emergent States
V. Group Formation and Development
VI. Group Composition and Staffing
VII. Group Innovation and Learning
VIII. Methodological and Statistical Issues
IX. Group Decision Making
X. Group Effectiveness
XI. Group Conflict
XII. Team Leadership
XIII. Multiteam Systems

Approximate Dates:

- I: 8/27
- II: 9/10-17
- III: 9/24
- IV: 10/1
- V: 10/9
- VI: 10/15
- VII: 10/22
- VIII: 10/29
- IX: 11/05
- X: 11/12
- XI: 11/19
- XII: 11/26
- XIII: 12/3

Requirements: Your grade in this class will be based on four assignments. The first is a research proposal on any topic in group dynamics. This proposal will be due on December 3. An outline of this proposal will be due on November 5. If you have already collected data in a group dynamics study you may satisfy this assignment with a full draft of a manuscript to be submitted to a journal. The second assignment will be a cumulative take-home final examination, to be distributed on December 3 and due December 17. This examination will be essay in format. The third assignment is an annotated bibliography to be completed on the topic of your research proposal. This bibliography will be due on October 22. The paper will be worth 40% of your grade; the final examination will be worth 30% of your final grade. The bibliography will be worth 15% of your grade. Missed deadlines for the assignments will result in a letter-grade deduction (10 points) for each day late.

This class is intended to be a seminar class, with considerable discussion expected among class members. As a fourth assignment, you will be required as part of a team to be responsible for presenting two of the assigned articles each week and leading the class discussion on that article. Each week I will assign a "participation grade" to you that will reflect (a) your individual preparation and participation in the class discussion, and (b) your group’s preparation for and facilitation of the class discussion. I will assign the papers to your group for the following week's discussion. This participation assignment will be worth 15% of your grade. I will give further instruction on the first day of class about how to prepare your analysis and
facilitation of articles. Please note that all members of the class are responsible for reading all of the articles each week, not just the ones assigned to your group.

**Summary of Grade:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**TEXTS:**

*Recommended:*

if you are looking for a general overall reference book or survey of the topic, I suggest the following:


**Honor Code:** The provisions of the George Mason University honor code apply to all aspects of this course.

**Important Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with no penalty</td>
<td>September 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to add</td>
<td>September 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to drop with penalty</td>
<td>September 28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
<td>December 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Days</td>
<td>December 10th and 11th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Office (703-993-2474). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Official Communications via GMU E-mail:** Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.
READINGS

Overview and definitions


Foundations

Lewin, K. (1947). Frontiers in group dynamics: Concept, method, and reality in social science; social equilibria and social change. Human Relations, 1, 5-41


Group Processes


Group Emergent States

Chen, G., Kanfer, R., DeShon, R. P., Mathieu, J. E., & Kozlowski, S. W. J. (2009). The motivating potential of


Group Formation and Development


Group Composition and Staffing


Group Innovation and Learning.


Methodological and Statistical Issues


Group Decision-making


**Group Effectiveness**


**Group Conflict**


**Team Leadership**

Chen, G., Kirkman, B. L., Kanfer, R., Allen, D., Rosen, B. (2007). A multilevel study of leadership,


**Multiteam Systems**


