



SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SCIENCES

SYLLABUS

TITLE:	Group Dynamics
CODE:	TSO 414
PREREQUISITE:	N/A
CREDITS:	3 credits 45 contact hours 1 term

DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course that aims to train students in understanding and facilitating small groups. The course focuses on the critical study of the theoretical and methodological foundations related to group dynamics and their processes. Students are exposed to the analysis of the evolution and functions of small groups in contemporary times. It also discusses the ethical positions of working with groups and the importance of commitment to human diversity. The theoretical-practical integration is materialized through a service-learning experience. The course is aimed at students of Social Work and other related disciplines.

JUSTIFICATION

People are in a constant process of social interaction in various types of groups. Professions such as Social Work and others related to behavior and human services require the effective use and management of groups as part of their professional practice. It is important for students to develop a critical analysis of their experiences as group members and the effective management of their participation in groups, particularly as facilitators or leaders. The knowledge and experience of service learning will encourage them to function effectively in the social groups to which they belong and develop the necessary skills to work with small groups in their respective professional areas.

COMPETENCES

The course develops the following competences in students:

- **Communication**
- **Critical questioning**

OBJECTIVES

After completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the notion, importance, and functions of the small group.
2. Examine concepts, theories, and research related to group dynamics.
3. Compare the processes that are generated within the areas of group dynamics.
4. Recognize the importance of human differences and diversity in the development of groups.
5. Analyze their reactions and emotions within a group setting.
6. Demonstrate ability to observe, listen, give, and receive feedback within a small group.
7. Critically apply ethical principles in working with groups.
8. Explore methodological proposals for working with small groups.
9. Use conceptual and methodological frameworks to propose the organization of small groups.

CONTENTS

- I. The Notion of the Small Group
 - A. Definition of group
 - B. Properties of groups
 - C. Types of groups
- II. Group Dynamics
 - A. Leading theories about small groups
 - B. Definition of the concept of group dynamics
 - C. Areas of group dynamics
 - D. Evolutionary process of groups
 1. Cohesion
 2. Interaction & communication
 3. Group integration
 4. Power & control

5. Culture

III. Group Processes

- A. Implications of human and cultural diversity on groups
- B. Communication and communication barriers
- C. Competition
- D. Conflict and resolution
- E. Cooperation
- F. Teamwork

IV. Working with Small Groups

- A. Ethical principles and standards for working with groups
- B. Group intervention models
 - 1. Selection and use of techniques
 - 2. Skills to facilitate
- C. Group formation process
 - 1. Justification
 - 2. Theoretical basis
 - 3. Logistics
 - 4. Member selection
 - 5. Group rules
 - 6. Recruitment

METHODOLOGY

The following strategies from the active learning methodology are recommended:

- Conferences
- Presentation and mutual knowledge exercises
- Reflective journals
- Discussion of assigned readings
- Demonstrations (individual and/or group)
- Illustrate group techniques or procedures
- Volunteer experience with an external social group
- Each student will participate in observational and collaborative experiences
- Critical analysis of learning
- Film & documentary analysis
- Cooperative teaching and group problem solving

- Critical reflections from learning experiences
- Literature review on group works
- Proposal for the organization of a small group

EVALUATION

Partial assignments	30%
Immersion experience	25%
Attendance and demonstrations of group techniques	20%
Final evaluation	25%
Total	100%

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

The institutional assessment rubric is applied to the course's core activity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Association for specialists in group work: <https://asgw.org/>

International Association for Social Work with Groups: <https://www.iaswg.org/>

For more information resources related to the course's topics, access the library's webpage <http://biblioteca.sagrado.edu/>

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

For detailed information on the process and required documentation you should visit the corresponding office. To ensure equal conditions, in compliance with the ADA Act (1990) and the Rehabilitation Act (1973), as amended, any student in need of reasonable accommodation or special assistance must complete the process established by the Vice Presidency for Student Affairs.

- Students participating in the Student Support Program (PAE, in Spanish) shall request their reasonable accommodation in PAE's offices.
- Students who do not participate in PAE shall request their reasonable accommodation at the Integral Wellness Center (*Centro de Bienestar Integral*, in Spanish).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón to take courses with or without academic credit. A lack of academic integrity is any act or omission that does not demonstrate the honesty, transparency, and responsibility that should characterize all academic activity. Any student who fails to comply with the Honesty, Fraud, and Plagiarism Policy is exposed to the following sanctions: receive a grade of zero in the evaluation and / or repetition of the assignment in the seminar, a grade of F (*) in the seminar, suspension, or expulsion as established in the Academic Integrity Policy effective in November 2022.

RESEARCH COURSES

The exercises applying social research techniques that will be carried out as part of the supervised practice are for academic purposes and seek to promote the development of professional competencies in the students. Therefore, they will follow and comply with all the regulations established for the protection of the rights and well-being of human subjects who participate in the investigative processes.

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