

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

<b>Course Number:</b>	SW 333	<b>Instructor:</b>	S. Colleen Arnold, LCSW
<b>Unique Number:</b>	59480	<b>Pronouns:</b>	she/her/hers
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall 2020	<b>Email:</b>	Colleen.Arnold@utexas.edu
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	Tu/Th 9:30-11:00am	<b>Office:</b>	3.104A
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	Via Zoom	<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment

**SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH GROUPS**

**I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course in the practice sequence focuses on developing group leaders who possess both an understanding of group dynamics and effective leadership skills. The foundation of the course is social work values and the ethical decision making process, as illuminated by the NASW Code of Ethics. The content encompasses both task and treatment groups utilizing an ecosystems developmental framework. The course emphasizes understanding, affirming, and respecting groups with diverse backgrounds, including (but not limited to) race, ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, age, and national origin. Social work group facilitation is taught utilizing empirically - based theories and interventions to achieve client goals. Students will know how to evaluate the effectiveness of group interventions. This course carries the Ethics flag. Ethics courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real - life situations. Course credit for SW325 and SW327 with at least a C grade in each are prerequisites for this course.

**II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of social group work and practice related to the strengths, capacities and resources of individuals within groups.
2. Develop leadership skills with groups in order to help alleviate critical social problems and enhance group well-being.
3. Develop skills in identifying group members' issues, problems, needs, resources, and assets within a framework of group processes, dynamics, and developmental stages.
4. Understand and apply basic concepts of task-oriented group work, including recruiting and selecting members, leadership, group decision making and problem solving, running an effective meeting, and evaluation of task groups.
5. Understand and apply basic concepts of treatment groups, including group formation, facilitation, and termination (assessment, intervention, and evaluation).
6. Develop skills in identifying, analyzing and implementing empirically based group interventions and evaluating group effectiveness.
7. Develop tools and techniques for understanding, affirming, and respecting group

members from diverse backgrounds, distinguished by characteristics including (but not limited to) race, ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, age, and national origin.

8. Explore what is involved in making real life ethical choices, establishing a professional self, applying social work values and utilizing the ethical decision making process, as illuminated by the NASW Code of Ethics, to social work with groups.

9. Demonstrate an understanding of the pursuit of social and economic justice including group/community strategies to combat discrimination, oppression, and economic deprivation for individuals and families.

### **III. TEACHING METHODS**

This class will be taught using a variety of methods to foster a stimulating, creative, collaborative and interactive learning community. Experiential learning and exercises to promote self awareness in relation to group process will be emphasized. The class will be organized as a skill laboratory utilizing small group context and role play to provide opportunities for students to develop group leadership and membership skills. The professor will model group work principles and skills in the leadership of the class. Other teaching methods include class discussion, videos, guest speakers, lecture and assigned learning activities in the community. For a meaningful experience in this class, students must actively participate, take risks, stretch their creativity and critical thinking skills and attend class regularly. All students are encouraged to provide the instructor feedback and meet with the instructor individually as needed to enhance their learning. Due to the covid pandemic, our learning environment will be online.

### **IV. REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS**

Required Text:

Corey, M. Schneider, Corey, G. and Corey, C. (2014). Groups: Process and Practice. (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA.: Brooks/Cole.

Additional required weekly readings and handouts will be posted on Canvas.

Students are also expected to review:

UTSSW Standards for Social Work Education

<http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/dl/files/academic-programs/other/standards-sw-education.pdf>

NASW Code of Ethics

<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>

Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners Code of Conduct

[http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/socialwork/sw\\_conduct.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/socialwork/sw_conduct.shtm)

NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice

<http://www.socialworkers.org/practice/standards/PRA-BRO-253150-CC-Standards.pdf>

Standards for Social Work Practice with Groups

[http://www.aaswg.org/files/AASWG Standards for Social Work Practice with Groups.pdf](http://www.aaswg.org/files/AASWG_Standards_for_Social_Work_Practice_with_Groups.pdf)  
<http://www.iaswg.org>

NASW Policy Statement on Professional Self Care

<http://www.compassionstrengths.com/uploads/NASW.ProfesionalSelf-Care.pdf>

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to complete all the assignments listed below. Detailed assignment learning objectives and instructions, including expected demonstration of content mastery and skill development will be provided separately. All assignments will be discussed in detail in class and students are encouraged to meet with the instructor should they have any questions about the assignments. All written assignments will be graded on depth and quality of required content, creativity and critical thinking skills, overall professionalism and quality of writing. Specific point totals for each assignment are listed below.

<b>Course Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
7 Weekly Learning Reflections	350 points	see course calendar
Group Skills Self Assessment	50 points	
Creativity Assignment	100 points	
Community Support Group Assignment	75 points	
Final Take Home Exam	150 points	
Class Participation (punctuality, attendance, homework and class participation-5 points per class)	135 points	
<b>Total points</b>	<b>860 points</b>	

## VI. GRADING SCALE

94.0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	B
80.0 to 83.999	B-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-
Below 60.0	F

## VII. CLASS POLICIES

### Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation for the full class is expected for all students. Repeated late arrivals to class may be considered as an absence. Classroom exercises, discussions, role plays, guest speakers and other class experiential exercises are essential for the students' professional

learning and continued development of self awareness. This form of learning cannot be “made up” once missed. Consequently 5 points will be deducted for any missed classes (loss of class participation points). Students are to notify the professor prior to class by email if they cannot attend class due to an illness or emergency. In addition, the professor reserves the right to add or deduct up to 5 points to students’ final point total based on the overall quality of their classroom participation during the semester.

### **Papers**

Students are expected to produce high quality work in terms of appearance, writing style and content. Points will be deducted for errors, misspellings, incorrect grammar, poor organization and formatting, repetition of information, and inferior word processing. When using information from other sources, references and bibliography should conform to the current APA style citation. Students are encouraged to consult with the Undergraduate Writing Center at <http://uwc.utexas.edu> or (512) 471-6222 for assistance with any writing assignments. Plagiarism is a serious violation of university rules and will be dealt with according to university policy.

### **Time Management**

**Assignments will be penalized 5 points per calendar day that they are late.** Contact the professor before the assignment is due if other arrangements need to be made due to an emergency.

### **Feedback**

Students will be asked to provide feedback on their learning and the professor’s teaching strategies in informal as well as formal ways. It is very important for the professor to know the students’ reactions to what is taking place in class, ensuring that together the professor and students can create a dynamic and effective learning community. Students are encouraged to provide ongoing feedback to the professor during class and office virtual visits.

## **VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE.** The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

**DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT.** Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM.** The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

**UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS.** Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

**POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION.** Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the

School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

**POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY.** Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

**SHARING OF COURSE MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED** No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

**USE OF COURSE MATERIALS.** The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

**CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY.** Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

**CLASS RECORDINGS.** Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

**USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO STUDENTS.** Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible for keeping the university informed about a change of e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS.** By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, examination, work assignment, or project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**TITLE IX REPORTING.** In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty, field instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

**CAMPUS CARRY POLICY.** The University’s policy on concealed firearms may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>. You also may find this information by accessing the Quick Links menu on the School’s website.

**SAFETY.** As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

**BEHAVIOR CONCERNS ADVICE LINE (BCAL).** If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY.** Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor’s instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

**COVID CAVEATS.** To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to University Health Services, and faculty and staff report to the HealthPoint Occupational Health Program (OHP) as soon as possible. Please see this link to understand what needs to be reported. In addition, to help understand what to do if a fellow student in the class (or the instructor or TA) tests positive for COVID, see this University Health Services link.

**IX. COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Note:** Text readings are listed here but additional Canvas readings will be found in the weekly modules on Canvas. **Please be sure to check Canvas in your preparation for class.**

**The course schedule will be adjusted throughout the semester to match the rate of the learning of our topics. When changes are made to the course schedule including assignments and readings, you will be informed of those changes in class and/or on Canvas.**

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
Th 8/27	Course Overview  The Classroom as a Learning Laboratory  Introduction to the Experiential Group Lab (EGL)		Course Syllabus  Course Assignment Guidelines
T 9/1	Introduction to Group Work in Social Work Practice  Historical Overview  Types of Groups  The Group Leader: Personal and Professional Considerations  Universal Therapeutic Factors in Groups		Corey Ch. 1 pp. 1-12  Corey Ch. 2 pp. 26-36  Canvas Readings: Standards for Social Work Education  Standards for Social Work Practice with Groups



TH 9/3	Practice Theories and Models in Group Work		Corey Ch. 4
T 9/8	Ethical Considerations and Decision Making in Group Work		Corey Ch. 3
TH 9/10	Group Leadership: Essential Leadership Skills	Self Assessment of Group Leadership Skills (pp. 52-56)	Corey Ch. 2 pp. 36-43
T 9/15	Group Co-Leadership: Benefits and Challenges Eyes on Teaching		Corey Ch. 2, pp. 43-47
TH 9/17	Experiential Group Lab	Lab #1 Learning Reflection	Canvas Readings: NASW Code of Ethics  Texas State Board of Examiners Code of Conduct
T 9/22	Overview: Stages of Group Development  Corey, Garland, Kolodny and Jones (Boston Model) Tuckman Schiller		Corey Intro Part 2 pp. 145-46  Corey Ch. 5
TH 9/24	Experiential Learning Lab #2  Professional Self Care –An Ethical Imperative	Learning Reflection #2	NASW Policy Statement on Professional Self Care
T 9/29	Considerations in Planning a Group  Initial Stage: Group Characteristics and Process Leader and Member Roles		Corey Ch. 6
TH 10/1	Creative Assignment Presentations	Creative Assignment Presentations	Canvas Reading
T 10/6	Transition Stage: Group Characteristics and Challenging Dynamics Leader and Member Roles		Corey Ch. 7
TH 10/8	Creative Assignment Presentations	Creative Assignment Presentations	Canvas Reading

T 10/13	Constructively Working with Conflict		Canvas Reading
TH 10/15	Creative Assignment Presentations	Creative Assignment Presentations	Canvas Reading
T 10/20	Working Stage: Group Characteristics Leader and Member Roles  Final Stage Termination and Evaluation		Corey Ch. 8 - 9
TH 10/22	Experiential Learning Lab #3	Learning Reflection #3	Canvas Reading
T 10/27	Cultural Humility, Multicultural Group Work and Social Justice  Global Implications for Group Work		Corey Ch. 1 pp. 12-23
TH 10/29	Experiential Learning Lab #4	Community Support Group Assignment	Canvas Reading
T 11/3	Social Work and Task Groups		Canvas Reading
TH 11/5	Experiential Learning Lab #5	Learning Reflection #5	NASW Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence
T 11/10	Group Work Across the Life Cycle: Children		Corey Ch. 10 pp. 325-345
TH 11/12	Experiential Learning Lab #6	Learning Reflection #6	Canvas Reading
T 11/17	Group Work Across the Life Cycle: Adolescents		Corey Ch. 10, pp. 351-367
T 11/19	Experiential Learning Lab #7	Learning Reflection #7	Canvas Reading

TH 11/24	Group Work Across the Life Cycle: Older Adults		Corey Ch. 11 pp. 394-418
T 12/1	Experiential Learning Lab #8	Receive Take Home Final Exam	
TH 12/3	Creativity and the Expressive Art Therapies in Group Work  Class Review and Ending Celebration		
TH 12/8		Return Take Home Final Exam	

## X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### **Related Journals**

Group Analysis: Journal of Group Analytic Psychotherapy  
Group Dynamics: Theory, Research and Practice  
Group Processes and Intergroup Relations  
Groupwork  
International Journal of Group Psychotherapy  
Journal of Groups in Addiction and Recovery  
Journal for Specialists in Group Work  
Small Group Research: An International Journal of Theory, Investigation and Application  
Social Work with Groups

### **Helpful Websites**

[www.agpa.org](http://www.agpa.org)

American Group Psychotherapy Association

<http://www.asgpp.org/index.php>

American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama

<http://www.asgw.org/index.htm>

Association for Specialists in Group Work

[www.austingroups.org](http://www.austingroups.org)

Austin Group Psychotherapy Association

<http://www.evidencebasedgroupwork.com/401.html>

Evidence Based Group Work.com

<http://www.iagp.com/>

International Association for the Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes

<http://www.aaswg.org>

International Association for Social Work with Groups

[www.austinaa.org](http://www.austinaa.org)

Local AA site with meetings schedule

[http://www.nmha.org/go/go/find\\_support\\_group](http://www.nmha.org/go/go/find_support_group)

Mental Health America

<http://www.mhatexas.org/mhatexasMAIN/IRGuide4.03.pdf>

Mental Health Association of Texas

<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-49/index.aspx>

Society of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy

[www.cmhc.utexas.edu/g\\_schedule.html](http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/g_schedule.html)  
UT Counseling and Mental Health Center