MB 109-01 CO 206-01
Collaboration: Groups and Team at Work (3 Credits)
Summer, 2013

Instructor: Dr. Heather Macdonald
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Office: 37 Mellen Street Cambridge, MA
Office Hours: Before and after class or by appointment
Telephone: 617-349-8487
Schedule (class times and day(s)): Tuesday and Thursday 6:15pm to 9:15pm
Room:

Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a worldview that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
Course explores individual activities and performance in small groups. Research theories pertaining to groups and teamwork focus attention on participation and leadership in problem solving, policy making, and team building discussions.

Course Objectives
This course considers questions about the formation, development, and of group structure and dynamics. A range of varying notions and theories regarding group processes such as leadership, power, technology, decision-making, motivation, conflict, communication, and personality traits are explored using several targeted cases as examples. We will also analyze how different aspects of culture (religion, gender, ethnicity etc…) affect human behavior, emotion and cognition. We will explore how larger social psychological issues such as oppression and prejudice impact group conceptualization at its roots.
We will explore the following questions: 1) What are your own biases and assumptions regarding how groups should work? 2) What are the best communication strategies in groups? 3) What does it mean to be a global citizen and a global leader? 4) How do you recognize aspects of culture in a group process? 5) What does psychology as a discipline have to say about group process?

This course is about global citizenship as much as it is about group psychology: what does it mean to take up residence---not just in your city---but in the world as a whole?

1. The student will demonstrate an ability to recognize their own cultural biases across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age within the group context as demonstrated by their ability to compare and contrast value set that adhere to different worldviews.

2. The student will demonstrate ethical knowledge and practice pertaining to group dynamics as demonstrated by an ability to maintain group confidentiality and appropriate personal/professional boundaries.

4. Develop skills in recognizing the multiple levels of dynamics involved in group organization, development, growth, communication, leadership and conflict.

5. Enhance the student’s understanding of theoretical models as applied to groups of people and the normative functions that develop in this context.

6. Increase insight into one’s personal location in groups, along with issues and dynamics that emerge in this context.

7. Gain more attunement and self-reflective capacities (using self-experience as an indicator) to facilitate meaningful change.

8. Recognize the potential transformative capacity of group experience.

**Grading**

Summary:
- 20% Midterm Quiz (100 points)
- 20% Final Exam (200 points)
- 10% Experiential Group Exercise 1 (200 points)
- 20% Final Research Paper (200 points)
- 10% Research Paper Outline (100 points)
- 20% Participation (200 points)

**Grading Scale:**

Your course grade is based on a 1000 point budget. Your grade is determined by the points you earn, per the schedule below. So, you can have any grade you would like. Just get the points for it.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>930-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>900-929</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>870-899</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>830-869</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>800-829</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>770-799</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>730-769</td>
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<td>670-699</td>
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<td>630-669</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>600-629</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>599 or less</td>
<td>F</td>
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A or A-, B+ Exceptional. Demonstrates insightful mastery of the subject matter and exceptional quality of content and presentation.

B, B-, C+ Very Good. Exhibits professional competence in the subject matter and a very good quality of content and presentation.

C, C- Satisfactory. Completes course assignments and requirements with satisfactory proficiency of content and presentation.

D+, D, D- Unsatisfactory, Course may not satisfy requirements for a degree

F Failing, no credit is given for the course.

**WCAS Grading System**
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Neill Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.
Text(s)/Readings (Required)


Text(s)/Readings (Recommended)


Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advsstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.
Disability Statement
Classroom accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented disabilities. Students are invited to contact the Connors Family Learning Center office about accommodations for this course. Telephone appointments are available to students as needed. Appointments can be made by calling, 617-552-8903. You may also make an appointment in person. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

Late Paper Policy:
Besides VERY extenuating circumstances, papers are expected at 2:30pm on the date
they are due. Late papers will be dropped a full letter grade for every day they are late. E-mailed copies (in the case of lateness) will only be accepted if a hardcopy is turned in during the following class period (though the grade reduction is still applicable). If you are having difficulty with a paper or your life precludes its completion, talk with me so that we can figure something out. Silent lateness often gets equated with irresponsibility. Let’s stay in dialogue…

Course Assignments

1. Students are expected to regularly participate in all aspects of class including discussions worth 200 points. Points will be allocated each week for discussion contributions.
2. A midterm and final examination will be administered. (midterm will be 100 points, final will be worth 200 points)
3. Each Student will complete a total of 2 experiential activities based on a group project completed in class, but then one of them will be written up outside of class time by individuals. These are to be turned in on a specific date. (Worth a total 200 points)
4. Each student will write an outline then a short research paper on a particular aspect that occurs within group culture. (Worth a total 200 points)
5. Note on TESTS: There will be a total of two tests, a midterm and a final. These tests will contain objective questions (i.e. multiple choice) drawn from material in any of the readings, class presentations or discussions. Depending on what is covered in class on what I see fit, there may be take-home portions to each test. These tests are non-cumulative and will only cover the material since the previous test. There will be no make up tests offered unless in the case of a very, very extreme circumstance. If you do have an extreme circumstance (such as death of a relative or a dire illness), please communicate with me. No matter the circumstance, I will lower your test grade by at least a letter grade (very possibly more) if you need to take a test at a later date, in order to be fair to those who have prepared on time. If you do not communicate with me and you merely are absent on the day of the test, I hold the right to fail you completely on the test.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Exercises/Experiences</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/14/13</td>
<td>Self, Other and Others</td>
<td>(Read Chapter 1)</td>
<td>Next Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/16/13</td>
<td>Intro to Groups</td>
<td>(Read Chap. 2 &amp; 3)</td>
<td>Next Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/21/13</td>
<td>Inclusion, Identity, Conformity (Read Chap. 4)</td>
<td>Group Exercise #1</td>
<td>Next Class</td>
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*Research Paper Topic Ideas Due*

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/23/13</td>
<td>Group Formation (stages)</td>
<td>(Read. Chap. 5 &amp; 6)</td>
<td>Next Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/28/13</td>
<td>Cohesion and Development</td>
<td>(Read Chap. 7)</td>
<td>Next Class</td>
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05/30/13  
*Exercise #1 Write Up Due*
Influence and Power (Read Art. on N. Mandela/Clinton)
(Review Chap. 9 & 10)
Next Class

06/04/13  
*Midterm Quiz*
Leadership (Read 1-60 in Deep Survival)
(Review Chap. 11 & 12)
Next Class

06/06/13  
Decision Making and Teams (Read I. Yalom)
Next Class

06/11/13  
*Research Paper Outline Due*
Conflict and Intergroup Relations (Chap. 15 & 16)
Next Class

06/13/13  
Groups in Context and Change (Chap. 17)
Next Class

06/18/13  
*Research Paper Due*
Crowds and Collective Behavior

06/20/13  
Final Exam