

## **SOC 215 GROUP PROCESSES**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course introduces group processes and dynamics. Emphasis is on small group experiences, roles and relationships within groups, communication, cooperation and conflict resolution, and managing diversity within and among groups. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills essential to analyze group interaction and to work effectively in a group context. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for transferability as a pre-major and/or elective course requirement.*  
Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- a. Discuss the nature of groups.
- b. Discuss the dimensions of group structure.
- c. Explain the factors that affect group effectiveness.
- d. Discuss the functions and dysfunctions of groups.
- e. Discuss the types of social groups.
- f. Identify group processes.
- g. Discuss how groups work to accomplish tasks.
- h. Explain how groups deal with decision making and problem solving.
- i. Discuss issues of authority and leadership in groups.
- j. Explain the major theoretical perspectives for studying groups.
- k. Demonstrate effective use of interpersonal skills in communication.
- l. Discuss groups and change.

### **OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Descriptions of various kinds of groups
  - B. Elements of social interaction
  - C. Outline of research methods

- II. The basics of the group process
  - A. Personality
  - B. Social characteristics
  - C. Group size
  - D. Task
  - E. Communication network
  - F. Leadership
  - G. Dysfunctional consequences of groups

- III. Performance characteristics
  - A. Productivity: individual versus group
  - B. Productivity: group versus group

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:**

To be selected by the Instructor/Discipline Chair.

**STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.