Psychology 667: Small Group Behavior

Fall, 2006
Stephen J. Zaccaro (szaccaro@gmu.edu)
Office: King 3060B
Hours: M: 3:00-4:15, T: 12-1, and by appointment

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: Approximate Dates

I. Overview, definitions, and a Historical Perspective 8/29-9/5
II Methodological and Statistical Issues 9/5
III Group Cohesion 9/12
IV Social Influence, Group Norms 9/19-26
V Group Communication and Interaction; Shared Cognition 9/26-10/3
(No class on 10/10)
VI Group Development, Socialization, and Task Structure 10/17-24
VII Group Composition and Staffing 10/31
VII Group Decision making 11/7
VIII Group Performance 11/14
IX Group Conflict 11/21
X Leadership and Top Management Teams 11/28-12/5

REQUIREMENTS: Your grade in this class will be based on three assignments. The first is a research proposal on any topic in group dynamics. This paper is due on December 5th. The second assignment will be a cumulative take home final examination, due on December 12th. This examination will be essay in format. The third assignment is an annotated bibliography to be completed with another class member on any topic related to group dynamics. This paper is due on October 24th. The paper and final examination will each be worth 40% and 50% of your final grade, respectively. The bibliography will be worth 10% of your grade. Additional details about these assignments will be provided in the first class.

Honor Code: The Honor Code of George Mason University will be strictly enforced in this course.

Add/Drop Deadlines: Add = September 12; Drop = September 29.

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 student accommodations must be arranged through that office.
READINGS

Overview and definitions


Methodological and Statistical Issues


Group Cohesion


Social Influence, Group Norms


Group Communication and Interaction; Shared Cognition


**Group Development, Socialization, and Task Structure**


**Group Composition and Staffing**


**Group Decision making**


**Group Performance**


**Group Conflict**


**Leadership and Top Management Teams**


