

# SS2115: WORKING WITH GROUPS

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**Effective Term**

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

**Course Title**

Working with Groups

**Subject Code**

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

**Course Number**

2115

**Academic Unit**

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

**College/School**

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

**Course Duration**

One Semester

**Credit Units**

3

**Level**

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

**Medium of Instruction**

Other Languages

**Other Languages for Medium of Instruction**

English, supplemented by Chinese (Cantonese) in live demonstration, skills rehearsal, and role-play

**Medium of Assessment**

English

**Prerequisites**

Nil

**Precursors**

SS2105 Introduction to Social Work

**Equivalent Courses**

SS3114 Working with Groups

**Exclusive Courses**

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to enable students to meet partially the requirements set by the Social Work Registration Board regarding social work practice theories and methods. This course aims to examine the nature and development of the methods of practice in the area of social work with groups; acquire an overview of the social work processes in working with target systems at the mezzo level; and develop the cognitive competence for designing and implementing social work interventions appropriate to the target system in the local context.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe theories and methods of social work with groups;	40		x	
2	Analyse the needs and problems of client- and group-situations from four levels -- personal, inter-personal, organizational, and societal levels;	20	x	x	
3	Planning and implementing a generalist social group work intervention.	40	x	x	

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)	
1	Lecture	Students will engage in formal lectures where concepts, theories, and methods of social work with groups are explained. Students will learn through video about group scenarios and group interventions.	1, 2, 3	3 hours/week

2	Presentation and Role Play	Students will participate in groups to perform presentations to elaborate and examine critically group work related issues. Students will also perform role play to demonstrate learnt group work skills.	1, 2, 3	3 hours (4 Tutorials)
3	Consultation	Students will engage in consultation and discussion with the teaching team regarding their plan on presentation and role play. Students will discuss issues and problems related to their learning.	1, 2, 3	1 hour/week for the last 6 weeks

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Presentation and Role Play	1, 2, 3	30	Formative assessment	Yes
2	Term Paper	1, 2, 3	30	Summative assessment	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

60

**Examination (%)**

40

**Examination Duration (Hours)**

3

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Presentation and Role Play

**Criterion**

1.1 ABILITY to examine and present a specific topic in group work which demonstrate their understanding of group theories, methods.

1.2 ABILITY to demonstrate the appropriate use of group skills in role play.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

2. Term Paper

**Criterion**

2.1 ABILITY to APPLY concepts, theories, methods, and knowledge with ACCURACY in analysing social work intervention with groups.

2.2 Organization of paper

2.3 Writing skills and proper reference

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal level

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**Assessment Task**

3. Examination

**Criterion**

3.1 ABILITY to DESCRIBE with ACCURACY concepts, theories, methods, and knowledge of social work with groups;

3.2 ABILITY to APPLY concepts, theories, methods, and knowledge with ACCURACY in analysing social work intervention with groups.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Correctly answer over 75% of the questions. High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Correctly answer 60-74% of the questions. Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Correctly answer 45-59% of the questions. Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Correctly answer 40-44% of the questions. Basic

**Failure (F)**

Correctly answer less than 40% of the questions.

## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

Nature of group and its use. Types of groups. Understanding how a group works: structure and process. Group dynamics, power, authority, leadership, individual experience, member status, worker-member relationship, and models of group development. Planning and forming a group, setting group goals, assessment of individual members, group processes, and group environment, facilitating individual, group, and environmental change. Program means. Group termination and evaluation. Theoretical models underlying different approaches in working with groups. Problems and issues in working with groups.

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Toseland, R. W., & Rivas, R. F. (2021). An introduction to group work practice, an Global Edition. (9th ed.). Pearson Education

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, F. P. (2017). Joining together: group theory and group skills (Twelfth edition.). Pearson
2	Corey, M. S., Corey, G., & Corey, C. (2018). Groups: process and practice (Tenth edition.). Cengage Learning.
3	Garvin, C. D., Gutierrez, L. M., & Galinsky, M. J. (Eds.). (2017). Handbook of social work with groups (Second edition.). The Guilford Press.
4	Crawford, K., Price, M., & Price, B. (2015). Groupwork practice for social workers. SAGE Publications.
5	Steinberg, D. M. (2014). The mutual-aid model for working with groups (3rd Ed.). Abingdon. Oxon: Routledge (res HV45.S783)
6	Shulman, L. (2012). The skills of helping individuals, families, groups and communities. (7th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage learning. (res HV11.S493 2012). A very important book on the Interactional Model of group work practice.
7	Balgopal, P., & Rassil, T. (1983). Groups in social work: An ecological perspective. N.Y.: Macmillan. (res HV45.B25). A textbook with good practical guides on how to do as a social worker with lists of practice principles.
8	Alissi, A. S. (Ed.). (1980). Perspectives on social group work practice: A book of readings. New York: The Free Press. (res HV45.P46). A book of classic articles covering all major group work models before 1980.
9	Brown, L. N. (1991). Groups for growth and change. N.Y.: Longman. (res HV45.B745).
10	Gitterman, A. & Shulman, L. (Eds.). (2005). Mutual aid groups, vulnerable populations, and the life cycle. N.Y.: Columbia University Press. (res HV45.M879). A collection of examples of mutual aid groups of different clientele. [E-book]
11	Henry, S. (1992). Group skills in social work: A four dimensional approach (2nd Ed). Pacific Grove, C.A.: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company. (res HV45.H45). Using four dimensions—Stages of group development, contract forms, worker role and location, and program media to demonstrate groups skills.
12	Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, F. P. (2009). Joining together: Group theory and group skills (10th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. (res HM716.J64 - 6th ed.). A very good basic text on group theory and group skills that you should read and consult frequently in the initial stage of your professional life and/or your career.
13	Lam, M. P. (2001). Group counseling and psychotherapy. (In Chinese 小組輔導與心理治療). H.K.: Commercial Press. (res BF637.C6L563). For those who want to develop their competency in helping people with emotional, personal, and interpersonal problems, read this Chinese book and you will be enlightened to appreciate the power of the use of group.

14	Reid, K. E. (1997). Social work practice with groups: A clinical perspectives (2nd Ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. (res HV689.R38). A Chinese version (社會團體工作) is available and published in Taiwan. HV689 .R3812 1997 c.2. This is the latest version of a widely used basic textbook for bachelor and master levels group work course in the US.
15	Sundel, M. Glasser, P., Sarri, R., & Vinter, R. (1985). Individual change through small groups (2nd Ed.). N.Y.: The Free Press. (res HV45.I52 c.3). A collection of articles. The classic on Remedial Model of group work practice.
16	Vinik. A., & Levin, M. (Eds.). (1991). Social action in group work. N.Y.: The Haworth Press. (HV45.S66). If you want to know more about how group work practice is linked up with community work practice, take a look of some of the articles inside this book. Can be used to illustrate the Social Goals Model of group work practice.
17	Greif, G. L., & Ephross, P. H. (2005). Group work with populations at risk (2nd Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. [E-book]
18	吳夢珍主編 (1992). 小組工作 香港: 香港社會工作人員協會 HV45 .X53 1992 c.10
19	郭黎玉晶, 廖盧慧貞, 霍瑞堯, 周愛華, 劉達志 (2001). 小組工作自學教材 [kit] 香港: 香港城市大學社會科學學部 HV45 .X56 2001 c.3
20	何潔雲編 (2001). 小組工作程序計劃簿. 香港: 香港理工大學應用社會科學系.
21	楊家正, 陳高凌, 廖盧慧貞合編 (1998). 小組工作實踐: 個案匯篇 香港: 香港社會工作人員協會RC488 .X53 1998 c2.
22	李德仁 (2004). 「遊戲的理論與實踐: 室內遊戲的設計與進行」。光盤。小組工作教材系列之一。香港: 城市大學應用社會科學系
23	李德仁 (2004). 「應用以歷程為導向的小組工作手法幫助兒童及青少年」。光盤。小組工作教材系列之二。香港: 城市大學應用社會科學系。