

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650

Spring 2020
BC7735 GROUP DYNAMICS
Professor: Dr. Larry Dozier

Phone: 256-404-1294

larrydozie00@gmail.com

COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is the preparation of the student to function more effectively in the variety of groups in which she/her does and will participate.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will be able to define a group in terms of growth, task, etc.
2. The student will be able to express the phases of group life.
3. The student will be able to identify and utilize group dynamics
4. The student will be able to identify and manage difficult group members

Course Texts:

Arnold, Jeffrey. *The Big Book on Small Groups*. IVP, Downers Grove, 1982.
ISBN: 0-8308-1377-2 [\$10.77 on Amazon]

Corey, Marianne & Gerald Corey. *Groups: Process and Practice*. Brooks/Cole Publishing Co. ISBN: 0-534-34224-8 (Fifth Edition or later). [Find used copy about \$26.00]

Ann Beyerlein (Editor) *Small Group Leader's Handbook: The Next Generation*. IVP, Downers Grove. [Get used \$.75 to \$4.99 and \$3.99 shipping]

Egan, Gerard. *Face to Face*. Brooks/Cole Publishing Co. ISBN: 0-8185-0075-1 [Get used for \$7.21 and up].

Donahue, Bill and Greg Bowman. *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders: A Comprehensive Guide for Developing Leaders of Groups and Teams*. Zondervan: ISBN-10: 0310331242 [\$11.82]

Assignments: [Certificate students are expected to read Arnold, Corey, Egan and Beyerlein and complete all assignments other than the reading of Donahue]

1. Complete reading of textbooks: You will turn in a Title Page on the due week with the statement: I have finished reading this text. **(25%)**

Arnold to be completed **DUE** before third week of class

Corey to be completed **DUE** before fifth week of class

Beyerlein to be completed **DUE** will be decided in class First night

Egan to be completed **DUE** before the tenth week of class

Donahue to be complete **DUE** will be decided in class First night

2. Attend small group of your choice (Career Transition, Healing Hearts, Divorce Care, Co-dependency group, AA or other similar (counseling or specific problem oriented groups) at churches or in the community). You must attend at least four sessions. Secure whatever literature is available for your group and submit it with your paper.
3. Write a report on your small group experience including at least the following:
(25%) DUE by 9th week of class
 - a. Identify category of the group.
 - b. Formation and purpose of the group (what was involved)
 - c. Discuss the group leadership
 - >what effective characteristics did you observe?
 - >what effective skills did you observe?
 - >what fallacies did you observe (principles not practiced)
 - d. To the extent possible, give your observations regarding the four stages of this group.
 - e. Conclusion: discuss how this course has helped you understand group dynamics and your experience in this group.
4. For textbook by Arnold, create a study guide in which you propose three questions for each chapter. State the question in bold type. Following the question present the answer for the question. (Answers should be a 2 to 4 sentence discussion, not just one or two—word answers.)
This assignment will be considered your mid-term exam—**DUE** by week six.

[Assignments four and five will make a composite grade of (25%)]

5. This assignment will be considered your final exam: Create a study guide for the Egan book using the same format you used for the Arnold book. **DUE** at last class
6. Ann Beverlern and Bill Donahue books will be collaborated in class by students.
(25%)

COURSE GRADING

For grading percentages, please refer to assignments above where they are listed with the assignments.

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition. Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook section on plagiarism for guidance.