

The Evergreen State College
Academic Fair Zoom Connection
4-6pm
(Wed May 15, 2024)

<https://evergreen.zoom.us/j/87380015851>

GROUP DYNAMICS
Spring Quarter 2024

Marcella Benson-Quaziana, Ph.D.

e-mail: bensonm@evergreen.edu

Room: TBD

An Intensive Weekend Program

8 Credit Hours

Class Sessions: October 5; October 19 & 20; November 9 & 10; December 7 & 8, 2024

You **MUST** be present at the first class to be considered registered. All class sessions will run from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Canvas participation will be a required part of this class. Students will be required to pay a \$50 fee for assessment tools.

.....

Program Description

Groups have become a part of everyday life and practitioners who are capable of understanding self and environment in relationship to groups will succeed. This course is designed for students who want to increase their knowledge and skills in working with groups. We will focus on the unique characteristics and common qualities of small groups. The course will cover group issues such as leadership, decision-making, power and creativity. Students will gain awareness of their own behavior in groups as participants and/or leaders. The students' skill focus will be: to develop effectiveness in groups; to improve skills in problem-solving and decision making in groups; and to improve skills in process observation, use of self, feedback and communication.

As a group participant/observer, students will learn to discriminate between observation, interpretation, judgment, description and evaluation. Students will observe and attend to group levels of systems, the individual, interpersonal, sub-group, group and organization. A gestalt perspective will be used as a foundation for group analysis of the internal and external dynamics affecting the group.

Credit will be offered in management development and organization psychology.

Learning Objectives:

The Objectives of the program are:

- To think critically about one's own group member and leadership roles and how these impact group dynamics;
- To increase student's understanding of the dynamics and development of groups;
- To observe and apply theoretical concepts regarding the process and dynamics of groups;
- To gain self awareness and an understanding of the use of self in group settings; and
- To develop proficiency with web-based communication tools.

Program Methods:

Learning for the program will occur from the following methods:

- Class attendance and participation
- Assigned readings
- Canvas postings – responses to required readings and fellow students’ work.
- Journaling
- Seminars
- Assignments:
 - *Assigned Readings and Postings*
 - Each week students will write a 1-page critique to the readings and post your writing to your small group forum. You will also respond to the posting of at least one other member of your small group.
 - *Group Reflection Paper*
 - Students are required to write a 3-5-page paper reflecting on your experiences in and with groups. Students will trace their history as group participants to determine the impact past group involvement has had on their lives and to identify themes as they have emerged in their group behavior.
 - *Group Analysis and Development Paper and Presentation*
 - Groups are required to turn in a 10-12-page paper analyzing the group dynamics of one of three films. The paper should integrate theory and practice.
 - *Group Life Paper (2)*
 - Students are required to write a 2-3 page reflective paper on your experience in your group. The paper should describe your learning and integrate theory and your experience in a way that adds insight into your own group behavior.

Collaborative learning will be emphasized through work groups, seminar, and group and individual exercises. Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the class, to thoroughly prepare for each class session and to complete all assignments on time. Attendance at all program sessions is essential.