Instructor: Dr. Natascha Wesch nwesch@uwo.ca
Office Hours: By Appointment – Please contact Dr. Wesch via email
Lecture Hours: Wednesdays @ 12:00-3:00 PM
Lecture Location: Somerville House (SH) 3355

COURSE INFORMATION

Prerequisites Checking
Unless you have either the requisites for this course (i.e., enrolment in the graduate program in the School of Kinesiology) or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. Please refer to the current Western Academic Calendar at www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca for course requisites and pre-requisites.

Course Information
The course will cover a range of topics in the area group dynamics and related topics. The course content will focus on theoretical frameworks, and a deliberate attempt is made to base application on theory.

Objectives:
1. To introduce students to selected topics in group dynamics and related areas.
2. To explore research and application on group dynamics and related topics.
3. To develop a strong platform for understanding the application of theory to practice.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, read the assigned materials prior to class, participate in class discussions based on the assigned readings, and complete the assigned papers and presentations.

Course Materials
In addition to the primary course text (see below), various research articles and readings are used for this course. All readings, with the exception of the primary course text, are available online through the University of Western Ontario library system.

Primary Course Text (available at Western Bookstore):

Supplementary Online Text:

Course Topics
The several sport-related topics will be covered in the course (group dynamics, team cohesion, leadership, principles of team building, etc.); however, the exact course content and schedule are subject to change.

Updated August 2017
METHODS OF EVALUATION

Theory Presentations (40%)
- Depending on course registration numbers, this assignment will be completed individually or in small groups (2-3 students) and will consist of 1-2 presentations of 20-45 minutes (duration depends on whether 1 or 2 presentations are completed; presentation format using Power Point or similar).
- Students will provide a detailed theoretical overview of an assigned topic in Group Dynamics, and will include current research and theoretical applications relevant to the topic and to the course case study (i.e., 1972 Summit Series).

Personal Application Project (45%)
- Case Presentation – Each student will identify a team/group (sport team or sport organization) to use as a case study in order to evaluate the concepts of group dynamics covered in the course. It is highly recommended that students select a team/group with a personal affiliation/connection. The first part of the assignment will require students to present their case (5-minute presentation) and explain why they have selected the particular team/group, how they propose to conduct the SWOT analysis, along with expected findings (5%).
- SWOT Analysis Presentation – The second part of the assignment will require students to observe the team/group and conduct a SWOT analysis (which will require observation, team/group member interviews, data-gathering, and summary of findings). Findings of the SWOT analysis will be presented to the class and to the team/organization (where applicable) via a 30 to 45-minute presentation (strict maximum duration of 45 minutes; presentation format using Power Point or similar), which will include details as to how the various theoretical frameworks outlined in lecture are applied to the particular case study situation in order to enhance group dynamics (40%).

Personal Expectations and Reflection (5%)
- Personal Expectations – Students will outline their learning expectations for the course as well as conduct a self-analysis of their current presentation skills (maximum 2 pages double-spaced; due at the start of the term).
- Personal Reflection – Students will reflect on their success relative to their initial learning objectives as well as reflect on the progress and development of their personal presentation skills throughout the term (maximum 2 pages; due at the end of the term).

Contribution and Participation (10%)
- Contribution and Participation – Students are expected to attend, participate and contribute often and regularly in class discussions. This requires students to read class material ahead of time, come prepared to share ideas and add to the peer-to-peer teaching format used in this course, as well as provide thoughtful questions and opinions to generate class discussions (5%).
- Peer Assessment – In addition, students will formally critique peer presentations and peer class contribution/participation (5%).

Class Attendance & Late Assignments
Attendance is an extremely important part of learning and it is expected that students attend all classes. Assignments submitted after the due date will receive a grade of zero. Please refer to the course outline section for Accommodation of Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences.
ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices
Electronic devices will not be allowed during tests and examinations. For final exams, use of communication equipment (e.g., cell phones) is prohibited. The use of laptops and other electronic devices in the classroom is permitted for note-taking only. Emailing, texting, and/or messaging in the classroom are prohibited.

Student Code of Conduct
The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf

English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades
Visit the website www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf

Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences
www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. For the Policy on Accommodation for Illness and a downloadable SMC see: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on illness grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. For elements worth less than 10%, the instructor will address the situation on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the student’s home Faculty/Academic Counselling.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student’s Faculty of registration.
Scholastic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Additionally,
1. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).
   a. Any work that is directly cited or paraphrased to any extent without giving full credit to the original author(s) is plagiarized. The offense is very serious and the instructor will determine the appropriate penalty, which may be a grade of ‘0’ for the assignment or course. See pages 32-33 in the Academic Calendar.
2. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.