

Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences

**FSHD 2237B – Introduction to Group Counselling
Winter 2027 (Provisional)**

Campus Support




Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. For help with:

- Both physical and mental health, go to [Wellness & Wellbeing](#)
- Studying with disabilities, go to [Accessible Education](#)
- Writing skills, go to the [Writing Support Centre](#)
- Learning skills and strategies, go to [Learning Development & Success](#)
- Contacting the ombudsperson, go to the [Office of the Ombudsperson](#)



Your course coordinator can also **guide you** to available campus resources and/or services.

Technical Requirements

-  Stable internet connection
  Laptop computer
  Calculator

Important Dates

| Classes Begin | Reading Week | Classes End | Study day(s) | Exam Period |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| January 4 | February 13-21 | April 9 | April 10-11 | April 12-30 |

March 30, 2027: Last day to withdraw from a first-term half course without academic penalty

Contact Information

| Course Coordinator/instructor | Contact Information | Office Hours |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| David S. Green, PhD | dgreen63@uwo.ca | By appointment |

| Teaching Assistant(s) | Contact Information | Office Hours |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| TBD | | |

NOTE: All course information including grades, assignment outlines, deadlines, etc. are available via [OWL Brightspace](#). Download the Brightspace Pulse App to stay up-to-date on course communication and enable your notification settings within “Communications” in the top toolbar. Check the website regularly for course announcements. If you need assistance, visit [OWL Brightspace Help](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Calendar Course Description (including prerequisites/anti-requisites):

This course introduces students to group counselling principles, theories, and models, focusing on group dynamics, stages, and leadership techniques. It includes experiential learning to build practical skills and confidence. Ethical guidelines, self-reflection, and feedback are emphasized for competent and compassionate group counselling.

Antirequisite(s): The former Family Studies and Human Development 2235.

Prerequisite(s): Any 0.5 course from any department in the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, the Department of Psychology or the Department of Sociology; or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll 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.

NOTE: If you wish to enroll in this course without the stated pre-requisite(s), you must obtain written approval from the course instructor. The approval should then be forwarded to your academic counsellor.

Delivery Mode: Blended

| Component | Date(s) | Time |
|--------------|---------|------|
| Lecture 200 | Online | |
| Tutorial 002 | | |

My Course Description

This course introduces students to the principles and practices of group counselling with attention to essential theoretical foundations, practical applications, ethical considerations, and self-awareness. Major focus will be given to various counselling theories and models related to group dynamics, the stages of group, and the roles and techniques of group leadership necessary for effective group facilitation. Through experiential learning opportunities, such as role-playing and peer group counselling exercises, students will develop practical skills and gain confidence in their ability to lead group counselling sessions. The course also emphasizes the importance of ethical guidelines, self-reflection, and feedback mechanisms to ensure students are well-prepared to become competent and compassionate group counsellors.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Summarize various counselling theories and models specific to group dynamics, processes, and counselling.
2. Demonstrate their understanding of the stages of group development, including forming, storming, norming, performing, and adjourning.
3. Apply their knowledge of group counselling to practice facilitation skills in a controlled setting with attention to various types of groups.
4. Justify their actions in group counselling based on ethical guidelines governing group counselling, including confidentiality, informed consent, and management of dual relationships.
5. Evaluate their personal biases and emotional responses in group settings through self-reflection exercises.
6. Demonstrate their ability to use feedback mechanisms to refine group counselling techniques and improve interpersonal skills.
7. Synthesize their understanding of diverse populations and issues to prepare for real-world group counselling scenarios.

Course Content and Schedule

| Week | Class Date | Topic | Study Material | Assessment/Quizzes/ Activity Due |
|------|------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Jan. 5 | The Small Groups in Everyone's Life | Chapter 1 | |
| 2 | Jan. 12 | Human Communication Processes in the Small Group Context | Chapter 2 | |
| 3 | Jan. 19 | The Small Group as a System | Chapter 3 | Required Tutorial Activity |
| 4 | Jan. 26 | Diversity and the Effects of Culture | Chapter 4 | Session on Academic Writing |
| 5 | Feb. 2 | The Members and Their Roles | Chapter 5 | Reflection Paper Due Feb. 3th at 11:59PM |
| 6 | Feb. 9 | Communication and Group Culture: Tensions, Fantasy, Socialization, Norms, and Climate | Chapter 6 | Required Tutorial Activity |
| 7 | Feb. 16 | Reading Week Feb. 15th to Feb. 19nd | | |
| 8 | Feb. 23 | Leading Small Groups: Theoretical Perspectives | Chapter 7 | |
| 9 | Mar. 2 | Leading Small Groups: Practical Tips | Chapter 8 | Required Tutorial Activity Field Interview & Critical Analysis Due Mar. 3th at 11:59PM |
| 10 | Mar. 9 | Problem Solving and Decision Making in Groups: Theoretical Perspectives | Chapter 9 | Required Tutorial Activity |
| 11 | Mar. 16 | Problem Solving and Decision Making in Groups: Practical Tips and Techniques | Chapter 10 | |
| 12 | Mar. 23 | Managing Conflict in the Small Group | Chapter 11 | Required Tutorial Activity Work-Life Balance Plan Due Mar. 24th at 11:59PM |
| 13 | Mar. 30 | Tools for Assessing and Evaluating Groups | Chapter 12 | Required Tutorial Activity |
| 14 | April 6 | 1. Preparing for Problem-Solving Discussions: Informational Resources for the Group 2. Making Public Presentations of the Group's Output | Appendix A Appendix B | |

NB – All tutorials are important for success in this course. However, to allow for challenges that students may encounter, only six of the tutorials contribute to the degree of participation/engagement mark.

Course Materials You Must Acquire and Their Costs

Textbook: Hoelscher, C., Spates, S., Adams, K. L., & Galanes, G. J. (2024). Effective group discussion: Theory and practice (16th ed.). McGraw Hill.

- Print ISBN: 9781266226373 (**\$119.95**)
- eBook ISBN: 9781266653124 (**\$69**)

Optional Course Materials

The course requires all assignments to be in the APA style 7th edition. Please use: America Psychological Association. (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). America Psychological Association.

Assessments and Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on their achievement of the following outcomes:

1. **Group Observation Reflection:** A written reflection analyzing group processes, communication, and personal observations using course concepts.
2. **Group Leadership:** A mixed-format assignment that demonstrates practical group facilitation, leadership skills, and application of counselling theories.
3. **Required Tutorial Activities:** Weekly tutorial tasks that assess participation, engagement, teamwork, and application of course learning in class activities.
4. **Final Exam:** A written final assessment evaluating understanding of core theories, group development, ethics, and applied group counselling concepts.

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

| Assessment | Format | Weight | Due Date | Flexibility | Learning Outcome |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| Group Observation Reflection | Written | 20% | Feb. 3rd at 11:59PM | 72-hour no late penalty | 1-7 |
| Group Leadership | Mixed | 30% | Mar. 3rd at 11:59PM | 72-hour no late penalty | 1-7 |
| Required Tutorial Activities | Mixed | 25% | Weekly | Not applicable – Designated assessment | 1-7 |
| Final Exam | Written | 25% | TBA | | 1, 2, 4, 7 |

NB – Detailed assessment instructions and grading criteria are available on the course website.

Notes:

1. Designated Assessment: Written assessments have been designated as central to the evaluation of learning outcomes in this course. Accordingly, students must provide documentation for any absence from this evaluation. If you miss this evaluation, you must complete the assessment as agreed upon based on the accommodation provided.
2. Students are expected to submit written assignments by the deadlines listed. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 48 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. No Academic Consideration is required for this extension. Students who submit their assessment beyond the extended deadline will receive a penalty of 10% per day that it is late. Academic Consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that began before the deadline and lasted longer than the extension. Students must not provide medical or compassionate documentation to the instructor.

General information about assessments

- All assignments are due at 23:59 EST unless otherwise specified.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions, including corrupt files, could be subject to late penalties (see below) or a 0.
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below).
- Students will have access to Turnitin reports before their submission is graded. Students may have 2 submissions to Turnitin.
- A student might not receive the same grade as their group members if the distribution of work or effort is not equal.
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, they should reach out within 5 days.
- Prior to the filing of a written request for relief, students must attempt to resolve concerns regarding a mark or grade through informal consultation with the instructor. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the instructor or does not receive a decision from the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Undergraduate Chair of the School offering this course, within three (3) weeks from the date that the mark was issued.

The table below outlines University-wide grade descriptors.

| Letter grade | Number grade | Description |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| A+ | 90-100 | One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
| A | 80-89 | Superior work which is clearly above average |
| B | 70-79 | Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory |
| C | 60-69 | Competent work, meeting requirements |
| D | 50-59 | Fair work, minimally acceptable |
| F | below 50 | Fail |

Rounding of Grades (for example, bumping a 79 to 80%)

This is a practice some students request. The final grade documented is the grade that you have achieved. There is no rounding to the next grade level, or ‘giving away’ of marks. Please don't ask me to do this for you; the response will be “please review the course outline where this is presented”.

Information about late or missed assessments:

- Late assessments without academic consideration will be subject to a late penalty of 10% per day to a maximum of five days.
- Mixed tests or makeup tests will be accommodated online based on approved academic consideration.

Course-specific conditions:

- Passing of the tutorial participation and written components are required to pass this course.

INC (Incomplete Standing): If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned. Students with INC will have their course load in subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Advising to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

SPC (Special examination): If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office to write a Special Examination and the final exam is the only outstanding course component, an SPC will be assigned. If the class has a makeup exam, the student is expected to write the makeup exam. If the class doesn't have a makeup exam or the student misses the makeup exam for reasons approved by the Academic Advising Office, the student will write the exam the next time the course is offered. Outstanding SPCs will reduce the course load for the term the exam is deferred as outlined in [Types of Examinations](#) policy.

Academic Policies and Statements

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>
2. Wellness and Well-being - <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office - <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office - <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

The websites for Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>), and the same for affiliated university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>) and the Student Development Services, should be provided for easy access.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

Statement on Harassment and Discrimination

Western is committed to providing a learning and working environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. All students, staff, and faculty have a role in this commitment and have a responsibility to ensure and promote a safe and respectful learning and working environment. Relevant policies include Western's [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35) and [Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy – Administrative Procedures](#) (M.A.P.P. 1.35). Any student, staff, or faculty member who experiences or witnesses' behaviour that may be harassment or discrimination **must report the behaviour** to the Western's [Human Rights Office](#). Harassment and discrimination can be human rights-based, which is also known as EDI-based, (sexism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, and ableism) or non human rights-based (personal harassment or workplace harassment).

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 Western University, 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 <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the [central academic consideration portal](#). Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes), when there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period), or when timed assessments (e.g., quizzes) are available over an extended period of time (e.g., when you are given a 72 hour time period to start – and finish – the assessment).

Please note that academic considerations in this course are granted by the academic advisors in your home unit and implemented by the instructor of this course in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. If your absence relates to accommodations that are already supported by [Accessible Education](#), please work with your accessible education counsellor regarding your missed course work.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examination dates. The Faculty of Health Sciences has set School-specific dates for these Special Examinations. Please speak with your instructor about the date on which the Special Examination for this course will be held.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the policy on [Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students](#).

Plagiarism

Student work is expected to be original. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and could lead to a zero on the assignment in question, a zero in this course, or your expulsion from the university. You are plagiarizing if you insert a phrase, sentence or paragraph taken directly from another author without acknowledging that the work belongs to him/her. Similarly, you are plagiarizing if you paraphrase or summarize another author's ideas without acknowledging that the ideas belong to someone else. All 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 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 Western University and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

For group assignments, all members share responsibility for academic integrity. Plan your work so the group has time to review the full submission and ensure all sources are appropriately used and cited. In the absence of a scholastic offence, everyone gets the same mark, so work with the rest of your group in a proactive fashion.

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

Within this course, you may only use artificial intelligence tools (e.g., “ChatGPT”) in ways that are specifically authorized by the course instructor. All submitted work must reflect your own thoughts and independent written work.

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Without the explicit written permission of the instructor, you may not submit any academic work for which credit has been obtained previously, or for which credit is being sought, in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

Use of Statistical Pattern Recognition on Multiple Choice Exams

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.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). If you think you may qualify for ongoing accommodation (e.g. separate room to write exams, flexibility with deadlines, etc.) that will be recognized in all your courses, we encourage you to visit [Accessible Education](#) for more information.

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. Students are further expected to attend to announcements presented through Brightspace, and to read emails generated in this way.

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams

Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations. **These devices MUST either be left at home or with your belongings at the front of the room. They MUST NOT be at your test/exam desk or in your pocket. Any student found with a prohibited device will be referred for investigation of a Scholastic Offence, per the policy listed above. The typical first-offence penalty for possession of a prohibited device is zero on the test or exam.**

During Lectures and Tutorials

Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Contingency Plan for an In-Person Class Pivoting to 100% Online Learning

In the event of a situation that requires this course to pivot to online content delivery, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

Academic Appeals and Scholastic Offences

Students can file a **request for relief from academic decisions** if the request is based on one or more grounds listed in the policy. Students can read more about the policy [here](#) and a link to the procedures is listed in the Support Services sections of this document.

Students may **appeal** some academic and scholastic disciplinary decisions by a Dean or their designate, to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA). Students can read more about the policy [here](#) and a link to the procedures is listed in the Support Services section of this document.