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
Various research articles and readings are used for this course. All readings are available online or on reserve through the University of Western Ontario library system. Readings not available online will be provided by the instructor.

Course Topics
The following sport-related topics will be covered in the course. However, please note that the exact course content and schedule are subject to change.

- Group dynamics
- Team cohesion
- Leadership
- Principles of team building
- Strategies for motivating teams
- Psychological skills training
- Audience and crowd effects
- Aggression and violence
METHODS OF EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated in the following ways:

Theory Presentation (30%)
- Depending on enrollment numbers, students (individually or in small groups of 2-3 students) will prepare and deliver a **30-minute presentation** (Power Point or similar) providing an overview of an assigned theoretical topic in Group Dynamics; the students will include in the presentation current research and theoretical applications relevant to the topic. This assignment may be amended to be delivered as 2 separate and shorter 20 to 25-minute presentations (at the discretion of the instructor based on enrolment numbers).

Personal Application Project (40%)
- 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 preferable that students use a case with which they have a personal or direct connection in order to enhance learning and application. Students will be required to observe the team/group and perform a SWOT analysis (which will require observation, team/group member interviews, and summary of findings). Findings of the SWOT analysis will be presented to the class and to the team/organization via a **30-45-minute presentation** (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.

Personal Reflection (10%)
- Following each presentation, students will reflect on their own personal presentation skills, including ability to present, quality of visual presentation, ability to listen as well as formulate and pose professional and relevant questions during peer presentation. In addition, students will identify areas for improvement and steps they will take to improve performance on their subsequent presentation. At the end of the term, student will reflect on their overall growth throughout the term through a short 2-page personal reflection paper to be submitted at the end of the term. **Note:** The final personal reflection paper assignment may be amended to a short 5-minute student presentation (at the discretion of the instructor based on enrolment numbers).

Summit Series Reflection (10%)
- Students will consider and reflect on the Team Canada ‘72 Summit Series case study presented in class throughout the term. Students will write a 3-page reflection/opinion paper identifying and discussing the key course topics discussed throughout the term that resonated most with their understanding of the Summit Series Case Study. In addition, students will include their opinion on how they can apply in their future career the theoretical concepts discussed throughout the course. This assignment may be amended to be delivered as a short 10-minute student presentation (at the discretion of the instructor based on enrolment numbers).

Contribution and Participation (10%)
- Students are expected to attend, participate and contribute often and regularly to class discussions, and provide thoughtful viewpoints and opinions. Student will formally critique peer presentations, provide thoughtful questions to generate class discussion.
ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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.

Grades
Where possible assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment or feel that it is unfair in any way, you must wait 24 hours from the receipt of the assignment to approach the instructor. In doing so, please make an appointment and *prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate.* Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to my attention immediately.

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.