Memorandum

TO: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
FROM: William Gabrenya, School of Psychology
RE: Adding a new course
Date: February 24, 2004

Please see the attached form and supportive documentation for adding PSY2541: Group Behavior, to the curriculum. The course is proposed by Dr. Lisa Steelman.

Group Behavior is designed to enhance our undergraduate course offerings in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. We currently offer a senior-level course in this area, but a course is needed earlier in the curriculum for several groups of students, including psychology majors who are not yet certain what area to concentrate in, majors who have other interests but would like to take one course in the area; majors in the I/O concentration who need a relevant psychology elective; management majors looking for a psychology elective relevant to their interests, and students in other majors, such as engineering, who need a social science elective.
This course is available for student registration only after the approval process has been completed.

Subject: PSY Course No. 2541 Credit Hours: 3 Term to be added to the file: Summer 04
Class Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 Contact Hours (CEU only): 
Department: Psychology Schedule Type: lecture (e.g., lecture, lab or special project)
College: School of Psychology-05
Computer Title: (Restricted to 25 spaces including blanks) Group Behavior 1234567890123456789012345
Catalog Title: Group Behavior

Catalog Description of course:
An analysis and exploration of psychological forces in small-group behavior. Issues of group formation, development, socialization, productivity, decision making and leadership are considered. Emphasis is on the application of scientific theory and research to the study of group dynamics in real world group situations. Topics include: cult and crowd phenomena, social loafing, group therapy, work groups, and sports teams. (SS elective)

In addition, you may attach a course syllabus and/or more detailed description

Restrictions
☒ Prerequisite PSY1411 (course number) ☐ Corequisite (course number)
☐ Prerequisite (course number) ☐ Corequisite (course number)
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Grades to be issued:
☒ A, B, C, D, F ☐ S, U ☐ P, F ☐ Other

Additional restriction

If this course replaces a course currently offered in BANNER, please indicate old course information.
Subject: Course No.

APPROVALS
Upon completion of appropriate department approvals, submit form to Chair, Graduate Council, or Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for approval below and forward to Catalog Coordinator.

(signed on original) 2/13/2004
Originator
(signed on original) 2/24/2004
Chair, Psychology Undergraduate Programs
(signed on original) 2/24/2004
Dean, School of Psychology

Dean of the Graduate School Date

OR

Chair, UG Curriculum Committee Date

CATALOG COORDINATOR

Catalog Coordinator Date

REGISTRAR’S OFFICE ONLY

SCACRSE_____ SCADETL_____ SCAPREQ_____ SCABASE_____
SCARES_____ SYCOLO_____ Operator Init_____ Date________

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Course Description:
An analysis and exploration of psychological forces in small-group behavior. Issues of group formation, development, socialization, productivity, decision making and leadership are considered. Emphasis is on the application of scientific theory and research to the study of group dynamics in real world group situations. Topics include: cult and crowd phenomena, social loafing, group therapy, work groups, and sports teams.

Prerequisite: PSY 1411

Course Details:
The proposed course will be a low to mid level psychology course requiring only Introduction to Psychology as a prerequisite. Understanding groups and teams and being able to effectively work in teams is of critical importance to organizations and for nearly everyone in today’s workforce. The purpose of this course is to provide students from a wide variety of disciplines background in the psychology of group processes and practical experience working in student teams to complete class exercises and projects. This course will cover the basic areas involved in studying group behavior such as: group formation, development and socialization, communication, influence processes, productivity, decision making, leadership and power, and conflict. The content of this class will focus on a variety of group situations in order to enhance the applicability of the course to disciplines outside of psychology. Typical topics of study include: cult and crowd phenomena, social loafing, group therapy, and work groups.

In the best selling book *Emotional Intelligence* Daniel Goleman (1995) argues that interpersonal skills are far more important to success in organizations than previously believed: “At best, IQ contributes about 20 percent to the factors that determine life success, which leaves 80 percent to other forces.” We have all heard stories of engineers, programmers, and managers who have exceptional technical skills to do their jobs, yet their careers are stymied because they have acquired notoriety for their insensitivity to others and inability to work with colleagues. Ultimately, our impact in organizations depends on our ability to understand others and work well with them.

In this context, the ability to work effectively in small groups is increasingly seen as a critical competence for achieving organizational effectiveness. We have evidence to suggest that small group interactions have a dynamics of their own and that a knowledge of and familiarity with them significantly improves one’s ability to function effectively in such contexts. *Dynamics of Group Behavior* will provide an understanding of group dynamics inherent in small group interaction.

There is a need in the psychology curriculum to provide courses that can serve as elective credits for students in any of the psychology concentrations as well as to expand the curriculum to offer a wider variety of undergraduate course offerings. In particular, the Industrial/Organizational psychology concentration is growing and there is a need to offer more courses in applied/social areas of psychology for these students. This course is developed to be a practical introduction to group behavior. The learning objectives will be of relevance to any student who is or will be working.
TEXT


Selected chapters from Forsyth (1999). Group Dynamics to be provided

COURSE OVERVIEW

In the best selling book *Emotional Intelligence* Daniel Goleman (1995) argues that interpersonal skills are far more important to success in organizations than previously believed: “At best, IQ contributes about 20 percent to the factors that determine life success, which leaves 80 percent to other forces.” We have all heard stories of engineers, programmers, and managers who have exceptional technical skills to do their jobs, yet their careers are stymied because they have acquired notoriety for their insensitivity to others and inability to work with colleagues. Ultimately, our impact in organizations depends on our ability to understand others and work well with them.

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COURSE TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES

- **Teamwork/Class Participation (25%)** There will be a variety of in-class and out of class group exercises. All class members are expected to fully contribute to each project.
- **Writing Assignments (15%)** Three short writing assignments (5 pages each) will be assigned throughout the course of the semester.
- **Exam 1 (20%)**
- **Exam 2 (20%)**
- **Final Exam (20%)**

ATTENDANCE, PREPARATION & CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance is a must. Be on time and be prepared. Unexcused absences, failure to keep up with assignments, and lack of participation is unacceptable. University attendance policy states that “students registered for any course are expected to attend all lectures, and must attend all examinations. Students who miss class must obtain permission from the instructor to make up missed work. This permission must be requested at the earliest possible opportunity and before the absence if possible.”
COURSE OUTLINE, TOPICS, & READING ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1 – Basic Group Principles
   Oyster Chp. 1

WEEK 2 – Studying Groups
   Forsyth Chp. 2
   Writing Assignment #1 Assigned

WEEK 3 – Why People Form & Choose Groups
   Oyster Chp. 2
   Writing Assignment #2 Assigned

WEEK 4 – Group Development & Socialization
   Oyster Chp. 3

WEEK 5 – Group Structure / Exam #1
   Forsyth Chp. 5

WEEK 6 – Communication in Groups
   Oyster Chp. 4
   Midterm Exam 1

WEEK 7 – Influence Processes in Groups
   Oyster Chp. 5

WEEK 8 – Group Productivity
   Oyster Chp. 6

WEEK 9 – Decision Making
   Oyster Chp. 7
   Video: The Abilene Paradox
   Writing Assignment #3 Assigned

WEEK 10 – The Group Environment / Exam #2
   Forsyth Chp. 14

WEEK 11 – Intra- & Intergroup Conflict
   Oyster Chp. 9
   Midterm Exam 2
WEEK 12 – Leadership & Power  
Oyster Chp. 8

WEEK 13 – Social Dilemmas  
Oyster Chp. 10

WEEK 14 – Crowds & Collective Behavior  
Forsyth Chp.15

WEEK 15 – Stress & Social Change  
Oyster Chp. 11

WEEK 16 – Final Exam