

## 476-649 Working with Groups

<b>Credit Points:</b>	12.50
<b>Level:</b>	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
<b>Dates &amp; Locations:</b>	2009, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, - Taught on campus.
<b>Time Commitment:</b>	Contact Hours: 24 hours Total Time Commitment: Not available
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Corequisites:</b>	None
<b>Recommended Background Knowledge:</b>	None
<b>Non Allowed Subjects:</b>	None
<b>Core Participation Requirements:</b>	<p>&lt;p&gt;For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Student Support and Engagement Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Overview, Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Generic Skills sections of this entry.&lt;/p&gt;         &lt;p&gt;It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact on meeting the requirements of this subject are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and Student Equity and Disability Support: &lt;a href="http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability"&gt;http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability&lt;/a&gt;&lt;/p&gt;</p>
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Assoc Prof Erica Frydenberg
<b>Subject Overview:</b>	<p>A general review of systems theory and practice is presented, with the particular focus of assisting participants to understand the social system and to develop interventions in that context. The sessions cover: communication in groups (selective perception and culture, perception and communication, understanding communication in groups); membership in formal and informal organisations (multiple memberships, group norms, group pressure and deviancy, the power of groups, conformity, compliance and obedience and the goals of a group); surface and hidden agendas; leadership; a systemic view of small group behaviour; group problem solving and decision making; the use of humour in groups; the family as a microcosm of a group; supportive structures and processes within groups. Since learning, development and adaptation of the individual occurs within varieties of social contexts, namely the school, the family and the peer group, the role of the support systems within the school, the family and the community are considered. School and family as systems are examined. Since systems work in education is heavily informed by family systems work and training in family therapy readily generalises to work with other groups, the family as a system is addressed.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	Information not available
<b>Assessment:</b>	Two parts to the Assessment: an analysis of a selected problem and an interpretation of its genesis, maintenance and possible solution in systemic terms (3,000 words; 60 per cent); and a detailed analysis of a selected topic that relates to the prescribed or recommended reading (2,000 words; 40 per cent).
<b>Prescribed Texts:</b>	None
<b>Recommended Texts:</b>	Napier, R. W., and Gershenfeld, M. K. 1993, Groups: Theory and Experience, Boston, Houghton Mifflin. Goding, G. (1992). The History and Principles of Family Therapy. Melbourne:Victorian Association of Family Therapy
<b>Breadth Options:</b>	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
<b>Fees Information:</b>	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, <a href="http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees">http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees</a>

<b>Links to further information:</b>	<a href="http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au">www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au</a>
<b>Related Course(s):</b>	Doctor of Educational Psychology Master of Educational Psychology Master of Educational Psychology/Doctor of Philosophy