Course Description
EDCP318N is a contextual leadership course that utilizes experiential opportunities as a study group leader to develop and apply the knowledge and skills of leadership into practice by leading collaborative learning groups. This course will provide pedagogical training in the theory, process and techniques used to lead peer-group study session in multiple discipline areas. The methods of instruction will include in classroom instruction and supervised peer-study sessions.

The course is specifically designed for those who will serve as Guided Study Session Leaders in the University Counseling Center's Learning Assistance Service. Others study group leaders may participate in the course at the permission of the instructor.

Prerequisites
Individuals must have taken the content course attached with the learning group and performed well (A or B in the course). Students should also have an overall academic standing of 3.0 or better. Students must submit a written application and attend a personal interview.

Collaboration with the Stamp Student Union and College of Education
This course has been developed through the collaboration of the University Counseling Center's Learning Assistance Service, the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services within the College of Education and the Adele H. Stamp Student Union Center for Campus Life.

Learning Outcomes
As a result of participating in this class, students will:
1. Become aware of themselves as learners as a basis for understanding others, particularly in the helping relationship.
2. Gain an appreciation for their roles as peer group facilitators.
3. Develop facilitation skills in order to facilitate independent learning in others.

Course Integrity
The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code, administered by the Student Honor Council. The pledge, approved by the University Senate, reads: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination." The Pledge should be handwritten and signed on all tests in this course.
In conjunction with the University’s Code of Academic Integrity, allegations of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards. Be aware of consequences of cheating and facilitation of academic dishonesty. More information can be found at www.studenthonor council.umd.edu.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor so reasonable accommodations can be made to assist learning and evaluation in the class. In addition, students should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) to document their disability and identify appropriate accommodations. DSS (301-314-7682) provides a variety of services to students with disabilities; staff are available to consult with students at any time (www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS). It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any documented disabilities.

**Students in Need of Assistance**
The University of Maryland offers a variety of services for students in need of either educational or psychological assistance. **Learning Assistance Service (LAS)** offers services and programs on writing skills, English as a second language, study and time management skills, math learning skills, and issues for students over 25 years of age. They also offer a range of handouts, available on-line. If you need other educational services or support, please contact your instructor for additional resources.

If you are experiencing personal stress that is interfering with your ability to succeed, please consider contacting the **Counseling Center** or the **Mental Health Service at the University Health Center** for an appointment. The Counseling Center also offers on-line resources on a series of topics.

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Learning Assistance Service (LAS)  Counseling Center
3125 South Campus Dining  4th Floor of Susquehanna Hall
Email – LAS-CC@umd.edu  Phone – 301.314.7651
Phone – 301.314.7693  Website –
www.counseling.umd.edu  www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/
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University Health Center, Mental Health Service
2nd Floor, University Health Center (across from the Stamp Student Union)
Phone – 301.314.8106
Website - www.health.umd.edu/mentalhealth
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**Religious Observations**
Because we are a diverse community and enroll students with many spiritual beliefs, we will be sensitive to students’ requests for excused absences and make-up test requests due to reasons of religious observances. Be mindful that it is the student’s responsibility to inform instructors of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Notice should be provided as soon as possible.
Course Evaluations
CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to do so. Students will be alerted via their official University e-mail account when the website is active for this semester.

Course Cancellations/Delays
Please check with 301-405-SNOW or the university website (www.umd.edu) for any cancellations or delays due to inclement weather or emergencies. You may also sign up for the free university text messaging system, UMD Alerts, and receive text messages with alerts such as cancellations or delays. (alert.umd.edu). This course will comply with any university cancellations or delays accordingly.

Course Requirements
1. Attendance in Content Course – Content Course attendance is very important to providing the group leader with a review of the material to be discussed during the guided study session. Students are expected to attend the content course and serve as model students. Class notes will be checked weekly.

2. Group Study Sessions – Each leader is responsible for conducting two study sessions weekly (returning leaders have the option of holding one study session per week) and entering attendance in the LAS database. Sessions days/times will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester. All leaders must hold 20 (or 10) group sessions throughout the semester. Leaders can make arrangements for alternative session times to accommodate tests, holidays, etc. If the session time is changed, inform the instructor (cc: me on the e-mail) and make announcements and or provide handouts to the class to reflect the change. Each GSS session will count 7 points (14 points per session for 10 sessions) for a total of 140 points.

3. EDCP 318N Class Participation – Students are required to participate in class weekly. The class meeting times prepare students to be learning facilitators and are conducted in an interactive/discussion format. Therefore, each student is permitted only 1 unexcused absence from this class per semester. An additional unexcused absence will result in an automatic grade reduction of one letter grade. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the material covered during the class session. For excused absences, you can arrange an appointment with me to review the class materials.

4. Instructor Interview – The GSS leader should schedule an interview with the course instructor within the first 2.5 weeks of the semester. In this interview, the leader and instructor will discuss the leader’s role, expectations around assignments, instructor’s expectations for the GSS leader, etc. The instructor and GSS leader should sign the GSS agreement form. This form should be turned in by September 17, 2010.

5. Reflections – Two reflection papers will be written during the semester. The first will be a series of questions to be completed by October 22, 2010. This assignment will be
completed on Blackboard. The questions will ask you to think critically about the environment of the group, relationship with the course instructor and success of the learning groups. The second will be a 2-3 page experience paper completed at the end of the semester providing a thoughtful reflection of the semester's sessions. Additional guidelines will be given for the semester experience paper. The final paper will be due December 10, 2010.

6. **Best Practices Presentation** – As a class, we will develop several topics of interest for group presentations (review strategies, exam preparation, etc). You will be expected to choose your group based on your own level of interest in these particular topics and engage effectively throughout the semester to complete the group presentation. Each group will be expected to provide a 15 presentation including the following:
   a. Overview of the topic including resources
   b. Lesson plan and explanation for incorporation into the study session
   c. Handouts, materials, etc. that could be used in additional study sessions
The group presentations will be made in class during Weeks 14 and 15.

**GRADING:** The final grade will be determined by points. There is a total of 400 points.
- **A:** 400-358
- **B:** 357-318
- **C:** 317-278
- **D:** 277-238
- **F:** below 238

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<td>Content Course Attendance (15%)</td>
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<td>Guided Study Sessions (35%)</td>
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<td>EDCP 318N Class Participation (10%)</td>
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<td>Instructor Interview (5%)</td>
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<td>Reflection Papers (20%)</td>
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<td>Group Presentation (15%)</td>
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**Outline of Course**

**Week 1** – Orientation Session: Overview of course, Session scheduling, Database usage

**Week 2** – Role of a study group leader

**Week 3** – Student expectations of the learning environment
Week 4 – Learning Styles

Week 5 – Communication

Week 6 – The Learner (Intellectual and Ethical Development)

Week 7 – Integrated Learning Model, Content Organizers

Week 8 – Reflection Assignment Due October 22, 2010
No readings.

Week 9 – Collaborative Learning Techniques

Week 10 – Assessment Techniques & Problem Sessions

Week 11 – Diversity in the Learning Environment

Week 12 – Avoiding Co-Dependency

Week 13 – Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 – Group Presentations
Week 15 – Group Presentations
Final Paper Due December 10, 2010

The instructor of the course reserves the right to amend the topics, schedule, and/or assignments of the course. You will be notified of any changes.