

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY

Respectful Alliances™

Positive Peer Cultures and Inspired Staff Teams

Psychology 388RY/588RY or Special Education 388RY/588RY

3 Semester Hours of Undergraduate or Graduate Credit

Instructor of Record: Larry K. Brendtro, PhD

Course Description:

There is a disconnection between the needs of today's youth and the ecology of family, school, peer group, and community. While young people seek adult models and guidance, our systems do not nurture supportive relationships. Humans by nature are social beings who only survive and thrive by helping and caring for one another. This training provides practical tools for creating climates of respect in schools, residential treatment, juvenile justice, and community. *Respectful Alliances* is the latest application of Positive Peer Culture (PPC) and related peer-helping programs and is grounded in the Circle of Courage model of positive youth development. PPC is listed as a research-based practice by the California Evidence-Based Clearing House. Participants completing this course receive *Level I Practitioner Certification* which is the foundational training for all who work as team members in peer-helping programs. This course is a prerequisite to *Level II Leadership Certification* designed for professionals who conduct formal peer-helping group sessions or who supervise staff in these settings.

Topical Outline

1. Roots: Pygmalion Pioneers
2. Research: Group Dynamics
3. Respect: Prosocial Peers
4. Resilience: Circles of Courage
5. Reclaiming: Supportive Staff Teams
6. Reflecting: Peer Helping Groups
7. Renewing: Cultures of Quality

Learning Goals

1. Identify contributions of historic pioneers in positive group work with youth.
2. Contrast group dynamics with permissive, autocratic, and democratic leadership.
3. Review research on building prosocial groups with youth at risk.
4. Use Circle of Courage principles and strategies for teaching youth:
Belonging: Create cohesive groups that eliminate peer abuse and rejection.
Mastery: Teach youth specific methods to identify and resolve problems.
Power: Build self-control and self-efficacy while respecting the rights of others.
Generosity: Create a community of caring by developing empathy and concern.
5. Develop cohesive, participatory staff teams that focus on needs of youth.
6. Explore strategies for conducting formal and informal peer-helping groups.
7. Maintain program quality with indices of positive and problematic groups.

Required Readings

Respectful Alliances: Positive Peer Cultures and Inspired Staff Teams.

(Brendtro, 2018. Publisher: Resilience Academy)

Deep Brain Learning: Evidence-Based Essentials in Education, Treatment, & Youth Development

(Brendtro & Larson, 2006. Publisher: Starr Commonwealth)

Course Requirements

Participants who successfully complete these requirements will earn three (3) semester hours of graduate or undergraduate credit, graded with an A-F letter grade.

Undergraduate 3 semester hours

1. *Class participation*: Fully participate in all sessions.
2. *Examination*: Complete a multiple-choice exam on key concepts from the training and text.
3. *Practicum project*: Complete a 4 to 6-page (double-spaced) paper applying these principles to a group or class of students with whom you now work or have worked in the past.
4. *Literature review*: Write three 2-page evaluative essays on selected chapters from *Deep Brain Learning* text or other scholarly publications that clearly connect with content of this course.
5. *Personal reflection*: Complete a 4 to 6-page essay describing your own experience in a peer group, drawing either on events in your youth or as a member of a professional staff or team.

Graduate 3 semester hours

1. *Class participation*: Fully participate in all sessions.
2. *Examination*: Complete a multiple-choice exam on key concepts from the training and text.
3. *Practicum project*: Complete a 6 to 8-page (double-spaced) paper applying these principles to a group or class of youth with whom you now work or have worked with in the past.
4. *Literature review*: Write four 2-page evaluative essays on selected chapters from the *Deep Brain Learning* text or scholarly publications that clearly connect with content of this course.
5. *Personal reflection*: Complete a 6 to 8-page paper describing your own experience in a peer group, drawing either on events in your youth or as a member of a professional staff or team.

Grading

Class participation (required but not graded)

Examination (25% of grade)

Practicum project (25% of grade)

Literature review (25% of grade)

Personal reflection (25% of grade)

Written work will be graded on significance, clarity, and creativity. Participants who successfully complete these requirements earn three (3) semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit, graded with an A-F letter grade.

Assignments will be graded using the following schedule:

A+ =95+	A =91-94	A- =88-90
B+ =83-87	B =80-82	C+ =75-79
C =65-74	D =50-64	F =below 50

All requirements are to be submitted within 30 days of the last day of the course to your instructor in digital form.

Requesting a grading extension: If additional time is needed to complete the work, a one-time extension may be requested. If the work is not submitted by the extended due date, a grade of F is automatically given.

Registration

Registration occurs at the time of the course. Students will complete a registration form indicating a desire for graduate(588RY) or undergraduate credit(388RY), and whether the course will be taken for psychology or special education credit. Payment is made to **Reclaiming Youth At Risk** and submitted to your instructor at the time of registration, along with your registration form.

Cost

Payment is due at the time of registration. Three hours of credit, graduate or undergraduate is \$300 (US dollars). Cash is not accepted. Checks, US bank drafts or money orders payable to **Reclaiming Youth at Risk** in US Dollars, or Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover credit cards accepted.

Transcripts

After final grades are submitted, the students receive a grade report from Augustana University. If a student wishes an official transcript, please send written request to Augustana University, Office of the Registrar, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197, or fax to 605-274-4450, or visit www.augie.edu for additional instructions.

For questions or concerns about registration, cost, or transcripts please contact Wendy Beukelman at Reclaiming Youth at Risk by email: wendy@reclaimingyouthatrisk.org or phone: 605-906-4694.