

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY

Respectful Alliances: Positive Peer Culture

Level II Leadership Certification

Psychology 392RY/592RY or Special Education 392RY/592RY

3 Semester Hours of Undergraduate or Graduate Credit

Instructor of Record: Larry K. Brendtro, PhD

Course Sequence:

The prerequisite for this course is the Level I Practitioner Certification, ***Response Ability Pathways (RAP)***, which is a foundational training for all who work with children and youth. This advanced course leading to Level II Leadership Certification in ***Positive Peer Culture (PPC)*** which is designed for PPC group leaders, supervisors, and clinical, educational, and youthwork professionals.

Course Description:

Positive Peer Culture is a peer-helping model designed to improve social competence and cultivate strengths in youth. Care and concern for others is the defining element of PPC (California Evidence-based Clearing House). PPC provides advanced, evidence-based strategies for creating positive climates in schools, juvenile justice, residential treatment, and community settings. Youth disconnected from adults often gravitate to negative peers and engage in high-risk behavior. Punishment only intensifies conflict with authority and a culture of bullying. Negative peer influence is reversed by enlisting youth in prosocial helping and building respectful bonds with adults. Positive Peer Culture (PPC) has been refined over four decades of research on building strengths in troubled youth. Grounded in Circle of Courage principles and research on trauma, resilience, and group dynamics, this peer-helping model is listed as a research-based practice. The goal of PPC is to transform coercive environments into cultures of respect.

Topical Outline:

1. Cultures of Respect
2. Roots of Reclaiming
3. The Power of Peers
4. Trust: Restoring Belonging
5. Talent: Resolving Problems
6. Power: Sharing Responsibility
7. Purpose: Serving Others
8. Developing Peer Helping Groups
9. Developing Total Teamwork
10. Fidelity: True to Principles

Learning Goals:

1. Identify Indigenous and Western knowledge about building egalitarian cultures of respect.
2. Review research on group dynamics and peer influence in autocratic or democratic settings.
3. Use Circle of Courage principles and strategies for teaching youth: Trust: Restoring Belonging; Talent: Resolving Problems; Power: Sharing Responsibility; Purpose: Serving Others
4. Develop cohesive, participatory staff teams that focus on needs of youth.
5. Explore strategies for conducting formal and informal peer-helping groups.
6. Maintain program quality with indices of positive and problematic groups.

Required Readings

Respectful Alliances: Positive Peer Culture

Larry Brendtro & Beate Kreisle (2022) Publisher: Resilience Resources

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

Larry Brendtro, Martin Mitchell, and colleagues (2015). Publisher: Starr Commonwealth.

Course Requirements

Undergraduate 3 semester hours

1. *Class participation*: Fully participate in all sessions.
2. *Examination*: Complete a multiple-choice exam on key concepts from training and PPC text. This PPC competency exam can be found at www.reclaimingyouthatrisk.org/grad-credit/
3. *Practicum project*: Complete a 4 to 6-page paper (double-spaced) 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* or other scholarly publication that clearly connects with content of this course.
5. *Personal reflection*: Complete a 4 to 6-page essay describing your own personal experience in a peer group, 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. This PPC competency exam can be found at www.reclaimingyouthatrisk.org/grad-credit/
3. *Practicum project*: Complete a 6 to 8-page paper (double-spaced) applying these principles to a group, class, or individual 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 *Reclaiming Youth at Risk* or other scholarly publication that clearly connect with content of this course.
5. *Personal reflection*: Complete a 6 to 8-page essay describing your own personal experience in a peer group, either on events in your youth or as a member of a professional staff or team.

Grading (A-F letter grades)

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 3 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit.

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.