Dr. Norton is inviting you to participate in a participatory action research project aimed at involving students in SOWK 5327: Advanced Practice with Groups in creating a new model of stages of group development. Current models are limiting and do not always take into consideration multicultural factors. If you agree to participate in this study, you will have an opportunity to reflect on your group work practicum and create your own model of group development theory that can add to current knowledge in the field. Dr. Norton has transformed SOWK 5327 into a multicultural course, and would also like to measure the impact that the course transformation has on MSW students’ level of cultural competence. The purpose behind this study is educational and to improve the course content to best meet student needs and prepare them for culturally competent practice as social work professionals. The project also gives MSW students an opportunity to be involved in theory building about social work practice with groups. Dr. Norton can be reached at 512-245-4562 or at [cn19@txstate.edu](mailto:cn19@txstate.edu) if you have questions about this study.

If you agree to participate in this study you will be asked to complete an adapted version of the Multicultural Awareness, Knowledge and Skills survey during the first month of the semester and again during the final class session. The survey has questions about your cultural competence and asks you to respond based on a 4-point Likert scale. For example, the survey asks if you agree or disagree with statements like this one: “Psychological problems vary with the culture of the client.” The survey has approximately 30 closed-ended questions and will take around 15 minutes to complete. If you participate in this study, the group development model that you present during your group presentation on the final day of class will be used as qualitative data and will be included in the findings of the research study. You may choose not to answer all or part of any questions for any reason. There will be no penalty for choosing not to participate.

The information you give is anonymous. There will be no information linking you to your answers. All data will be kept in a locked file cabinet that only Dr. Norton has access to and will be destroyed after five years. Data collected and transferred to computer files will be password protected. Analysis of data will be completed in another password protected file that is solely accessed by the research committee.

While there are not major risks in this study, students who participate will be given the opportunity to meet individually with Dr. Norton to discuss the results of pre-to-post survey, in order to process their own feelings about their scores. Students in this study will gain direct experience being a part of a group, and they will also have an opportunity to generate new knowledge in the field of social work practice with groups. They will be able to develop and assess their own levels of cultural competence, as well.

You can ask any questions at anytime that you have about the study. Please contact Dr. Norton at [cn19@txstate.edu](mailto:cn19@txstate.edu) or 512-245-4562. A summary of the findings will be shared as soon as possible. To obtain a summary you may contact us by phone or email. It is the intention of the Dr. Norton to publish and present findings for educational purposes.

Any further questions you may have about the research or your rights should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser 512.245.3413 ([lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist at 512.245.2102.

If you agree to participate in this research project, please sign and date below.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Norton

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Signature of participant DATE

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Signature of researcher DATE