Course Syllabus
COUN 5365 Socio-Cultural Family Issues in Counseling
Summer 2016 1385 Mon. 5:30-9:50

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Phone: 832-428-9598
Office Hours: By appointment only

General Course Description:

This course includes the study of the major theories and research involving the counseling of families in social and cultural context. The Locke Paradigm is the framework in which the social, cultural, and family issues in counseling are investigated. Substance abuse issues and treatment are investigated. This course includes the study of substance abuse issues and treatment.

This course is designed for advanced graduate students who are preparing to practice counseling in various clinical settings. It is assumed that you have already received training in foundational counseling theories and clinical skills. This course will serve as an introduction to systemic perspectives and family therapy orientations for counseling. We will review contextual factors that impact the family system including social, cultural, political, and other factors including substance abuse. This course is intended to provide only an introduction to becoming a family therapy practitioner and will not be able to provide full competency as a family therapy clinician.

Goals and Objectives:

As a result of participation in this course, students should:

1. Become aware of social cultural, political, gender and other factors that influence family systems and individuals.
2. Be able to identify and describe major theories of family therapy theories.
3. Learn the key figures, historical context and development of the major theories of family therapy.
4. Become aware of different perspectives that explain people’s motivations, behaviors, cognitions, and pathology from a systemic perspective.
5. Be introduced to interventions associated with each of the major theories of family therapy.
6. Identify strength and weaknesses for each of the major theories of family therapy theories.
7. Become aware of influential and current research related to the field of family therapy.
8. Become aware of ethical considerations related to family therapy.

Required Text:

Recommended Text:


Student Expectations and Conduct:

Students are expected to uphold and abide by the UST mission statement, core values, code of student conduct, and academic standards which are provided in the student handbook. In addition, please refer to the University of St. Thomas School of Education and Human Services Clinical Mental Health Counseling Programs’ Dispositions. Any student misconduct or
violations of academic integrity, which includes but is not limited to cheating or plagiarism, will be reported according to the process and guidelines described in the Procedures for Cases of Academic Dishonesty found in the UST student handbook.

Attendance to class is required and crucial to the success of your performance in this course, as we will have many discussions, group activities, and media examples that will take place during class time, which will enhance your understanding of the course material and preparation for exams. It is your responsibility to be punctual and attend classes or to otherwise obtain information presented in class from another student. It is also your responsibility to prepare by reading the corresponding text book chapter and/or supplemental readings for each class to be able to engage in class discussion and group activities.

Attendance and class participation will be accounted for in your final grade for this course. Please inform the instructor of any expected absences in advance. After the first unexcused absence, 10 points per absence will be deducted from your attendance/participation grade for the course. If you are absent on a day with a graded class assignment or activity, you will receive a zero for that assignment unless you have made other arrangements with the instructor prior to the date of absence. In addition, out of respect and courtesy to fellow classmates, all cell phones/pagers need to be turned off during class time.

Students with Disabilities:
Any student with disabilities or other special needs that may require special accommodations for this course should inform the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. In order to receive any special accommodations, student must be registered with the Counseling and Disability Services. For more information about student disabilities and accommodations, please contact the campus Counseling and Disabilities Services at 713-525-2169 or 713-525-6953. Students taking exams at the student testing center must complete the exam on the same day as it is scheduled for the rest of the class, unless other arrangements are made in advance with the instructor.

Evaluation of Course:
Final grades will consist of total points earned from attendance/class participation, 1 case study written assignments, daily quizzes, daily reflection papers, and one final exam. The final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer type questions. Unless due to emergency or extreme circumstances that can be documented, no make-up quizzes or exams will be given. If you have an emergency, please make an earnest effort to contact and notify the instructor as early as possible.

Written assignments are due at the start of class on the due date designated on the syllabus and class schedule, unless notified otherwise by the instructor. Unless due to extreme circumstances, emergencies, or previously negotiated with instructor, no late written assignments will be accepted and no make-up exams will be given. If arrangements were made prior to the due date and a late assignment is accepted, 5-10 points will automatically be deducted from grade if a late assignment is accepted after the due date. If you have an emergency, please make an earnest effort to contact and notify the instructor as early as possible. Points for your final grade will be distributed as listed below:
Attendance/Class Participation 50 points
Film Assignment 100 points
Daily Quizzes 100 points
Daily Reflections 50 points
Final Exam 100 points

Total cumulative points possible 400 points

To determine your final course grade, divide total points earned by 400 and then multiply by 100. Final average grades correspond with the following letter grades:

A  = 94-100    A- = 90-93    B+ = 87-89    B  = 83-86
B- = 80-82    C+ = 77-79    C  = 73-76    C- = 70-72
D  = 60-69    F  = Below

Film Written Assignment:

The film case study written assignment will be an analysis of a fictional family from a film conceptualized by a family therapy theoretical orientation of your choice. A brief summary of your choice of theory should be included and then utilized to analyze the case study. APA style and format should be utilized and the maximum length allowed for each paper is 7 pages, double spaced. All written assignments must be submitted in class on the due date. Each case study written assignment will be graded according to the rubric below.

Quality of writing 15 points
Organization, Grammar, Transitions, Clarity
Summary of theory 25 points
Key concepts
Analysis of case study utilizing theory 40 points
Application of theory to case, case conceptualization
Treatment/intervention recommendations 20 points
Theory directed treatment plan

Total 100 points

Daily Quizzes

There will be a daily quiz to enhance and reinforce each of the family therapy theories presented during class. Each quiz will be administered during class time. Each quiz will be worth 10 pts. We will have a total of 12 quizzes during the semester. At the end of the semester, the 10 highest scores will count towards your final grade. There will be no make-up quizzes provided. If you are tardy or absent for a quiz, you will receive a zero for the quiz.

Daily Reflections
A total of 2 daily reflection assignments will be required from each student. The purpose of the reflection assignments is to promote conceptualizing your own family of origin according to each of the presented family therapy theories. These assignments will be graded according to your level of insight, demonstration of understanding theory and application to your family of origin. Each assignment will be worth 25 points. You may choose the 4 theories you would like to write about but each paper must be submitted on the due date designated for that theory on the class schedule. If you prefer, you may choose a fictional family from a movie or television show rather than your own family of origin.
### Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to stay current on changes to the syllabus. Additional reading assignments may be required during the course of this semester.

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<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Related Reading Assignment</th>
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| 6/6/16     | Introduction to Course- Review Syllabus  
Foundations of Family Therapy  
Individual vs. Family Therapy  
Evolution of Family Therapy  
Locke Paradigm  
Genograms | Nichols Introduction pgs. 1-8  
Nichols Chapter 1 Locke article |
| 6/13/16    | Quiz Chapter 1  
Basic Techniques  
Family Life Cycle  
Specific Issues addressed by Family Therapy  
Fundamental Concepts of Family Therapy  
Cybernetics  
Systems Theory  
Attachment Theory  
The Working Concepts of Family Therapy | Nichols Chapter 2  
Nichols Chapter 3 |
| 6/20/16    | Quiz Chapter 2  
Quiz Chapter 3  
Bowen Family Therapy  
Strategic Family Therapy | Nichols Chapter 4  
Nichols Chapter 5 |
| 6/27/16    | Quiz Chapter 4  
Quiz Chapter 5  
Structural Family Therapy  
Experiential Family Therapy  
Reflection Paper Due for Bowenian and Strategic Family Therapy | Nichols Chapter 6  
Nichols Chapter 7 |
| 7/4/16     | Fourth of July Holiday-No Class  
Film Assignment | |
| 7/11/16    | Quiz Chapter 6  
Quiz Chapter 7  
Psychoanalytic Family Therapy  
Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy  
Reflection Paper Due for Structural and Experiential Therapy | Nichols Chapter 8  
Nichols Chapter 9 |
| 7/18/16    | Quiz Chapter 8  
Quiz Chapter 9  
Family Therapy in the 21st Century  
Postmodernism  
Feminist Family Therapy  
Solution Focused Therapy  
Narrative Therapy  
Reflection Paper Due for Psychoanalytic and Cognitive –Behavioral Family Therapy  
**Film Case Study Assignment Due** | Nichols Chapter 10  
Nichols Chapter 11  
Nichols Chapter 12 |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/25/16</td>
<td>Quiz Chapter 10, Quiz Chapter 11, Quiz Chapter 12, Comparative Analysis, Integrative Models, Reflection Paper Due for Solution-Focused and Narrative Family Therapy</td>
<td>Nichols Chapter 13</td>
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<td>8/1/16</td>
<td>Review and Final Exam</td>
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