

“Reflective Professionals Building Learning Communities”

COURSE TITLE

COUN 421: Advanced Marriage and Family Counseling

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

name
office
phone
email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An advanced experience in Marriage and Family counseling. Focuses on developing a personal model of counseling and experiencing the total therapeutic process. Diagnostic skills, case analysis, and relationship strategies are emphasized (e.g., divorce counseling).

PREREQUISITES

Graduate standing and COUN 420

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Simon, G. (2003). *Beyond technique in family therapy: Finding your therapeutic voice*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Walter, J. & Peller, J. (1992). *Becoming solution focused in brief therapy*. New York: Brunner Mazel.

Ziegler, P., & Hiller, T. (2001). *Recreating partnership: A solution-oriented, collaborative approach to couples therapy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODE

The class will be a seminar and lab experience where discussions of advanced theoretical and clinical issues pertaining to family counseling, and a beginning understanding of the interface between self and clients will occur. Students will be placed into teams, and will work with outside clients provided by other teams in the class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will prepare the student for

1. an understanding of advanced systemic theory and practice;
2. the development of interviewing, assessment and case management systemic skills for working with individuals, couples, families and other systems;
3. current family treatment models; and
4. knowledge of the writings of current major theorists

REQUIRED PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

Students will be required to

1. prepare a summary to present to classmates of one theoretical orientation of their choice. In preparing the summary, include questions that a counselor with that orientation would ask. Distribute a copy of summary and questions for each classmate;
2. participate in role-plays of family sessions as both client families and therapists/teams;
3. conduct family sessions;
4. prepare one assessment of the family you work with as primary counselor using the assessment device provided;
5. use one of several client satisfaction inventories, contact peer clients and assess the effectiveness of counseling; and
6. maintain contact logs of sessions in the client file.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be given as follows:

A = work that meets all of the requirements and expectations of the class, plus demonstrates scholarship and excellence

B = work that meets all of the requirements and expectations of the class;

C = work below standards outline above; and

F = failure to comply with class assignments.

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D= 60-69%

INFORMED CONSENT

In compliance with the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics regarding counselor training, and because the Department of Counselor Education at Northeastern Illinois University is a clinical training program as well as a graduate degree program, admission to this department indicates that an admitted student agrees to self-disclosure of personal information in papers, journals, discussions and other assignments for the purposes of self-reflection and awareness and improvement of interpersonal skills.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

The following chart indicates the relationship of the learning/performance objectives of this course, the standards of the Department of Counselor Education (DCE), the College of Education (COE), CACREP, and the means by which learning is assessed.

COUN 421 Course Objectives	DCE Objectives	COE Objectives	CACREP Standards	Means of Assessment
1.advanced systemic practice	1d.introduction to major theories of counseling/psychotherapy	foundations, content	C1.family systems theories in working with couples, families, and other systems A3.ethical and legal	theory presentations
2. interviewing	2a.learning application to practical situations within didactic courses 2b. acquire verbal, non-verbal interaction skills; probing statements, summarization, self-disclosure	assessment	C2.interviewing, assessment, and case management skills for working with individuals, couples, families, and other systems	client interviews client logs assessment role plays
3.current interview models	1d. supervised laboratory/practicum experiences in appropriate settings	content	B2. human sexuality issues and impact on family/couple functioning; strategies for resolution B 3 societal trends	theory presentations
4.professional readings in field	1e.post-practicum internship demonstrating readiness for counselor role	organizational culture	C1. Theories A5. role of marital, couple, family counselors in practice settings, relation to other helping professions	client interviews

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. For more information, please see University Catalogue.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Northeastern Illinois University does not discriminate against employees or students on the basis of disability. In addition, the university provides reasonable accommodations for both employees and students with disability. Students seeking reasonable accommodations in the classroom should contact the Accessibility Center/HELP, A-118 (phone 773/442-5495, 5496, or 5497; TDD 773/442-5499). The University Policy on Services for Students with Disabilities may be found at: <http://www.neiu.edu/%7EDeanSt/survival/disabilities.pdf>. Students should feel free to meet with the instructor, in confidence, at any time to discuss any reasonable accommodations or removal of barriers that may hinder full inclusion and participation in the course and their learning experience.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
Week 1	Introduction to Course Review of the Field of Family Counseling Journals and Associations	Simon
Week 2	Bowen's Systemic Therapy – Your Family of Origin and Interface	Handouts
Week 3	Structural Theory	Handouts
Week 4	Structural Family Therapy Practice Sessions with Peers	Handouts
Week 5	Structural Family Therapy Practice Session with Peers	Handouts
Week 6	Strategic Theory Developing the Team Practice sessions with Peers	
Week 7	Strategic Family Therapy Family sessions	Handouts
Week 8	Strategic Family Therapy Family sessions	
Week 9	Solution-Focused Therapy Family Sessions	
Week 10	Solution-Focused Family Therapy Family Sessions	
Week 11	Constructivist Theory Family Sessions	
Week 12	Narrative Family Therapy Family Sessions	
Week 13	Family Therapy Consultation and Supervision Family Sessions	
Week 14	Family Sessions	
Week 15	Final Wrap-Up	

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General

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Child Abuse

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Adoption And Infertility

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Divorce

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Journal of Strategic and Systemic Therapies

Journal of Feminist Family Therapy

Journal of Psychotherapy and the Family

Voices