

University of North Texas at Dallas

Spring 2015

SYLLABUS

COUN 5580 Family Counseling		3 Hrs.
Department of	Counseling	Division of
		Education
Instructor Name:	Amy McCortney, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC	
Office Location:	Dallas 2 3 rd Floor Adjunct Center	
Office Phone:	972-780-1345	
Email Address:	amy.mccortney@unt.edu	
Office Hours:	By appointment	
Virtual Office Hours:	By phone or email	
Classroom Location:	Dal2 Rm. 338	
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Thursdays 5:00-6:50 p.m.	
Course Catalog Description:	Students will study the application of family systems theories to the study of family dynamics, family development, and the resolution of family conflict.	
Prerequisites:	-	
Co-requisites:	-	
Required Text:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterson, J., Williams, L., Edwards, T.M., Chamow, L., & Grauf-Grounds, C. (2009). <i>Essential skills in family therapy: From first interview to termination</i> (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Guilford. • Dattilio, F.M., Jongsma, A.E., & Edwards, S.D. (2010). <i>Family therapy treatment planner</i> (2nd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. • Classnotes, readings, and powerpoints on Blackboard website. 	
Recommended Text and References:	American Psychological Association. (2009). <i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association</i> (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.	
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com	
Course Goals or Overview:	The goal of this course is to demonstrate an understanding of principles and models of family systems, concepts of wellness and maladjustment leading to appropriate counseling conceptualization and interventions, within a legal and ethical counseling framework; as well as a focus on promotion of optimal family functioning.	
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Discuss the history, philosophy, and trends in marriage, couple, and family counseling. (CACREP II.G. A.1)	
2	Discuss the ethical and legal considerations specifically related to the practice of marriage, couple and family counseling (CACREP II.G.A.2)	
3	Know the roles and functions of marriage, couple, and family counselors, professional organizations and preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of marriage,	

	couple, and family counseling (CACREP II.G.A.3, 4)
4	Understand a variety of models and theories of marriage, couple, and family counseling (CACREP II.G.A.5)
5	Understand family development and various family-related issues, as well as the impact of crises, disasters, and other trauma-causing events on marriages, couples, families, and households (CACREP II.G.A.6, 7)
6	Demonstrate the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards in marriage, couple, and family counseling (CACREP II.G.B.1)
7	Demonstrate the ability to select models or techniques appropriate to couples' or families' presenting problems (CACREP II.G.B.2)
8	Understand issues of marriage, couple, and family life-cycle dynamics; healthy family functioning; family structures; and family of origin and intergenerational influences in a multicultural society (CAREP II.G.C.1)
9	Recognize specific problems (e.g., addictive behaviors, domestic violence, suicide risk, immigration) and interventions that can enhance family functioning (CACREP II.G.C.3)
10	Identify preventive, developmental, and wellness approaches in working with couples and families such as premarital counseling, parenting skills training, and relationship enhancement (CACREP II.G.D.1)
11	Use systems theories to conceptualize issues in marriage, couple, and family counseling, and to identify means of implementing treatment, planning, and intervention strategies (CACREP II.G.D.2,3)
12	Understand how living in a multicultural society affects couples and families (CACREP II.G.E.1)
13	Recognize societal trends and treatment issues related to working with multicultural and diverse family systems, and understand current literature that outlines theories, approaches, strategies, and techniques shown to be effective in working with diverse family systems (CACREP II.G.E.2,3)
14	Understand how to critically evaluate research relevant to the practice of marriage, couple, and family counseling, and know evidence-based treatments and basic strategies for evaluating counseling outcomes in marriage, couple, and family counseling (CACREP II.G.1,3)

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by email, Blackboard notification, and in-class notification.

	Activity	Readings	Deadlines
1/22	Introduction; class orientation; introduction to family systems		
1/29 online	Histories of systems theories	P et al. 1; Cullin (2006); Kaslow (2010)	(view quiz deadlines on Blackboard; 1st homework due by 2/4)
2/5	Family patterns and concepts/diversity	P et al. 7; Fishbane (2007)- 1st 10 pages; Landau (2007); Rutter (1999); Smith (1999)	(Check Bb folder each week for assignments)
2/12 online	Structural models	P et al. 6; Ramisch et al. (2009); Vetere (2001)	
2/19	Strategic models	Coyne & Biglan (1984); Nelson & Figley (1990)	Plan genogram interviews
2/26 online	Social construction models	Dallas & Urry (1999)	
3/5	Genogram review; Problem identification	P et al. 2 & 3; Butler (2008)	
3/12 online	Midterm exam		
3/19	<i>Spring break</i>		
3/26	Transgenerational models	Daud et al. (2005)	
4/2 online	Family assessment	P et al. 4	
4/9	Basics of treatment planning	DJD 1 & pp. 19-27; P et al. 5	Genogram due
4/16 online	<i>Flex day</i>	Tuerk et al. (2012)	
4/23	Student presentations	P et al. 10	Treatment plans due (with presentation)
4/30 online	Ethical and legal issues	Hare-Mustin (1980); Nestor et al. (2011); Patten et al. (1991)	
5/7	Student presentations	P et al. 11 & 12	
5/14	Final exam		SETE evals; tk20 due

Course Evaluation Methods

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, & PREPARATION:

To be successful in this course, students must be able to retain and apply information in a practical manner; it is essential that students come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Careful preparation will facilitate

understanding of lectures and successful completion of in-class and hybrid exercises. Readings from the textbook are always required. Supplemental required readings are available via **Blackboard**.

Level of class participation is qualitatively determined by my subjective appraisal of your class interaction and attentiveness. Participation is best manifested by readiness and *active* participation in class discussion. It may be helpful to jot down thoughts or questions during your reading time, and bring these to class to stimulate discussion. ...there are no “stupid” questions or observations. Appropriate class behavior and participation consistent with that of graduate students is expected. **Students are therefore expected to refrain from all inappropriate behavior including but not limited to: passing notes, sleeping, text-messaging, surfing the internet, emailing, and working on other material during class time.** To that end, please turn off your cellphones during class and close laptops during experiential exercises, videos, and/or during any other class activity during which your attention is expected. Inappropriate behavior or low participation will result in one-on-one conferences, a remedial action plan, faculty review, and a low-effectiveness report in your permanent student file.

Absences in **excess of one excused absence** and/or **chronic tardiness** will affect the final grade in the course, and could result in a failing grade and the need to repeat the course. When possible, any absences should be discussed with the instructor in advance; and while it is certainly understandable that tardiness is occasionally unavoidable, chronic tardiness will result in the loss of 5% deduction from their total points per incident if they (a) miss more than one class meeting for other than a *documented* emergency reason (death in family, hospitalization, major or severe illness); (b) are tardy more than 10 minutes or leave class early more than twice a semester; or (c) consistently interact in a non-professional or disruptive manner with peers or this professor. Additional missed classes or chronic tardiness will result in another 5% deduction. Students are still responsible for all material and assignments covered on days they are absent.

HOMEWORK & ACTIVITIES

Regular practice/experiential exercises will be completed during class or before the next class. These may include quizzes, brief essays, and/or experiential activities (e.g., expressive arts, sandtray, communication activities, brief interviews of family members, interviews of counseling professionals proficient in parenting and family therapy, etc.). Weekly homework on Blackboard is a regular assignment that must be completed; this homework carries the same expectations and due date requirements as does any in-class work. **Homework which is not completed by the due date will receive an automatic 0, and there will be no “make-ups” or deadline extensions provided.**

TREATMENT PLANNING AND EVIDENCE-BASED TECHNIQUES (EBT) PROJECT

Students will develop and enact a family treatment plan, complete with an evidence-based family intervention. The treatment plan should be professionally written and identify objectives for improved family functioning, which relate to at least one evidence-based intervention. This EBT will be developed into a descriptive document distributed to classmates, and will be demonstrated during class.

GENOGRAM (FINAL) PROJECT

Students will complete a comprehensive visual genogram of their family-of-origin, using appropriate and accepted genogram symbols and identifying relationship and emotional dynamics. An accompanying paper is required to detail family dynamics and their impact on the student, and how these phenomena affect the student in areas of personal and professional growth as a future counselor. The paper will be written in APA style, fully cited, and must be a minimum of 10 pages of text. Detailed requirements of this project are provided on Blackboard. **Prepare well in advance to complete any necessary family interviews and research in order to adequately complete this project.**

Students are required to use professional and online resources in supporting discussions of family dynamics; sources must be cited, and references must be included on the handouts (see “Format guidelines” above). “Lay” or nonprofessional resources (such as online encyclopedias, Wikipedia, or publications like Psychology Today) are not accepted at the graduate level; potential alternative resources should be confirmed with this instructor well in advance.

MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Two non-comprehensive examinations are required for this course. Exams may include objective questions (true/false, multiple-choice, short-answer) and case vignettes which require the application of class learnings to questions. *Final exam includes a written treatment plan development portion.*

Student performance evaluation criteria and procedures:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Due Date(s)</u>
Participation & preparation	10	weekly
Homework/activities	10	weekly
Treatment plan/EBT	20	TBD; in class
Genogram (final) project	20	4/9
Midterm examination	20	3/12
Final examination	20	5/14

Course grading scale:

- 90-100: A
- 80-89: B
- 70-79: C
- 60-69: D
- 0-59: F

Students must achieve a grade of B or higher in order to pass Masters-level classes.

Grade of Incomplete

A student may receive a grade of I (Incomplete) if at least 50 percent of the course requirements have been completed with passing grades, but for some documented and justifiable reason, acceptable to the instructor, the student has been unable to complete the full requirements of the course. At the time a grade of I is given, the instructor must stipulate in writing to the student and to the University registrar the requirements and completion date that are to be met and the grade that will be given if the requirements are not met by the completion date. The maximum period of time allowed to clear the Incomplete grade normally is 12 months. If the Incomplete grade is not cleared by the date set by the instructor or by the end of the 12-month Policies and Procedures 25 deadline, the grade of I will be changed to the grade provided by the instructor at the time the Incomplete grade was assigned or to a grade of F if no alternate grade was provided. The grade of I is not given in lieu of a grade of F or W, or other grade, each of which is prescribed for other specific circumstances.

If the student’s work is incomplete, poor quality and not acceptable, a grade of F will be given. The grade of I does not authorize a student to attend the course during a later term. Graduation candidates must clear all Incomplete grades prior to the deadline in the Official University Calendar, which may allow less time than 12 months. Failure to do so can result in removal from the degree candidacy list and/or conversion of the grade of I to the grade indicated by the instructor at the time the grade of I was given.

For graduate students, a maximum of two (six hours) concurrently held grades of Incomplete in courses other than thesis is allowed. If this maximum is reached, the student will be allowed to take only one three-hour course per term until the Incomplete total is reduced. Students who accumulate a total of three grades of Incomplete in courses other than thesis will be put on probation and not allowed to enroll further until the total is reduced.

Tk20:

This course requires an assignment that will be uploaded and assessed in the UNT Tk20 Assessment System. This will require the one-time purchase of Tk20. Student subscriptions will be effective for seven years from the date of purchase and can also be used for other classes. Key assignments must be uploaded into the Tk20 system for instructors to assess.

CLASS GUIDELINES

Overview of requirements:

1. Attend and participate in all class discussions and activities
2. Complete assigned readings prior to class
3. Complete in-class and homework assignments, activities, and experiential exercises
4. Successfully complete one EBT treatment plan and demonstration; complete one personal family genogram
5. Successfully complete one midterm and one final examination

OVERARCHING REQUIREMENTS:

Due dates and deadlines:

Students are responsible for submitting assignments on the date indicated on the syllabus. Assignments will be considered late if not received by beginning of class on the date required and will receive an automatic deduction of 5 points. Assignments will receive a deduction of 5 pts/day they are late. Assignments that are more than 3 days late will not be accepted, and the student will be assigned a 0 for the assignment. When necessary, students may submit assignments early or via email.

Format guidelines:

Unless otherwise indicated, formal papers or assignments should be written in accordance with APA style. . Excellent papers will reference scholarly sources and reflect a depth of critical thought and a writing style commensurate with graduate-level work. Specifically, assignments should:

1. Contain an APA-style cover page and reference page
2. Be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins, and in 12-point Times New Roman font
3. Contain citations and references correctly formatted according to the *APA Publication Manual* (6th ed.) guidelines
4. Adhere to minimum page length, formatting, and content guidelines – cover pages and reference pages will not be counted toward fulfilling the required page length. Incorrectly completed assignments will be evaluated as such.

The instructor will be happy to consult regarding content and style of papers.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

According to the new departmental policy, late assignments will receive a 10% deduction if the assignment is submitted within the first two days of the due date, and a 20% deduction for three or more days late.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html for complete provisions of this code.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.

Additional Policies:

Class participation Policy:

*Level of class participation is qualitatively determined by my subjective appraisal of your class interaction and attentiveness. Participation is best manifested by readiness and active participation in class discussion. It may be helpful to jot down thoughts or questions during your reading time, and bring these to class to stimulate discussion. ...there are no "stupid" questions or observations. Appropriate class behavior and participation consistent with that of graduate students is expected. **Students are therefore expected to refrain from all inappropriate behavior***

including but not limited to: passing notes, sleeping, text-messaging, surfing the internet, emailing, and working on other material during class time. To that end, please turn off your cellphones during class and close laptops during experiential exercises, videos, and/or during any other class activity during which your attention is expected. Inappropriate behavior or low participation will result in one-on-one conferences, a remedial action plan, faculty review, and a low-effectiveness report in your permanent student file. Non-professional or disruptive classroom behavior toward peers or professors will also result in a 5% deduction from your total final points.

Format guidelines:

Unless otherwise indicated, formal papers or assignments should be written in accordance with APA style.

Specifically, assignments should:

- Contain an APA-style cover page and correctly formatted reference page
- Be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins, and in 12-point Times New Roman font
- Contain citations and references formatted according to the APA Publication Manual (6th ed.) guidelines
- Adhere to minimum page length, formatting, and content guidelines – cover pages and reference pages will not be counted toward fulfilling the required page length. Incorrectly completed assignments will be evaluated as such.

Blackboard:

We will be using Blackboard as a course management tool this semester. Students may access the course using their EUID and password via <http://Blackboard.unt.edu>. Once within Blackboard, you will be able to view announcements, download and print copies of class materials, access course readings, and check your grades. The instructor may also post audio files of lectures for those who are absent or who would like to review class sessions. We may use the assessment function to submit homework exercises.

Citation & Style:

All sources used for all assignments **must be cited** in APA format, and APA style cover pages and reference pages are required. Excellent papers will reference scholarly sources and reflect a depth of critical thought and a writing style commensurate with graduate-level work. The instructor will be happy to consult regarding content and style of papers.

turnitin.com:

All written assignments should be submitted to turnitin.com for an originality report. Your class ID is **5996378**; your initial password is **DRMC**.