

PSY576 Counseling in Community Settings

Reformed Theological Seminary–Orlando

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., 3 hours

Spring Semester, 2008

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to examine the specialty of community counseling. The course itself will be shaped by three major components: 1) the study of current trends and topics in community counseling, 2) the practice of specific techniques and interventions, and 3) the application of the techniques in community settings. The general principles of community counseling, including, but not limited to, prevention, intervention, education, outreach, advocacy, consultation, crisis intervention, and service delivery will be discussed. The emphasis of the course will be on understanding the challenges of counseling in various community settings and the application of specific interventions in these settings. The format of the course will allow each student the opportunity to apply his/her academic talents, life experiences, clinical background, and Christian worldview to the counseling profession.

OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students should demonstrate the following competencies:

1. More fully comprehend the counseling profession and the demands of practicing therapy in our current cultural milieu.
2. Develop an understanding of his or her role as a social change agent and client advocate.
3. Grow in his or her ability to serve vulnerable populations through preventive education and specific models of community counseling.
4. Be familiar with different community agencies and contexts of community counseling.
5. Understand their personal and professional self as a counselor in a community setting.

FORMAT

Information will be conveyed to the students via lecture, group discussion, interviews, and presentations.

REQUIRED TEXT

Lewis, J. A., Lewis, M. D., Daniels, J. A., & D'Andrea, M. J. (2003). *Community counseling: Empowerment strategies for a diverse society* (3rd ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Community Education Project

Each student will spend a minimum of one-hour educating some sector of the Orlando-metro community regarding a selected mental health related topic (one-hour per person if multiple people work together). Identify a target audience and a mental health related topic that would be beneficial for this audience. Make sure you coordinate this project with a key person within the target audience and confirm the relevancy of the topic for the audience. Research your topic and present it to the target group. What to turn in: A description of the topic; the format, location, duration, and date(s) of the presentation, and the number of people in attendance. The project must be pre-approved by the professor. The write-up for this project is due May 8, 2006 at the beginning of class.

2. Community Referral Research and Presentation

The purpose of this assignment is to broaden your awareness of community resources and referral sources. Each student will identify a counseling/mental health referral source in the Orlando metro area, visit the facility in person, interview the director of the facility, collect detailed information about the services provided, obtain any printed literature, and then present this information to the class. Copies of the literature should be made for each student (if no literature is available, create a handout). The facility must be approved by the professor (interviewing private practice counselors is not permissible for this assignment). Your presentation should cover the following information:

- a. Purpose/mission of the organization
- b. Location
- c. Population served
- d. Services provided, including the form of these services (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, phone consultation, etc.)
- e. Duration of treatment/services
- f. Funding sources
- g. Fees/insurance
- h. Contact information

Students will be responsible for adding their agency information to the community referral notebook in the Oviedo Counseling Clinic. Written confirmation of this is due by May 8, 2006. Presentation dates will be assigned.

2. *The Apprentice* Group Project

The purpose of this assignment is to broaden your awareness of community resources and how they work. Students will be divided into 5 groups (by picking numbers out of a hat, and giving low numbers first choice in group preference) and have the opportunity to create, from scratch, a mental health service “organization” of some kind. The instructor will provide 5 choices. Each group will choose a leader. The leader will be responsible for:

- a. Keeping the group on task.
- b. Assigning individual tasks.
- c. Grading the performance of the group members.
- d. Making sure the final CD/notebook is professionally done, copied, and distributed to each member of the class.
- e. Reporting any group issues to the instructor.

The groups will use class time for organization and preparation, but will have to implement their given tasks outside of class time. Each group will compile a notebook, containing no less than the following:

- a. Organization name
- b. Purpose/mission of the organization – a written mission statement
- c. Population served – please justify the need for this organization
- d. Legal standing of the organization (e.g., non-profit, corporation, etc.). Please detail the steps one needs to take to form this kind of organization, and the legal requirements of the providers within the organization (e.g., Do the providers need to be licensed?; Do the providers and/or the organization need a state, county and/or city permit?; Is fictitious name registration required?)
- d. Services provided, including the form of these services (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, phone consultation, individual, small group, large group, etc.)
 1. The purpose of the service (why is it relevant/needed in the community?)
 2. Detailed section for each kind of service (e.g., sexual addiction “groups”)
 3. How each one is organized and run (e.g., duration, fees, leaders, rules)
 4. The expectations for client(s)
- e. Relevant legal and ethical information derived from the state of Florida Statutes and Rules, and the ACA Code of Ethics or other pertinent codes (e.g., AACC, APA, pastoral codes of ethics, etc.). Please include relevant portions of the codes in this part by citing sections and including the text.
- f. Funding sources
- g. Fees/insurance
- h. Legal forms (intake, confidentiality, informed consent, and other major forms necessary)
- i. Pertinent test or measurement apparatus, and why.
- j. References of relevant people/agencies who provided you with the information needed to complete the project.
- k. A brochure for the organization
- l. Any additional information deemed necessary.

This project will be completed over the first eight weeks of the course.

3. *The Apprentice* Group Presentations

During the last 5 weeks of the course, each group will take a class period to present their organization using a PowerPoint presentation. Notebooks in CD format containing the information from the Group Project Assignment will be distributed to each class member at this time. All other class members will evaluate and grade the presentation and final product on a 100-point scale based on the following 10 criteria (50 for the notebook, 50 for the presentation):

Notebook

- a. Quality: How would you rate the quality and excellence of the product? To what degree does it appear professional? Are all of the parts clearly explained and cohesive?
- b. Service product: Are the services provided relevant and “doable”?
- c. Thoroughness: Is the entire notebook completed? Are their sections that were not done to your satisfaction?
- d. Organization: Is the notebook well-organized? Were the sections clearly delineated, and the parts of each section clear and easy-to-understand?
- e. Marketability: Is the product something you can envision being operational in the community?

Give the group a point value (between 0-50).

Presentation

- a. Participation: Did each member of the group pull his/her weight?
- b. Preparation: Did the group members appear prepared?
- c. Presentation: Did the group do a good job marketing their product? Did they use relevant graphics, data, stats, multimedia, etc. that aided in the presentation?
- d. Professionalism: Did the group articulately and competently present themselves?
- e. Overall Quality: Your evaluation of their overall work.

Give the group a point value (between 0-50).

GRADING

30 points	Community Education Project
20 points	Community Referral Research and Presentation
50 points	<i>Apprentice</i> Notebook
50 points	<i>Apprentice</i> Presentation
150 points	Total Possible Points

Course grades will be determined by adding earned points from the assignments above. Grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 145-150 points	B- = 129-131 points	D+ = 112-116 points
A- = 141-144 points	C+ = 124-128 points	D = 108-111 points
B+ = 136-140 points	C = 120-123 points	D- = 105-107 points
B = 132-135 points	C- = 117-119 points	F = 104 points and below

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Classroom attendance and participation are required at all class sessions. If a student should miss a class, it is expected he/she will contact another student regarding the information covered. It is the student's responsibility to inform me if he/she cannot attend class. Unexcused absence will affect the students' grades. If an emergency arises, please contact me as soon as possible. Students who miss class persistently throughout the semester may be at risk for failing the course.

All assignments will be due on the date specified in the syllabus. For each day an assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the total score.