

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 their 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.

TEXTBOOK

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.
ISBN-13: 978-0534506261

REQUIREMENTS

1. Community Preventative 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 5, 2009 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 and dating their agency information to the community referral notebook in the Oviedo Counseling Clinic. Written confirmation of this is due by May 5, 2009.

Presentation dates will be assigned.

2. Community Program Group Project

The purpose of this assignment is for students to develop a community mental health service “organization” that could potentially serve as a counseling/mental health referral source. Students will be randomly divided into 5 groups and with the instructor’s assistance identify the type of organization they intend to create. Each group will choose a leader. The leader will be responsible for:

- a. Keeping the group on task.
- b. Assigning individual tasks.
- c. Making sure the final electronic notebook is professionally assembled and distributed to each member of the class.
- d. 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 create a business plan using a template that will be provided in class. The workload should be as equally distributed among the group members as possible. The assignment must conform to this template.

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

3. Community Program Group Project Presentations

During the last 5 weeks of the course, each group will take a class period to present their organization using a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation will be made as if the group were speaking to a group of investors or a referral source, but also include information helpful to the class regarding start-up requirements. All group members are expected to participate in the presentation. Notebooks in electronic form containing the information from the Community Program Group Project as well the PowerPoint presentation will be distributed to each class member at this time. All other class members will evaluate the presentation using the outline below in order to provide feedback to the presenters.

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?

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.

GRADING

30 points	Community Preventative Education Project
20 points	Community Referral Research and Presentation
100 points	Community Program Group Project Notebook
50 points	Community Program Group Project Presentation
200 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 = 194-200 points	B- = 172-175 points	D+ = 150-155 points
A- = 188-193 points	C+ = 166-171 points	D = 144-149 points
B+ = 182-187 points	C = 160-165 points	D- = 140-143 points
B = 176-181 points	C- = 156-159 points	F = 139 points and below

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

If a student should miss a class, it is expected he/she will contact another student regarding the information covered.

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.