

PSY576 Counseling in Community Settings

Reformed Theological Seminary–Orlando

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., 3 hours

Spring Semester, 2010

Instructor: Scott Coupland, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By appointment

Telephone: (407) 366-9493, ext. 238

E-mail: scoupland@rts.edu

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 should be submitted via email to scoupland@rts.edu by 5:00p.m. on May 6, 2009.

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. Presentation dates will be assigned.

3. Community Mental Health Service Organization Group Project and Presentation

The purpose of this assignment is for students to (1) select a community mental health service “organization” that could potentially serve as a counseling/mental health referral source, and then (2) identify the legal requirements for establishing and running this organization, and (3) develop three unique strategies for marketing this organization. Students will be randomly divided into 4 groups and with the professor’s assistance select a specific organization for this project. The final hour of the first eight weeks of class time will be used for planning and working on this project as a team. The workload should be as equally distributed among the group members as possible.

During the last 4 weeks of the course, each group will take a class period to present their projects to the class. A Powerpoint presentation and electronic handouts should be used to present the legal aspects necessary for establishing and running the organization. Three unique marketing

strategies should be developed and presented in whatever creative manner will help to convey the marketing approach. For example, using the internet to show a website that was developed for the organization, showing a promotional video for the organization, or handing out brochures for the organization.

GRADING

30 points	Community Preventative Education Project
20 points	Community Referral Research and Presentation
<u>150 points</u>	<u>Community Mental Health Service Organization Group Project and Presentation</u>
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

Classroom attendance and participation is expected 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.

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