

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND COUNSELING
COURSE SYLLABUS

Title of Course: **Marriage and Family Counseling (3 cr)**

Course No. **CP645**

Revised Spring 2012

Semester:

Instructor:

Office:

Phone:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

Class Room:

Class Dates:

Class Times:

Website:

Note: The Instructor will add the above information each semester.

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

An overview of the historical development and principal conceptualizations of marital and family counseling. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s):

Graduate Standing and Permission of the Instructor.

III. Course Integrated in to the Program Requirements

M.A. Career Counseling	M.A. School Counseling	M.A. Mental Health Counseling	Ed.S. Counseling Education	Psychological Examiner Certificate
		Required		

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn systems theories and their application to the treatment of couples and families. This outcome will be measured by the Comprehensive Professional Counseling Portfolio (CPCP).
2. Students will learn issues common to couple and family counseling (infidelity, abuse, divorce and family violence) and modalities of treatment for such issues. This outcome will be measured by the Comprehensive Professional Counseling Portfolio (CPCP).
3. Students will learn developmental transitions that families/couples face and common symptoms/crisis associated with normal lifespan issues and effective intervention

strategies for treatment. This outcome will be measured by the Comprehensive Professional Counseling Portfolio (CPCP).

V. Course as Relates to External Requirements

CACREP Requirements (2009)	DESE Requirements (2008)	LPC Requirements	NBCC Requirements

VI. Course as Relates to External Standards

CACREP Standards (2009)
DESE Standards (2008)

VII. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. Examine the history and development of the practice of marital and family counseling.
- B. Compare and contrast various approaches to marital and family counseling.
- C. Gain knowledge and skills relevant in the process of family counseling.
- D. Learn application of knowledge and skills in marital and family counseling.

VIII. Course Content or Outline:

Class Hours

- A. Historical Development of Marital and Family Counseling 6
 - 1. History and Prominent Figures
 - 2. Interdisciplinary contributions
 - 3. Professional Organizations
 - 4. Codes of Ethics

- B. Major Concepts and Issues in Marital and Family Counseling 12
 - 1. Healthy and Dysfunctional Families
 - 2. Diagnosis
 - 3. The "double bind"
 - 4. Symbiotic relationship
 - 5. Rules (Implicit, Explicit)
 - 6. Roles

7. Meta-communications
 8. Undifferentiated ego-mass
 9. Sexual Issues
 10. Divorce
 11. Substance Abuse
 12. Blended Families
 13. Infidelity
- C. Theoretical and Integrated Approaches to Marital and Family Counseling 21
1. Systems Theory
 2. Couple and Marriage Enrichment
 3. Rational Emotive
 4. Behavioral
 5. Structural Family Counseling
 6. Adlerian
 7. Emotionally Focused Therapy
 8. Solution Focused
 9. Narrative
 10. Cognitive Behavioral
- D. The Process of Family Counseling 6
1. Diagnosis & Assessment
 2. Conceptualization
 3. Treatment
 4. Follow-up

IX. Textbook(s):

Gurman, A. S., & Jacobsen, N.S. (Latest Edition). *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy*. New York, NY: Guilford Press, Inc.

Gladding, S. (Latest Edition). *Family Therapy: History, Theory, and Practice*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

X. Expectations of Students:

- A. The student is expected to participate in class discussions, role-plays, and presentations.
- B. The student will be expected to complete the required readings and assignments.
- C. Satisfactory performance on examinations.
- D. The student will be expected to demonstrate various skill assessment techniques and counseling intervention techniques through role-play.
- E. The student will be exposed to a variety of technological strategies to enhance learning.
- F. The student will be informed of current legal and ethical issues in marital, couple, and family counseling.

XI. Basis for Student Evaluation

- A. Written examinations (20%)
- B. Written critiques of professional articles (20%)
- C. Counseling role-plays (20%)
- D. Presentation (20%)
- E. Graduate quality research paper (20%)

Final letter grade:

91% to 100% -- A

81% to 90% -- B

71% to 80% -- C

0% to 70% -- F

Note: The section “Basis for Student Evaluation” is given as a general guideline. Course assignments and the exact final letter grade are at the discretion of the instructor. Each instructor will include assignment information and grading procedure in this section in the specific course syllabus handed out at the beginning of each semester.

XII. Methods of instruction

A combination of:

Classroom lectures and discussions

Classroom experiential exercises

Tests/exams

XIII. Academic Policy Statement:

Academic honesty is one of the most important qualities influencing the character and vitality of Southeast Missouri State University. Academic dishonesty is defined to include those acts which would deceive, cheat, or defraud so as to promote or enhance one's scholastic record. It includes: academic misconduct, dishonesty, plagiarism and cheating or knowingly or actively assisting another person in doing the same. Violations of academic honesty represent a serious breach of discipline and may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the University. Students are responsible for upholding the principles of academic honesty as they would any other professional and ethical standard. Refer to: <http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html>

Note: Faculty may add specific sanctions regarding academic dishonesty within the parameters outlined in the University Policy for Academic Honesty.

XIV. Students with Disabilities Statement:

If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. You must register as a student with a disability in the office of Learning Assistance Programs and Disability Support Services in University Center Room 302 or at 651-2273. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor prior to requesting reasonable accommodation. Failure to

do this may result in not receiving the requested accommodation. Refer to:
<http://www.semo.edu/cs/services/disability.htm>

XV. Civility, Respect and Classroom Etiquette:

The University strives to offer learning experiences and opportunities designed to help students think effectively, develop the capacity to communicate, differentiate values, and make relevant judgments. To do this successfully, many times multiple perspectives will be presented; some of which may represent points of view on which everyone will not agree. A successful educational experience requires a shared sense of respect among and between the students, the instructor and various points of view.

Further, it is to be expected that the instructor will treat all students with dignity and respect – it is also expected that the students will treat both the instructor and other students with this same respect. In order to facilitate this process more effectively, students are asked the following: 1) before class turn off all pager and cell phones; 2) refrain from text messaging during class; 3) avoid distracting behavior (e.g. popping gum, noisy eating, clipping fingernails); 4) minimize side conversations; and, 5) maintain respectful interactions. Finally, personal harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

XVI. Counselor Dispositions

Counselor Dispositions, as assessed within Counselor Education are guided by the central core of the Counseling Conceptual Framework. The beliefs and attitudes related to the areas of *competence, reflection and caring*, are the guiding influence with the eight foundational counselor dispositions assessed throughout the program. These are: 1) Genuineness, 2) Congruence, 3) Non-judgmental Respect, 4) Emotional Awareness, 5) Ethical Understanding, 6) Concreteness, 7) Empathy, and 8) Professional Commitment. See [Student Handbook](#).

XVII. Knowledge Base References:

An online Knowledge Base is maintained on the Program website. See <http://www4.semo.edu/counsel/Program/know-base.htm>

XVIII. Course Schedule

Note: Course Schedule will be added each semester by the instructor.

Questions, comments or requests regarding this course or program should be taken to your instructor. Unanswered questions or unresolved issues involving this class may be taken to Dr. Ruth Ann Roberts, Interim Chair, Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling.