

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Psychology 882: Doctoral Clinical Practicum (Fall 2007)
Fridays 9-11, PSC

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30,
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Course Description/Objectives: The goal of this course is to provide doctoral psychology students an opportunity to draw on theory and research to **apply principles in the development of clinical skills**. Given that students are assigned to diverse external practicum sites, the group atmosphere will afford the opportunity for vicarious exposure to varying populations, presenting concerns, cultural textures, treatment approaches, and ethical considerations. Students are encouraged to notice and appreciate not only these meaningful differences among their cases but also the common elements that overarch their experiences as clinicians. The case presentation will serve both as a vehicle by which students will **orally disseminate case conceptualizations** and as a springboard for group discussion and peer feedback.

Note: You will evaluate the course and instruction on the bolded objectives toward the end of the semester. I'd be grateful for your ongoing feedback as to our success in meeting them!

Required Readings: Although there are no books you are required to buy, there exists a treasure trove of writings on the technical aspects and dynamic experiences of psychotherapy. Be prepared to be assigned readings as germane to students' practicum experiences. Selected readings will be distributed in class or placed on reserve at the Psychological Services Center (PSC) or Newton Grisham Library.

Course Expectations and Requirements:

- As we have mutual responsibilities to each other as part of a group learning experience, I expect students to be present, awake, engaged, and respectful of others throughout group meetings. Students should be prepared during all meetings to participate in case presentations, role plays, and discussions of assigned readings. Audio- and videotaping of actual sessions should be conducted to the greatest extent feasible and brought to group practicum sessions for review and discussion.
- Students will behave in all relevant settings and with clients, supervisors, and fellow students, according to contemporary professional and ethical standards. Special attention should be paid given the potentially tight-knit contexts to the issues of client confidentiality and interpersonal boundaries with clients.
- Students should notify the on-site supervisor and me in person or by phone, as far in advance as possible, in the case of an absence. More than 3 absences as defined by University policy will result in grade deduction (one letter from the final course grade for each absence thereafter).
- While time commitment may vary according to site and student needs, each student should receive at least 1 hour of weekly supervision from their on-site supervisor. Once your on-site schedule (including supervision time) has been arranged, provide me a copy.
- Briefly document your arrangement with your on-site supervisor for handling crisis situations, and provide me a copy.

Course Expectations and Requirements (continued):

- Each student shall maintain a practicum log, free of specific identifying information, which includes clients' demographic and diagnostic information, number of hours in the performance of clinical services (e.g., face-to-face, supervisory, other), responsible on-site supervisor's name and contact information, and a brief summary of the content and process of therapeutic sessions. These records shall be turned in at each class.
- Students are expected to maintain timely, accurate, and well written on-site case records, including responsible supervisor signatures.
- In addition to weekly, informal case presentations, each student will conduct at least one formal case presentation, the format, content, and scheduling of which will be discussed in greater detail. Presenters will be required to distribute to the group at least 1 week in advance 2-3 readings that have been used to integrate the research literature into the case conceptualization.

Evaluation/Grading: Grades will be determined by the course instructor according to the student's clinical skill relative to expected level of development (including improvement as a factor), professional and ethical behavior, and class participation. Grades will be assigned by the course instructor with significant consideration owing to feedback and evaluation provided by on-site supervisors. Satisfactory performance will result in a B, with As issued only for exemplary performance and grades below B issued when deficits are noted in adherence to course expectations and requirements.

Please note the following **University Policies**:

Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism; see University policy for other examples) will guarantee you a "0" and may result in formal disciplinary actions.

Per University policy, students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Per Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code, an institution of higher education excuses a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the **observance of a religious holy day**, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. *Per University policy 861001*, a student for whom this section is relevant should present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe within which the missed assignments/examinations are to be completed.