

**Sam Houston State University**  
**CNE 513 – Assessment in Marriage and Family Therapy**  
**Spring 2008**  
**College of Education and Applied Science**  
**Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling**

**Instructor:** Dr. Judith Nelson  
 CEC – 125  
 Office phone: 936-294-4659  
 Email: [elc\\_jan@shsu.edu](mailto:elc_jan@shsu.edu)

**Course Description:** The course, Assessment in Marriage and Family Therapy, is designed to introduce students to assessment instruments and techniques in the field of marriage and family therapy. Students will be introduced to current assessment instruments and inventories intended to measure family function, resilience, adjustment, and adaptation for use in practice and research.

The curricula for this course include (1) knowledge of the literature of the discipline and (2) ongoing student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences.

**IDEA Objectives:**

**Essential:** gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends); learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories

**Important:** learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

Standards Matrix:

| Objectives/Learning Objectives  | Activities (* indicates field-based activity)  | Performance Assessment     | Standards: CACREP        |
|---|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Develop an understanding of the history and current influences of assessment in marriage and family therapy        |  |                            | K7a<br>VI-A1             |
| 2. Explore a variety of assessment techniques and instruments   | -Complete assessments during class based on the students' families and/or case studies | -Observation by instructor | VI-C2                    |
| 3. Demonstrate ability to interview and assess families in therapy  | -Participate in role plays   |                            | K3a, K5d, K7g<br>VI-C2   |
| 4. Develop an understanding of the limitations of assessment instruments  |  |                            | VI-C2                    |
| 5. Demonstrate knowledge of the professional and ethical issues specific to assessment in marriage and family therapy |  |                            | K1h, K7i<br>VI-A2, VI-A3 |
| 6. Explore the influence of individual and cultural   | -Participate in role plays   |                            | K2c, K7f<br>VI-A6        |

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| differences in marriage and family assessment   |  |  |     |
| 7. Use counseling-related research techniques and practices as well as technology and other resources to facilitate continued professional growth |  |  | K1c |

**Cell Phones:**

Please turn your cell phones off before class. If you are expecting an emergency call, please contact that individual during the break.

**Disabilities:**

Any students with a handicapping/disabling condition should arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies be considered to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students may be contacted for further information. The Chairperson is the Director of the Counseling Center (936-294-1720)

**Confidentiality:**

All information about clients or information shared by students in class will be held in the strictest confidence and falls under the ethical guidelines of the American Counseling Association and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Any violation of these ethical codes may result in a student failing this course plus possible dismissal from the counseling program.

**Written Work:**

All assigned writing must be written at the graduate level and follow *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) (2001) format as indicated in the SHSU Educational Leadership and Counseling Department Writing Standards. The Department standards may be downloaded at [http://www.shsu.edu/~edu\\_elc/counseling/documents/writingstandards.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~edu_elc/counseling/documents/writingstandards.pdf)

Periodically student work may be filtered through the SHSU online “Turnitin.com” program which validates whether the work is original or plagiarized. Students are encouraged to carefully cite any work that is not their own.

**Course Evaluation:**

Watch one of the following films:

- Off the Map
- Around the Bend
- The Story of Jack and Rose
- House of Sand

and come to class #2 prepared to discuss your assessment of the family (February 23 or March 1.