

COUN 500 Syllabus The Counseling Profession

Course Description

Counseling as a mental health professional, including its history, current functions and future directions. The counselor as a professional including educational goals, personal values and cultural understandings. Opportunity to observe master counselors at work.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

1. Understand the foundations of counseling as a profession, including its history, philosophy, relationship to other professions, and unique identity
2. Explore the various professional organizations, license options, counseling specialties, scopes of practice, and employment possibilities for the future, as well as ways to become actively involved in organizations
3. Compare and contrast the different specialties and contexts in which counseling takes place including clinical mental health counseling, marriage and family counseling, community agency counseling, counseling in schools, etc.
4. Become familiar with the various aspects, roles, models, and approaches of counseling professionals, including ethical and moral challenges that are frequently faced
5. Understand the counselor's role related to social justice and advocacy issues on behalf of clients, as well others who have experienced oppression
6. Investigate the realities of counseling practice in the field through systematic interviews with counselors representing different settings and specialties
7. Identify the major cultural constructs (race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc.) and how they interact with client experiences
8. Increase cultural awareness of diversity issues and how they relate to cultural patterns of oppression, marginalization, racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice
9. Learn standards of professional writing, including APA formatting, style, and citations; understand the meaning and violations of academic honesty related to plagiarism
10. Learn concepts and skills that increase success as a graduate student, including strategies for gaining the most from the program and curriculum
11. Understand basic concepts of research methodology, especially those related to conducting qualitative interviews and completing literature reviews; familiarization with basic search options for accessing research
12. Build a support network and collaborations with peers to create a constructive learning environment that promotes growth, as well as personal and professional development
13. Learn strategies for self care to thrive as a graduate student and future professional, including ways to manage and prevent stress

Pre-Requisites

Acceptance into the graduate program in Counseling and graduate standing.

Student Learning Outcome Language

As you know, the Counseling department tracks aspects of student learning (known as Student Learning Objectives or SLOs) and Dispositions (Professionalism and Fitness for the Profession) in numerous classes as part of the CACREP accreditation requirements. This helps as a source

of feedback on our teaching and lets us know how students are doing on average and individually. In some classes, the SLO's are assessed in the form of a rubric and in other classes it is simply a score from a paper or exam. There is nothing you need to do, but be aware that the information will be used to track and evaluate your progress in the program and will be part of your student record. Please see detailed information in your Student Handbook, as well as the form for Dispositions (which can be assessed at any time, but is always assessed in Coun 511, 530, and 584). There are at least three times when a student's individual progress is formally examined by the faculty: (1) after they have completed their first semester; (2) at advancement to practicum (the semester prior to starting practicum); and (3) at advancement to research project (the semester prior to Final Project). At these points in time, all the assessment information (including any of the SLO assessments conducted, as well as information from advisement, course grades, and professor input) will be examined. The spirit of this is to make sure that you are on track, and if you are not, then our goal is to offer support and guidance so that you can get back on track. If there are serious concerns, this may involve a remediation process or, in rare cases, dismissal from the program. All of this information is outlined in your Student Handbook. Note: The SLO assessed in this class is *Research and Professional Writing*, and the department is using your final research paper. Please see the Rubric on Canvas.

Calendar

Date/Topics	Readings/Resources	Bring to Class / Due
Week 1 Welcome, Community Building; Syllabus Review		
Week 2 Success in Graduate School; Myths of Counseling; History and Definitions	Butler Ch. 1-2, 14	Due: Module One on Canvas
Week 3 Labor Day - No Class!		
Week 4 APA Style Tutorial; Listening & Helping - Core Conditions in the Therapeutic Relationship	Butler Ch. 3 & 6	Due: Modules 2-3 on Canvas
Week 5 Approaches and Theories in Counseling	Butler Ch. 5	Due: Module Four on Canvas
Week 6 (Combined Class) Ethics in Counseling	Butler Ch. 4	Due: Module Five on Canvas
Week 7 Research Skills: Guest Speaker: Adolfo Preto; Social with GCSA	APA Style Guide; Butler Ch. 15	Due: Module Six on Canvas

Calendar is only an example and may be quite different 3

Week 8 (Combined Class) Family Counseling	Articles on Canvas	Due: Voices from the Field Analysis
Week 9 Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning in Counseling	Butler Ch. 16	Due: Module Seven on Canvas
Week 10 (Combined Class) Group Counseling	N/A	Due: Module Eight on Canvas
Week 11 Multiculturalism and Social Justice in Counseling	Butler Ch. 7	Due: Module Nine on Canvas
Week 12 Advocacy and Anti-Racism in Counseling	Butler Ch. 9 & Appendix	Due: Module Ten on Canvas
Week 13 (Combined Class) Creative Arts in Counseling	Butler Ch. 12	Due: Draft of Final Research Paper
Fall Break No Class		
Week 14 Career Counseling	Butler Ch. 8 & 10	
Week 15 Concluding Thoughts	Butler Ch. 17	Due: Final Research Paper
Final Class Meeting 5:00pm-6:50pm		