

**MHS 7807 - Marriage & Family Group Supervision**  
**Wednesdays 4:05 – 7:05 pm**  
**Fall 2007**

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Office hours: by appointment only

**Course Description**

MHS 7807, Group Supervision for Marriage and Family Therapy is taken concurrently with Practicum or an internship experience. The class instruction is divided into two distinct parts. The first part is a didactic course where issues surrounding the practice of therapy are discussed in a seminar format. Those topics include but are not limited to:

- ∂ ethical considerations and decisions;
- ∂ development and practice of your theoretical stance as a clinician;
- ∂ exploration of the world in which your clients live
- ∂ Florida laws and rules;
- ∂ professionalism;
- ∂ working conditions and agency expectations;
- ∂ proper documentation;
- ∂ case management;
- ∂ boundary issues;
- ∂ confidentiality
- ∂ therapist accountability; and
- ∂ burnout prevention/ care of self.

Also, as part of the didactic section, there will be an experiential component where students will conduct role plays focusing on using their theory of choice. The goal will be to master their vision of the way in which they do therapy utilizing a particular theory.

The second part focuses on case presentations where students will present clients and issues with the expectation of constructive feedback and suggestions for improving therapeutic treatment.

**Professional Standards Addressed**

This course is designed to meet the professional standards listed:

**(Florida) Institutional Program Evaluation Plan (IPEP): Accomplished Practices**

These standards do not apply (directly) to this course.

### **(Florida) Sunshine State Standards**

These standards do not apply (directly) to this course.

### **Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) (2001)**

#### **Standards for Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy Programs**

- C. Knowledge and Skill Requirements for Marital, Couple and Family Counselor/Therapists
1. family systems theories and other relevant theories and their application in working with couples and families, and other systems (e.g., legal, legislative, school and community systems) and with individuals;
  2. interviewing, assessment and case management skills for working with individuals, couples, families and other systems; and implementing appropriate skill in systemic interventions;
  3. preventive approaches for working with individuals, couples and families, and other systems such as parenting skills training and relationship enhancement, and secondarily, pre-marital counseling;
  4. specific problems that impede family functioning, including issues related to socioeconomic disadvantage, discrimination and bias, addictive behaviors, person abuse, and interventions for their resolution

#### D. Clinical Instruction

For Marital, Couple and Family Counseling/Therapy Program, the 600 clock hour internship (Standard III.H) occurs in a clinical setting, under the clinical supervision of a site supervisor as defined by Section III, Standard C.1-2. The requirement includes a minimum of 240 direct service clock hours, defined as work with couples, families and individuals from a systems perspective, with the majority of the direct service clock hours occurring with couples and family units.

E. Students should be aware of the departmental requirements for practicum and internship experiences. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to those requirements and to ensure the requirements are fulfilled.

#### **Requirements for an "S" Grade**

- 1.) Attendance, attendance, attendance! If you are not present to participate it is impossible to be evaluated. If you miss more than 2 sessions unexcused then you will receive a "U" for the class. Keep in mind, if you earn a "U" then you have to not only repeat this course but you also have to take your clinical

experience over again and pay tuition again for that privilege. I strongly recommend you simply attend.

If you are unable to attend you **must inform me ahead of time**. All that requires is a phone call and either a brief discussion or message to my cell phone (904-502-8840) as early as you know you will not be able to attend. An email message does not always reach me prior to class so you must call unless you know days in advance that you will be missing class.

2.) The expectation is that you participate, participate, and then participate some more. It is called *group* for a reason. My goal is to establish an atmosphere where there is genuine collegial feedback in all discussions. That process includes positive feedback as well as appropriate challenges.

3.) Documentation:

You are to maintain your **Clinical Activity Log** remembering that all of your supervisors (individual, site-host and group) sign it at the end of the semester. You are responsible to provide the log the last meeting date for signature.

**End of the Semester Evaluations** are due to me the ***week before*** they are due to Dr. Fallon.

**Case presentation:**

a.) Select a case that has raised some difficulty for you **or** that you feel strongly about. You may have strong reactions to your clients for a myriad of reasons. Reactions may be elicited because you are particularly fond of a client; relate to them; or really don't like them. That difficulty may be in relation to your professional development or your personal development. It may be difficult because of the issues presented or the manner in which they are presented. It may be a client that you think your colleagues may learn from. In any case, it needs to be a client about which you would like feedback. Discuss "why this case".

b.) Provide audio or video tape of you and your client. If that is *totally impossible* due to site issues than please make that clear prior to your presentation. The expectation is that you work your hardest to get a minimum of audiotape.

c.) Provide a description of the family unit. What is the nuclear family as well as the extended family.

d.) Provide a picture of the family in context. Who else is involved with the client? Is there extended family? Are there agencies (DCF, DJJ, Shands, church, medical facilities) involved with the family? What support do they have?

e.) Describe your counseling goals. What has worked and with what do you need help?

f.) Define your theoretical approach and how you have employed it with the clients you are presenting.

- g.) Present your reactions to this client. What is it like being the therapist for them?
- h.) Any questions you have for the group specifically.