Advanced Counseling Methods
Course Syllabus

Course Number: PSYC 6180 – 01, 3 semester hours
Semester: Fall 2014
Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 –1:50
Melson Hall Room 207
Instructor: Larry Schor, Ph. D., L.P.C., N.C.C., C.P.C.S.
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 8:30-11:30, We, Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-4:00, and by appointment.
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Course Description:
This course focuses on building a bridge between theory and practice, and is taken concurrently with Clinical Practicum (PSYC 6287), and by students interested in deepening their understanding of the therapeutic processes including helper self-understanding.

In contrast to Practicum, this course allows us to explore more broadly the emergent themes of human suffering such as human development and symptom formation, relational aspects of therapeutic intervention, and ways of understanding and intervening with various client problems.

In short, our mission is to move beyond merely academic understanding of various theories toward integration and implementation of theory in our practice so that we move toward theoretically-informed practice. Ethical and social context will be viewed as ground for theoretical implications and consequent intervention strategies.

Our investigation will be collaborative. Therefore, your spirited participation is essential. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and contribute to discussions, activities, and identification of topics of exploration. We will share and critique our own work and the work of others. If absence from class is unavoidable, discuss what was missed with a classmate prior to contacting the instructor.


Course Objectives:
Through class discussions, readings, readings, experiential exercises, and lecture, we will focus our inquiry on questions like:

- How do therapists authentically integrate theory in their work?
- What then are basic methods of counseling?
- In what ways are advanced methods centrally about further and deeper development of what initially is or seems basic?
- In what ways are our methods grounded in theoretical understanding?
What is the role of the therapeutic relationship among various methodologies and approaches?

How does our method/approach differ with various client populations (depression, substance abuse, trauma, Veterans, people like or unlike me, etc.)?

In what ways do our assumptions about various populations impede our understanding of the individual client?

This course is not intended to provide students with a brief set of skills that will serve as sufficient training to go out and dabble in various models and methods according to our interest or preference.

Instead, my hope is that we will have a collaborative atmosphere, in which we can explore with our heads and hearts, the challenges faced in developing a method or way of going about the work of mental health counseling.

Our class will include case material from students enrolled in Clinical Practicum. Consequently, we should have sufficient material to share some case studies, ethical dilemmas, frustrations, and limits of our therapeutic work.

We should have very high expectations of one another in terms of commitment, courage, and engagement. We should treat this material as if

Licensure- This course will fulfill the “Counseling Techniques or skills” requirement for the professional counselor license in Georgia.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Weekly Reaction Papers:
The weekly reaction papers will reflect emerging understanding and ideas that seem most significant. Students will draw from class discussions, readings, and lecture and articulate central concepts and personal understanding. You are limited to approximately two typed pages per assignment and should post reaction papers on CourseDen.

2. Mid-Term Examination:
There will be a take-home mid-term examination. Students will have one week to prepare their responses.

3. Class Participation:
Participation should be understood in terms of presence, contact, and engagement with the material and with fellow students. Therefore, participation should take place on a number of levels; both inside and outside the classroom.

4. Final Exam:
The Final examination will focus on applying various methods to case studies.

5. Final Paper:
The final paper (10 page max.) will serve as a synthesis and integration of what students have learned about various counseling methods as well as an articulation of students’ emerging self-understanding about their approach to counselor development.

Grading Policy:
A Consistently excellent effort in all aspects of the course.
B Good or very good effort in all aspects, perhaps excellent in one area, or fair in another.
C Satisfactory completion of all requirements, minimal effort in one area.
F Minimal effort in all or most areas.