Course Number: PSYC 6287-02
Semester: Fall 2014
Thursday 2:00-4:00, plus one hour tutorial
Melson Hall, Rm. 213
Instructor: Larry Schor Ph.D.
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 8:30-12:00, Tuesday 8:00-9:30, and by appointment.

Telephone: 678-839-6510, 678-839-0617
lschor@westga.edu

Text:
Please purchase this text at your soonest convenience on-line.

Course Description:

The clinical practicum provides students with supervised experience in the practice of individual and group counseling/psychotherapy, treatment planning, and related professional activities. Students work at agencies in a variety of settings offering mental health services.

We will meet once weekly for two hours as a group for discussions and case presentations. Additionally, you will meet with the instructor once each week for individual supervision.

My approach to supervision is rooted in a number of core values and beliefs that are consistent with Humanistic and Existential approaches to understanding psychotherapy. That is, I will focus on the person-becoming-therapist as well as the specifics of practical aspects of your work. At times, I will be rather non-directive and encourage you to find your own answers and even better questions as you discover your potential in the moment, and context of your life and work. Other times (e.g. threat of harm, and ethical imperatives) I will be quite directive and may even tell you what you must do. Always, I will attempt to create a supervisory environment in which you feel safe, encouraged, respected, and challenged.

Recognizing that each student has unique educational goals and professional needs, specific aspects of your supervision will be tailored to your setting and career goals. I will provide you with ethical guidelines of related professional organizations like National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), American Counseling Association (ACA), Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), and American Psychological Association (APA). I will expect you to be familiar with these codes and able to understand how they relate to situations in which you may find yourself. Although our work will be primarily confidential, I may share aspects of our work together with my supervisor. Your clients must be made aware of rights and limits of confidentiality in your work with them.
Becoming a therapist is a developmental process requiring specific aspects of self-understanding. Although there are clear distinctions between psychotherapy and supervision, my own professional ethics (NBCC, ACES, etc.) require me to evaluate your work beyond academic requirements of the University. Therefore, I may ask you to seek psychotherapy, or make other recommendations a condition of your continued clinical work if personal issues surface which interfere with your professional responsibilities. If you have an emergency you may call me at 770-301-4623; otherwise please contact me via e-mail.

**Expectations for Students at Agencies:**

1. Become familiar with policies and regulations regarding agency functioning, including confidentiality of records, and abide by them.

2. Become familiar with ethical and legal principles, issues, and guidelines.

3. Gain experience in counseling/psychotherapy - individual and/or group. In outpatient settings, eventually carry a case-load of 3 -10 clients with ongoing weekly sessions.

4. Utilize opportunities provided by the agency for gaining experience in diagnostic assessment and treatment planning (e.g. by attending and contributing to staffing and treatment teams meetings).

5. Learn about the specific population served by the agency and the types of services the agency provides for the community as well as related community resources.

6. Attend and participate in all class meetings and supervisory sessions.

7. Be open to and utilize feedback from on-site supervisor(s) and staff.

8. Maintain appropriate confidential records including; informed consent forms, consent to tape, case notes, treatment plans, verification of liability insurance, and log of all practicum-related activities.
Course Requirements:

Grading Policy:

Grading will be Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory, the former reserved for those whose practicum work reflects a careful, empathic, thoughtful, ethical, diligent, and of course phase-appropriate level of engagement with the practicum experience.

Students, please carefully review the following information at the following link: [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf). It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class including common language for ADA, the email policy, the credit hour policy, and the Honor Code. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.