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COUN 6060
Introduction to Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling

Instructor: Heather Hartwell, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: hhartwell@ulm.edu

Please allow for up to 24 hours for response

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the discipline of systemic models of counseling. Students will be introduced to the systems or ecological models, their historical development, and the utilization of these models in developmental and therapeutic activities with families. To understand and practice family requires that you make an “epistemological” shift from individual to relational thinking. Therefore, the focus of this course will be on examining how we “construct reality” and think in ways that facilitate relational interventions with couples, families, and organizational systems.

While the most intense focus will be on the nuclear family, the systems model will be used to integrate information regarding the marital, sibling, and individual subsystems, as well as the family of origin and the family’s interface with other social systems. Similarly, an emphasis on the relational and systemic aspects of human life does not mean that marriage and family therapists ignore, or are uninformed about, mental disorders, modalities for treating these disorders, and the ability to recognize them.

Commitment to Diversity and Accommodations

The Counseling Program at ULM is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the curriculum and clinical experience. We invite diversity and foster a culture of inclusion that supports multiple dimensions of culture that includes race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, spirituality, nationality, regionality, disability, and beyond.

Within the Counseling Program, we attempt to foster and maintain a safe environment of respect and inclusion for faculty, staff, students, and members of the communities we serve. We educate our faculty and students to be social justice advocates for marginalized populations and direct our curriculum to reflect the diversity of our communities and elevate awareness.

Evaluation and Grade Assignment

Final grades will be based on points earned, according to the following matrix showing maximum points that can be earned:

Family of Origin Paper.....	35 points
Theory Comparison Paper.....	25 points
Discussion Boards.....	10 points
Midterm.....	30 points

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = Below 60

Student Performance Evaluation: Criteria and Procedures

A. Participation

Active participation in all class sessions is required and expected. Readings must be completed as assigned.

Assignments must be submitted at the time they are due. No assignments or exam will be accepted late. A grade of zero will be assigned if any assignment or exam is turned in late.

B. Family of Origin Paper (35 points)

Due: 12/6, 11:59pmCT

We are all products of our families. To learn how to work with individuals and their families it is useful to examine the family you know best: your own family of origin, whether adopted or biological. A good place to start this investigative process is to complete a three-generation genogram. Following that, you will do a complete case study on your family as if you were a counselor conducting an initial assessment. The final section will involve those interventions that would be most useful in working with the family that you describe. If this assignment poses a special problem for you and you wish to use a substitute family, please see me ASAP owate. A grade of zero willto use a substitute

Free software is available from <http://www.smartdraw.com/specials/ecomap.htm> or <http://www.genopro.com/genogram/> that you can use to create and print your genogram. Be aware that these are time-limited downloads (i.e., you should create your genogram soon after downloading and not wait until a month has passed to begin your work).

Part 2

In this section, you will complete a case study where you explore some of this course's main concepts as they apply to your family of origin. For instance:

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics	Readings	CACREP Standards
Week 1 8/26	History, Foundations, and Evolution of Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling Service Delivery Modalities and Networks within the Continuum of Care	Gladding 1	5.F.12
Week 2 9/2	Fundamental Concepts of Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling Theoretical Context of Family Therapy; Types and Functionality of Families	Gladding 2 & 3	
Week 3 9/9	Lifespan Development and Cultural Diversity within Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling Single-Parent Families and Blended Families	Gladding 4 & 5 “Finding a way forward together”	5.F.1
Week 4 9/16	Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling	Gladding 6 ACA Code of Ethics (2014) AAMFT Codes of Ethics	5.F.13
Week 5 9/23	The Process of Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling	Gladding 7	
Week 6 9/30	Couple and Marriage Counseling	Gladding 8	
Week 7 10/7	Midterm on Chapters 1- 8 (30 points) Open: 10/7 Close: 10/11, 11:59pmCT		

KPI Assessment COUN 6060 Grading Rubric
This will be assessed in your Tevera account

Pass: as evidenced by receiving a performance level of a 3 on a 5-point scale on each requirement/standard assessed through the assignment.

5 = Advanced: Skills and understanding evident at an exceptional level

4 = Proficient: Strong level of mastery of skills and understanding

3 = Basic: Understanding of concepts/skills evident

2 = Developing: In process of developing understanding of concepts and skills; growth needed

1 = Deficient: Insufficient understanding of concepts and skills; significant remediation needed

NA: Not Applicable

Note: Ratings of 3 or above indicate performing well for student’s stage of development.

Assignment Specific Requirements and Professional Identity 2024 CACREP Standards

Assignment Specific	CACREP Standards	Performance Level 1-5
	MCFC	
aging and intergenerational influences and related family concerns		1.
principles and models of assessment and case conceptualization from a systems perspective		7.
techniques and interventions of marriage, couple, and family counseling		9.
conceptualizing and implementing treatment, planning, and intervention strategies in marriage, couple, and family counseling		11.
service delivery modalities and networks within the continuum of care, such as primary care, outpatient, partial treatment, inpatient, integrated behavioral healthcare, and aftercare		12.
strategies for interfacing with the legal system relevant to marriage, couple, and family counseling		13.

This data will be collected and stored in Tevera.