

Practicum 7370
Fall & Spring Semester
2005-2006

Supervisor: Susan L. Crowley, Ph.D.
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30 - 10:30;
by appointment (x1251), susan.crowley@usu.edu
Class time: Thursday 9:00 - 12:00
Individual Supervision Time: to be arranged weekly

Textbooks and Readings:

Binder, J. L. (2004). Key Competencies in Brief Dynamic Psychotherapy: Clinical Practice Beyond the Manual. New York: Guilford Press.

Ethics and Risk Management: A practical Instructional Series: (CD available for check out in the clinic – required if not already completed by students)

Module I: Introduction to Professional Liability and Risk Management
Module II: Ethics and Risk Management with Life Threatening Patients

Elliott, R., Watson, J. C., Goldman, R. N., & Greenberg, L. S. (2004). Learning Emotion-Focused Therapy: The Process-Experiential Approach to Change. Washington D. C.: American Psychological Association.

Moustakas, C. (1994). Existential Psychotherapy and the Interpretation of Dreams. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

St. Clair, M. & Wigren, J (2004). Object Relations and Self-Psychology: An Introduction. (4th ed). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Clinic Manual for USU Psychology Community Clinic.

Course Description & Objectives: This practicum is an advanced practicum for students who already have clinical experience, usually across a number of years. It is assumed that students have a basic facility with psychological interventions (e.g., behavior management, cognitive-behavioral strategies, empathy and rapport building). The purpose of this practicum is to broaden and strengthen those skills, conceptualize clients from alternative theoretical orientations, tie theory to practice (rather than “winging it”), and integrate assessment procedures throughout the process. Students are expected to carry 4 - 8 cases of varying difficulty and type. As always, emphasis will be placed on competence with regard to professional standards, establishing a therapeutic relationship, problem assessment, case conceptualization, treatment planning, therapeutic intervention, appropriate termination of treatment, outcome evaluation, and (all important) good record keeping. Students carry primary responsibility, with faculty supervision, for each client in their caseload.

The textbooks for the course are expected to be read across the course of the semesters with specific reading assignments given weekly. Findings from the text will be touched on briefly at the beginning of each team meeting. Should it become apparent that students are NOT reading the textbook, an exam will be created. Students will then be required to pass the exam at the level of a “B” (80%) to complete the course.

Students must also be familiar with the *Ethical Principles of Psychologist and Code of Conduct* as well as relevant local, state, and federal regulations and abide by them. Student should download a copy of the current ethical standards and review them within the next week (available through www.apa.org and included in the Graduate Student Handbook).

The following are specific course objectives that should be attained:

1. Students should be able to effectively conduct an intake interview and diagnostic interview with adult client and adolescent clients.
2. Students should be able to develop and implement an effective treatment plan based on a knowledge of the psychotherapy outcome literature.
3. Students should be able to conceptualize clinical cases from a variety of theoretical orientations and demonstrate knowledge of theory and intervention across theoretical domains. Similarly, student should be able to demonstrate in supervision and through their therapy behavior the tie between theory, conceptualization, and treatment.
4. Students should be able to effectively provide feedback to colleagues and reflect on their strengths and weaknesses as therapist. Additionally, students should demonstrate an openness to supervision and receiving feedback from faculty and colleagues
5. Students should gain a better understanding of the role of the psychologist and the link between intervention, client factors, therapist factors, and client outcomes.
6. Students should gain a better understanding of risk management within psychology.
7. Students should demonstrate outstanding professionalism in regard to record keeping, ethical standards, timeliness, preparation for supervision meetings, and professional relationships.
8. Students should be able to competently conduct a psychological evaluation using a variety of instruments as deemed necessary by the supervising faculty member and clinical case.

Supervision: Supervision will take place on an individual basis and group basis. Group supervision will take place during class meetings and consists of presenting a tape to the treatment team for discussion. Students will meet weekly for approximately one hour for individual supervision. Students are expected to be prepared for all supervision sessions with specific questions, concerns, and a specific portion of tape they wish to review. Additionally, all paperwork should be kept up-to-date in line with the ethical principles of psychologists. The policy regarding paperwork is included at the end of this syllabus.

Course Requirements

To successfully complete this course students will need to:

1. Minimum time commitment of 10 hours per week including reading, client contact, paperwork, supervision and tape review. Students must log a minimum of 150 hours during the semester of which 50 must be in direct client contact. Activities that can be apply to practicum hours include client contact, supervision, tape review, report and treatment note writing, clinically relevant readings, consultation, and communication with other professionals.

2. Student must bring log sheets to practicum weekly to be checked by the supervisor at random.
3. Attendance (on time!) at weekly therapy team meetings (class) and verbal participation/contribution in team meetings is required. Students should be prepared to discuss their cases and show video tapes *at every meeting*. Students are expected to provide feedback and suggestions to peers under their own initiative.
4. Students are required to maintain continuous contact with faculty supervisors regarding status of cases. In general, this will take place in weekly individual and group meetings. However, students are expected to use good judgement in informing the supervisor of any unusual case developments. This is not “optional”, but an expected part of professional conduct.
5. Students are required to be prompt and prepared for individual supervision sessions. This includes signing up a room for in the clinic, having reviewed your tapes and cued them to points of interest, having written work (treatment notes, intakes) completed, and having thought out how supervision can be most helpful.
6. Develop an appropriate assessment and treatment plan for each client. The initial plan will be general and guide your weekly session plans. The week by week plans should include specifics of what you will accomplish in your sessions.
7. Students must purchase several VHS video tapes and record ALL assessment and treatment sessions with each client. This means checking the picture and sound before every session to ensure that the session will be recorded.
8. Demonstrate familiarity with professional, ethical, and legal guidelines/statutes, and detailed familiarity with clinic policies and procedures. Students are expected to follow these policies at all times.
9. Conduct/arrange appropriate psychological testing, along with related treatment planning and contact with other offices involved with the client, as directed or approved by your faculty supervisor and with informed consent from the client.
10. Maintain appropriate and prompt communication (letters, phone calls) with other professionals relevant to the case, as directed by your faculty supervisor.
11. Carry all therapeutic responsibilities for assigned cases, usually involving weekly therapy sessions with clients, as approved by your faculty supervisor.
12. Keep up to date with all client related activities. Failure to do so is considered a serious professional lapse and will result in appropriate consequences as outlined in the (Rules for Timely Completion of Clinic Responsibilities (attached to this syllabus). Note that clinic paperwork must be completed in the clinic and may NEVER be completed at home.
13. Present an oral Case Presentation (including relevant documentation) once during the semester. Students will be expected to synthesize the available data and put it into an organized format. The presentation will be discussed and evaluated by the treatment team.
14. Complete all other clinical/administrative responsibilities as assigned by your faculty supervisor in a timely manner.
15. Read texts assigned for the course in the identified time. Students are also expected to investigate the

literature to gain additional information regarding client problems and how to provide the best treatment or services.

16. Complete an evaluation with your supervisor at the end of the semester. Students will receive an incomplete until their evaluation has been completed. Note that it is the student's responsibility to have the evaluation completed, not the supervisors.
17. Demonstrate the possession and use of effective and appropriate interpersonal and clinical skills during assessment and treatment sessions.
18. Demonstrate familiarity with professional, ethical, and legal guidelines/statutes, as well as clinic policies and procedures. Students are expected to follow these policies at all times.

Students who complete the above requirements in a satisfactory manner will receive an A in this class.

Students who do not complete the above requirements in a satisfactory manner (e.g., late progress notes, missed supervision, incomplete treatment planning) will have their grades lowered.

Malpractice Insurance: Although students are covered for malpractice insurance by the University when conducting professional behaviors required and/or sanctioned by the program, students are encouraged to carry their own malpractice insurance.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated and assigned grades (A - F) according to behavior during the semester in regard to the course and their clients. It is assumed that students will be showing their 'best' work and their 'worst' work during practicum. Thus, grades will be based working on par with colleagues (e.g., other beginning therapists) having similar training, vigilance on contacting clients, maintaining records, preparation for individual and group supervision, promptness to all meetings, maintain appropriate contact with supervisors, and contributions to team meetings. Students will be advised of any deficits in these areas as the semester progresses, initially in oral form and, should the problem persist, in writing. Failure to follow through on course requirements will result in a grade reduction of one half grade (e.g., for continually being late to class) to one full grade (e.g., lateness in completing paperwork, minor ethical breach).

Explanation of Course fees

The \$25 course fee associated with this class enables the clinic to purchase new assessment materials, intervention manuals, purchase/repair video equipment in the clinic rooms, and update computer hardware / software in the clinic area. Having this course fee provides you with adequate clinic materials which enable you to gain familiarity with a wide range of assessment measures and receive adequate supervision on your cases.

Rules for timely completion of Clinic responsibilities

Clinic Responsibility	Completion time
Clinic Treatment Notes	2 Working days following session
Intake Summaries	3 Working days following initial intake
Psychological Evaluation	1 Week following final testing session unless instructed by supervisor to complete sooner
Disposition Summary	1 Week following final session or supervisor says terminate - whichever occurs first
Organized Client File (All file materials are in correct section of file)	At all times!!!

Practicum Students

Failure to complete clinic responsibilities in the appropriate time period will result in penalties set forth under a Three-strike system

STRIKES

- 1st Strike = Warning
- 2nd Strike = Warning
- 3rd Strike = Drop in one letter grade for the practicum class from the grade that would have been given. For example, if the student otherwise earned an A- in practicum the given grade under the third strike consequence would be B-. Further, a subsequent violation of the three strike rule will result in another grade reduction.

Non-Practicum Students

Failure to complete clinic responsibilities in the appropriate time period will result in penalties set forth under a similar Three-strike system

STRIKES

- 1st Strike = Student warned and given one week to complete
- 2nd Strike = Student given three clinic service hours to complete
- 3rd Strike = The student's unprofessional behavior will be reflected in any letter (internship, recommendation, scholarship, etc.) written on the student's behalf.

*******Practicum and Non-Practicum students *******

Client files must be in clinic file cabinet or with therapist or supervisor at all times, otherwise the 3rd strike is given immediately!!!

If rules for timely completion of clinic responsibilities continue to be violated even with the enforcement of the Three-strike system, the student will have a "hold" placed on his/her registration at the end of the semester until clinic responsibilities are completed.

