



LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND COUNSELING CPSY 584: PRACTICUM IN FAMILY THERAPY SUMMER - 2008

Time & Day:

Instructor: David McWherter

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Office Hours: By Appointment

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Supervised practicum bridging the theoretical and practical as students apply their emerging skills in facilitating therapy and psycho-education with individuals, couples, families, and groups.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Clinical supervision is required of all Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy (MCFT) students in clinical practice at any practicum site. This meets the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) requirement that students receive ongoing individual supervision of their clinical work from a qualified MFT supervisor. It also meets the practice requirements of the Lewis & Clark MCFT graduate program.

Throughout your clinical practice, you will participate in both individual and group supervision. You will be required to meet with your supervisor alone or with one other MCFT trainee in the program for 60-90 minutes each week. Individual supervision is defined as no more than two supervisees meeting with a supervisor face to face. You will also meet as a group with up to 10 other MCFT students who are working at various sites. This group supervision will be led by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or the equivalent.

The majority of supervision (at least 50%) must be based on raw data (i.e., live observation/video-tapes of sessions with clients, or co-therapy with your supervisor). These arrangements and all of the requirements of CPSY 588 must be maintained during academic breaks, including summer months, when you are not actually enrolled in the course but are seeing clients through your affiliation with Lewis & Clark College. This syllabus serves as a contract between you, the program, and your individual supervisor.

COURSE PURPOSE

Your individual supervisor provides oversight for all of your clinical cases. It is essential that you keep him or her apprised of all of your cases and of any urgent situations that arise (e.g., high risk situations, times when you may need to report abuse or neglect). Individual supervision allows students to work in-depth on their developing clinical skills and to both give and receive detailed ongoing feedback from a colleague and supervisor. Group supervision provides you with additional case supervision and training in applying family therapy theory and models across varied contexts with diverse populations. Group supervision provides a venue for students to consider many perspectives and approaches to working with families. Both individual and group supervision give you the opportunity to review your clinical practice in depth and to encourage your ongoing development as a family therapist. Individual and group supervision also serve in different ways as contexts in which you will be encouraged to explore yourself as a therapist (i.e., self of the therapist) relative to your world view, assumptions, relational styles, and so on.

If you are dealing with a clinically urgent situation, you should first call your individual supervisor. If he or she is not available, then call your group supervisor.

Throughout your clinical experience and supervision, you will be working on numerous areas of your clinical work. This includes, but is not limited to, the AAMFT Core Competency subsidiary domains, which are focused on the types of skills or knowledge that MFTs must develop. These are: a) Conceptual, b) Perceptual, c) Executive, d) Evaluative, and e) Professional. Areas that will be included in your evaluation at the end of the semester include:

- **Therapeutic Relationship**, e.g., conveying respect to client; attending to the therapeutic relationship; using self of the therapist
- **Conceptual Abilities**, e.g., adopting a systemic view; attending to multiple systems; basing goals, hypotheses and interventions on theory
- **Contextual Awareness, Knowledge and Skill**, e.g., acknowledging family development; attending to culture and context in therapy; incorporating awareness of gender, race, ethnicity, abilities, language, sexual orientation, etc.; integrating analysis of power and social justice/advocacy
- **Perceptual Competencies**, e.g., identifying and intervening in patterns of interaction; distinguishing process from content; identifying self as part of the system
- **Structuring Therapy**, e.g., organizing session; communicating clearly, precisely and effectively; establishing and reviewing goals
- **Intervention and Evaluative Skills**, e.g., linking interventions to theory; recognizing impact of interventions on wider system; intervening intentionally consistently throughout the therapeutic relationship; following up on interventions; formulating and altering treatment plan as needed

- **Executive/Case Management**, *e.g., maintaining complete, relevant case notes in a timely manner; completing all required paperwork, letters, contacts, etc. in a professional and timely manner; contacting referral sources/other professionals involved in a timely manner and sharing relevant information; completing effective assessments and appropriately using the DSM IV*
- **Professional Development**, *e.g., being prepared for supervision /seeking and incorporating feedback from supervisor; being aware of own professional development and self as a therapist; maintaining a professional image, professional boundaries, and positive relationships with colleagues*
- **Other Specific Goals**, *as defined by you and your supervisor*

As noted below, you will receive a copy of a complete therapist-in-training evaluation instrument during the first few weeks of class. This can help guide you further in understanding the specific areas of development that are expected in the program and field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend and actively participate in all scheduled supervision meetings.
2. Keep your supervisor informed regarding the status of all of your cases.
3. Contact your supervisor immediately should you encounter a clinical emergency or suspect the need to report abuse or neglect.
4. Practice according to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) code of ethics and the Oregon State Laws. Inform your individual supervisor, CPSY 588 instructor/group supervisor, and/or the program coordinator of any potential ethical or legal infractions you may be involved in or know about.
5. Practice according to all requirements given to you at your internship site. This includes completing all paper work and case management duties in a timely and thorough manner. Any questions or concerns you have about completing these requirements should be taken to your supervisor.
6. Video tape as many therapy sessions as possible and make arrangements for your supervisor to be involved in/observe live sessions whenever possible. Make sure you discuss video tape policies with your internship site supervisor and follow all policies regarding obtaining client consent and transporting sensitive clinical material.

7. When working as a co-therapy team, make sure your co-therapist is present whenever possible during supervision of the case.
8. During the first few minutes of supervision, inform your supervisor of any emergency/urgent situations that need to be handled during the supervision time.
9. Let your supervisor know when supervision is and isn't "working" for you so that you can maintain a positive working relationship.
10. Be involved and offer input about all cases presented during supervision, even if you are not directly seeing the clients.
11. Use time efficiently during supervision. Being prepared to really talk about a case and thinking through your goals ahead of time makes the process more vital for everyone involved. When presenting a video, cue the parts of the tape you want to watch in supervision. This saves searching for pertinent data.
12. Keep complete and ongoing records of all client contact and supervision hours. Have your hours signed by your individual supervisor(s) each week and turn them in to your CPSY 584 instructor. He or she will ensure they are placed in your student clinical file as a permanent record of your meeting required clinical and supervision hours.
13. Make sure you use pseudonyms and remove all identifying information from any cases you present in supervision and class or use as examples to complete assignments in order to protect client confidentiality.
14. Maintain contact and respond in a timely manner to clients and other professionals.
15. Complete any additional requirements agreed on by you and your supervisor(s) (list below):

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY/SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Lewis & Clark College adheres to a nondiscriminatory policy with respect to employment, enrollment, and program. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, or marital status and has a firm commitment to promote the letter and spirit of all equal opportunity and civil rights laws.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability and/or you have emergency medical information to share please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Readings may be assigned throughout the course to correlate with what students and the instructor identify as practice related issues.

COURSE EVALUATION

At the beginning of the semester, you will receive a copy of a supervision evaluation form outlining the areas of clinical competence you are expected to develop. You and your individual supervisor will also have ongoing conversations about your progress. At the end of the semester, you and your supervisor will complete the evaluation form and you will also be offered the opportunity to evaluate your supervision experience. Your CPSY 584 instructor/group supervisor will have input into your evaluation and will maintain contact with your individual supervisors at Lewis & Clark and your internship site regarding your progress. Passing this course will be based on successfully completing all requirements and expectations for practice and supervision listed in this agreement.

COURSE SCHEDULE

During the initial weeks of starting practicum, supervision will focus on developing general family therapy skills, role playing first sessions, considering ethics and practice issues, helping you adapt to your practice settings, and so on. Once members of the class begin seeing clients, students will rotate being responsible for presenting a video-taped case. A schedule for case presentation will be developed during the first meeting. Throughout the semester, the students and instructor will also generate a list of practice related issues they would like to address. The group supervisor/CPSY 584 instructor will provide short trainings, references, and materials related to on of these issues as needed.

Agency in which supervisee will see clients: _____

Supervisee Signature: _____

CPSY 588 Instructor Signature: _____

Date: _____