Course Description
This course focuses on the issues in research and the clinical assessment of couples and families. Examination of the assumptions and values underlying assessment approaches. Specific assessment techniques are discussed, evaluated, and practiced. Special attention is given to approaches in multicultural assessment. There will be exploration of ethical, legal and practical issues. Attention is given to theoretical underpinnings of measures as well as their psychometric properties.

Course Objectives
1. Students will understand the role and methods of clinical family/systems assessment in clinical settings.

2. Students will understand the connection between our values and assumptions with our ways of observing and assessing families.

3. Students will learn the different levels of assessment within a family. This will include individual, couple, parent/child, whole family functioning and family/community functioning. Students will learn to integrate assessments of different subsystems and provide those results in a written form.

4. Students will understand the legal, ethical and practical issues of assessment in real clinical settings.

5. Students will understand the impact of culture and diversity issues on the assessment process and tools.
Class CPSY 561  
Fall 2006

Instructor:  
David McWherter, M.Ed, LMFT, LMSW  
AAMFT Approved Supervisor  
db.mcwherter@comcast.net  
360-798-8741

Grading

PROJECT DUE DATE /06  
Mid Term Exam /06  
Final Exam /06

Grading Scale
Total Points 500  
A 450-500  
B 400-450  
C 350-400  
D 300-350

Presentation 100  
Mid Term 100  
Final 100  
Analysis Paper 100  
Class Participation/Preparation 100

All exams are open book and essay.
Tentative Weekly Outline

I. September 5
   Introductions
   Review Course Expectations and Syllabus
   Discuss Class Presentation, Exam schedule, Analysis Paper
   No Reading Required

II. September 12
   General Overview of Assessment
   Required Reading: Family Therapy Concepts and Methods
   Chapter 2: Evolution of Family Therapy
   Chapter 3: Early Models and Basic Techniques
   Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   Chapter 1: Overview

III. September 19
   General Overview of Assessment
   Required Reading: Family Therapy Concepts and Methods
   Chapter 4: Fundamental Concepts of Family Therapy
   Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   Chapter 2: American Indian Families
   Chapter 3: Back to the Future

IV. September 26
   Structural and Strategic Therapy Concepts
   Required Reading: Family Therapy Concepts and Methods
   Chapter 6: Strategic Family Therapy
   Chapter 7: Structural Family Therapy
   Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   Chapter 4: Native Hawaiian Families
   Chapter 6: African American Origin: An Overview

V. October 3
   Bowen Family Systems Therapy
   Required Reading: Family Therapy Concepts and Methods
   Chapter: Bowen Family Systems Therapy
   Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   African American Families

A one paragraph description of presentation topic due on this date.
VI. October 10
Solution-Focused Therapy
Required Reading:  
   Family Therapy Concepts and Methods
   Chapter 12: Solution-Focused Therapy
   
   Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   Chapter 11: Latino Families: An Overview
   Chapter 17: Mexican Families

VII. October 17
Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy
Required Reading:  
   Family Therapy Concepts and Methods
   Chapter 10: Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy
   
   Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   Chapter 11: Central American Families
   Chapter 19: Salvadoran Families

VIII. October 24
Mid Term Exam

IX. October 31
Feminism, Social Constructionism and Multiculturalism
Required Reading:  
   Family Therapy Concepts and Methods
   Chapter 11: Family Therapy in the Twenty-First Century
   
   Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   Chapter 20: Asian Families: An Overview
   Chapter 22: Chinese Families

X. November 7
Standardized Tests and Special Assessments
Suicide Assessment
Required Reading:  
   Prepare/Enrich Material
   Suicide Assessment Handouts

XI. November 14
Analysis Paper of “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down” Due
Cultural Differences: How do we manage?
Ethnicity and Family Therapy
   Chapter 48: Jewish Families: An Overview
   Chapter 49: Israeli Families

XII. November 21
Integration, Ethical Issues, Legal Issues and Licensure
Required Reading  
   OARS/Licensure Statues
XIII. November 28
   Domestic Violence
   Class Presentations

XIV. December 5
   Final Exam Review
   Class Presentations

XV. December 12
   Final Exam
Presentation Requirement

Each Student will do a 30 minute class presentation on some aspect of family assessment. The focus and methods used in the presentation are at the discretion of the student. Students are encouraged to be creative in their presentation with the only requirement being that it must relate to “assessment”. Please feel free to utilize different media and formats for your presentation.

Submission of Topic Due October 3

Presentations on November 28 and December 5
The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down.
A Hmong Child, her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures

Book Analysis

While this book deals with primary health care as mental health providers you will be part of the “American” healthcare system. Many of you over the course of your professional careers will be directly involved in the healthcare systems and have a direct impact on how it delivers services to different cultures.

Each Student is expected to write a 10 page reflection on this book. No additional references are required or expected. My desire is that you will put some energy into thought about the very real and human forces involved in this story. In particular I am interested in any and all reactions it stirs in you. I am not asking nor do I expect you to provide “solutions” but rather some highlights of your thoughts and reactions. In particular I am interested in the questions the book raises for you.

Due November 14
Books for CPSY 561

Family Therapy/Concepts and Methods/6th Edition  
Michael Nichols  with Richard Schwartz  
ISBN 0205359051

Ethnicity and Family Therapy/3rd edition/Pub September 2005  
Monica McGoldrick  
Joe Giordano  
Joseph Giordano  
Nydia Garcia-Preto  
ISBN 1593850204

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down  
A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures  
Anne Fadiman  
ISBN 0374525641