

**LEIWS & CLARK GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF EDUCATION AND FAMILY THERAPY**

---

**MCFT 582 (Sections 11 & 21)-Internship in Marriage, Couple, and Family Therapy  
SUMMER 2015**

---

Time & Day: Section 11 - 9:00am-12:00pm Wednesdays  
Section 21 - 1:00pm-4:00pm Wednesdays  
Location: Please check Web Advisor prior to first day of class  
Instructors: Teresa McDowell and Elizabeth Parker  
teresamc@lclark.edu and elizabeth-parker@uiowa.edu  
Office Hours: Teresa: Wed 3:00-5:00 pm by appointment (Gone 7/20-8/20)  
Elizabeth: by appointment

**Catalog Description:**

Applied training in family therapy during a calendar-year internship, including supervised clinical practice with individuals, couples, and families using systemic, social constructionist, and critical family therapy models.

**Credits:** 4 semester hours.

**Course Description:**

This internship provides experience in applying family therapy theory to clinical practice. Through raw data supervision and team consultation, students will have the opportunity to apply in treatment a variety of systemic ideas and practices reflective in social justice based Marriage and Family Therapy approaches. Throughout your clinical practice, you will participate in group and occasionally in individual supervision. You may be asked to meet with your supervisor alone or with one other.

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 MFT students who are working at various sites. This group supervision will be led by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or the equivalent.

This syllabus serves as a contract between you, the program, and your faculty supervisor.

**COURSE PURPOSE**

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 and 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**, (1) Articulate the basic principles of just therapy; (2) Provide an introduction and develop an understanding of tools and techniques utilized in the Transformative Family Therapy Model; (3) Learn concepts useful for understanding and delivering social-justice based interventions; (4) Increase critical consciousness around issues of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, community and domestic violence.

Please review the therapist-in-training (Supervisee Evaluation) evaluation instrument. This can help guide you further in understanding the specific areas of development that are expected in the program and field.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Attendance, participation, disposition and dress code**

- ✓ Giving attention to the instructor and/or other students when they are making a presentation.
- ✓ Demonstrating ability to recognize and use subtle non-verbal communication cues to assess your impact on your peers and participate in class.
- ✓  Demonstrating ability to be open about discussing the impact of your comments on your peers.
- ✓  Coming to class prepared (having read the assignment for the day)
- ✓  Contributing to in-class discussion based on the topics of discusses and the readings assigned. Contributions may include how you feel about the material but merely articulating your feelings is not sufficient. You are expected to put those feelings in context of your thoughts and analysis of the material.
- ✓  Engaging in group discussions with attention and energy.
- ✓ Asking questions of the instructor and/or other students regarding the material examined in that class.
- ✓  Providing examples to support or challenge the issues talked about in class.
- ✓  Making comments or giving observations about topics in the course, especially those that tie in the classroom material to "real world" problems, or try to integrate the content of the course.
- ✓  Dealing with other students and/or the instructor in a respectful fashion.
- ✓ Active listening. Students will be asked questions related to the course's readings randomly in class by other students and by the instructor. Your participation in small group discussions is also required.
- ✓  Keep your supervisor informed regarding the status of all of your cases.
- ✓ Contact your supervisor immediately should you encounter a clinical emergency or suspect the need to report abuse or neglect.
- ✓ Dress code: business casual. How you dress always conveys a social message, even if none is intended. Please wear shoes and avoid short skirts and low cut chest exposing shirts.
- ✓  Learning how to use the recording equipment, DVDs, and computer related technology.
- ✓  Cleaning up after yourself and keeping the clinic space neat and clean.
- ✓  Keeping paper work organized

2) Ethics. 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.

### 3) Supervision

- Let your supervisor know when supervision is and isn't "working" for you so that you can maintain a positive working relationship.
- Be involved and offer input about all cases presented during supervision, even if you are not directly seeing the clients.
- Keep complete and ongoing records of all client contact and supervision hours.
- Maintain contact and respond in a timely manner to clients and other professionals.
- Complete any additional requirements agreed on by you and your supervisor(s)

### **COURSE STRUCTURE AND SCHEDULE**

Each week we will spend 2 hours of our class time reviewing cases and 1 hour in didactic learning. The didactic portion of the course brings two sections together (12pm-1pm) to cover topics relative to your professional development during this final semester. Each student will present at least 2 videos of their work. We will complete a sign up sheet during the first day of class. If you are unable to present as planned, it is your responsibility to find a colleague who will switch days with you. Preparing for sharing a case includes completing the supervision worksheet (<http://graduate.lclark.edu/live/files/15388-supervision-worksheetpdf>) and bringing enough copies for the supervision group/instructors. Instructions for how to complete this form are available on-line: <http://graduate.lclark.edu/live/files/15390-explanation-of-supervision-worksheetpdf>

Topics for the didactic portion of the course include:

Preparing for the AMFTRB practice exam  
 Preparing your CV  
 Philosophy of Therapy Statements  
 Challenges and ideas in applying a critical lens in an outpatient setting  
 Careers in MFT/licensing/supervision  
 Interviewing  
 Peer consultation  
 Graduation checklist  
 Other topics TBD with student feedback

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. *Philosophy of therapy paper.* This semester, you will complete your philosophy of therapy statement. Your case presentations and video will help all of us encourage you to identify your preferred assumptions and theoretical approach. Special attention will be given to how you use theory to inform interventions and your ability to articulate your approach. By mid-semester, you will have completed a 1-2 page philosophy of therapy statement that will be added to your portfolio and Lewis and Clark clinical file. This statement is a requirement for completing the course. You can use this statement to inform prospective employers about your work. **DUE: Draft, June 4; Final, June 25**

2. *Professional Development.* You will be given the opportunity to receive feedback about your professional vita. This is not a requirement, but time will be allotted for those who would like to get input. If you want instructor input on your vita, please turn it in by **June 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will also spend some class time on career planning.
3. *AMFTRB practice exam.* You must take and show evidence of passing the practice exam **prior to the end of this course**. This semester, we will review the exam as needed in class. You are encouraged to form study groups outside of class.
4. *Graduation check list.* Please review all items on the graduation check list and make sure you have completed each prior to the end of the semester. You are required to bring the list and evidence of completing all items on the list to the **last day of class**.
5. *Presentation of your work.* You will sign up to share a video of your therapeutic work **twice this semester**. Please come prepared with a completed supervision worksheet and philosophy of therapy draft. Share copies of each with your colleagues in the course. Cue video to sections that relate specifically to your supervision goals.

### **COURSE GRADING**

This course is graded as credit/no credit. To receive credit you must satisfactorily complete all assignments and be evaluated at or above expectancies on your supervisee evaluation form by

your internship and externship supervisors. You must also have completed clinical hours requirements as stated in the program and internship handbooks.

### **CPSY DEPARTMENTAL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time will be made up by completing extra assignments designed by the instructor. Missing more than ten percent of class time may result in failure to complete the class. This would be 4.5 hours of a 45 hour class (3 credits), 3.0 hours for a 30 hour class (2 credits) or 1.5 hours for a 15 hour class (1 credit.) In case of extreme hardship and also at the discretion of the instructor, a grade of incomplete may be given for an assignment or the entire course. In such cases, the work to be submitted in order to remove the incomplete must be documented appropriately and stated deadlines met. Students are expected to be on time to class and tardiness may be seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

### **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.

### **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) requires the program to have "established policies for informing applicants and students regarding disclosure of their personal information" (COAMFTE Standard 140.02, 2003). Each student should decide for him/herself what information to disclose. Students are advised to be prudent when making self-disclosures. The program cannot guarantee confidentiality of student disclosures given the group environment, although personal comments should be considered private and confidential - and remain only in the classroom - unless an exception to confidentiality applies.

### **CELL PHONES**

Cell phones must be silenced and text messaging is not allowed during class time. If there is an emergency you may exit the class to use your cell.