LEWIS & CLARK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

MCFT 563-06/CPSY 590-06: Treatment Issues in Family Therapy
Empowering Clinical Conversations
1 unit
SPRING 2016

Time & Day: 5:30-8:30 pm Tuesdays January 12 - February 9
Place: John R. Howard Hall, Room 202
Instructor: Carmen Knudson-Martin, PhD
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00; Thursdays 4:30-6:30 and by arrangement (please
schedule appointments in advance by calling CPYS office, 503-768-6060)
E-Mail: carmen@lclark.edu
Phone: 503-768-6092 (office) 909-262-7725 (cell)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course addresses how principles and techniques from narrative therapy and other
collaborative approaches can be used to structure clinical conversations that invite talk about
societal discourses and inequities, identify and build on client strengths, and empower clients to
work toward change. Emphasis is on small, practical, and doable strategies that can be
integrated into any clinical model.

Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1 semester hour

MCFT STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course promotes the following student learning outcomes:
SLO 1.3: Students will apply systems/relational theories to clinical case conceptualization.
SLO 2.1: Students will self-reflect on the implications of own and others’ social location in
clinical practice.
SLO 2.2 Students’ clinical practice demonstrates attention to social justice and cultural
democracy.
SLO 4.3 Students demonstrate integration of family therapy theory, equity, and social location
issues in clinical practice.

“We are a community that commits itself to diversity and sustainability as
dimensions of a just society” -- Lewis and Clark Mission Statement
COURSE OBJECTIVES
The following MCFT 563 course objectives are in keeping with the AAMFT Core Competencies. At the end of this course, students are expected to:

1. Develop knowledge or skills that expand ability to apply a systems approach to treatment of a particular clinical issue.
2. Apply course content to case conceptualization, treatment planning, and intervention. In this section, these include:
   - Apply social constructionist theory to conceptualizing the relational nature of change.
   - Develop strategies for guiding clinical conversations that help clients overcome oppressive dominant discourses and expand possibilities.
   - Increase ability to manage the power of the therapist in relation to both dominant societal discourses and client agency.

TEXT/READINGS

Required Text

Recommended Texts


Readings
Most readings may be accessed through Watzek library. Those marked with an asterisk* are not yet published and will be emailed by the instructor.


emotion, societal context, and couple interaction (pp. 53-66). New York: Springer. (Book is accessible on-line—then find chapter)


CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Participation (40 points)**
   This course emphasizes shared engagement with the assigned readings and clinical competencies. Toward this end, you are expected to:

   - Attend and participate in **all** class meetings. In the event of illness or other emergency, please email the instructor in advance of class. Missed classes will be made up by expanded written reflections on the required readings for the day.
   - Come to class prepared (having read the assignments for the day).
   - Give attention to the instructor and/or other students when they are speaking or making a presentation. No electronic devices may be used, except to access readings or make notes.
   - Engage in group discussions and role plays.
   - Deal with other students and/or the instructor in a respectful fashion.

   Your participation in class activities will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS PARTICIPATION COMPETENCIES</th>
<th>Possible points</th>
<th>Points demonstrated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prompt and dependable presence in the class.</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepares for class by immersing self in course readings and reflecting on their application to practice.</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engages in course activities with a spirit of openness and curiosity.</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Helps to create an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect among all class members.</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>40</td>
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</table>
2) **Reflective Journal**  *(60 points).* Hard copy due Feb. 9 at the beginning of class.

Throughout the course students are to create a journal that focuses on your personal responses to the following:

1. Specific practice strategies in the readings that are especially meaningful or inspiring to you and reflections on how they would work to create empowerment.
2. Reflections on experience of applying identified strategies to case examples (i.e., in class role plays/observation, examples in readings, or through creative imagination)
3. Conclusions about how you will apply course concepts to your practice.

*Journal should include all assigned readings in the reflections, but should focus on those aspects of particular interest to you. Integration across readings (rather than just taking them one at a time) is encouraged. Reflections are your conversation with yourself and do not need to be in the form of a paper; however, please use complete sentences and good grammar. They should be typed (single-spaced) and include approximately 2-3 pages for each week.*

Your journal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REFELCTIONS ON EMPOWERMENT STRATEGIES</th>
<th>Possible points</th>
<th>Points demonstrated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifies specific practice strategies and considers how they work to create empowerment.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Applies identified strategies to case examples.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflects upon own experience practicing, observing, or imagining how you might do this work (taking into account awareness of your social location and the client’s)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draws conclusions about how you will apply course concepts to your practice.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections integrate material across readings and represent your thinking as you engage with course concepts.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Writing style is clear.</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
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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.

PARTICIPATION IN THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Students are required to attend and actively participate in all scheduled class meetings. This includes being on time, being prepared, following through on group projects, and otherwise engaging with colleagues as fellow professionals. Becoming a therapist involves looking closely at ourselves, our values, beliefs, and biases. This can be a very personal, and sometimes emotional, process. Treating colleagues with respect, listening deeply to their experiences, and being open to diverse world views encourages a collaborative milieu of care in which we can all challenge ourselves and each other to critically examine and develop our skills and perspectives. In order to prepare for each class, students should carefully read and study all assigned materials to be ready to discuss, debate, and apply the content of readings. Class discussion and interaction with colleagues are fundamental to the process of learning to be a therapist and all sessions include necessary information. Therefore, if you must miss a class, fellow students and the instructor may ask you to contribute to learning community in another way. According to the Lewis & Clark Counseling Psychology attendance policy, missing 3 or more hours of a 1 credit course may result in a failing grade. For this course, any absence of more than one hour requires a makeup assignment. If you must be absent or late, please email the instructor at least several hours prior to class.

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 instructors as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the student to make his or her disability and needs known in a timely fashion and to provide appropriate documentation and evaluations to support the accommodations the student requests. Requests for accommodations should be routed through the Student Support Services office in Albany 206. Please review the L&C policy at:

http://www.lclark.edu/offices/student_support_services/rights/disability_policy/

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 maybe seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

**EVALUATION & GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 pts</strong></td>
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94-100 = A  
88.5-89.5 = B+  
83-87.5 = B  
80-82.5 = B-  
78-79 = C+  
73-77.5 = C  
70-72 = C-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class 1</th>
<th>Jan 12</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments (all readings from the SERT book)</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Power, discourse, &amp; Change</td>
<td>White, chap 1 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>Externalizing conversations</td>
<td>D’Arrigo-Patrick. Et al., Navigating critical theory</td>
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<td>St. George &amp; Wulff. Therapy + social justice</td>
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<td>Class 2</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Linking discourse, context, &amp; emotion</td>
<td>White chap 2</td>
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<td>Reauthoring Conversations</td>
<td>Fishbane &amp; Wells. Intermesneurobiology</td>
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<td>Estrella, et al., Expanding the lens</td>
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<td>Pandit et al., sociocultural attunement</td>
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<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Transformative practices</td>
<td>White chap 3</td>
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<td>Remembering Conversations</td>
<td>Dickerson, patriarchy &amp; power</td>
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<td>Ashbourne et al., supporting novice therapists</td>
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<td>Snyder et al., learning to speak social justice</td>
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<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Empowering Witnesses</td>
<td>White chap 4</td>
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<td>Definitional Ceremonies</td>
<td>Weingarten. Reasonable Hope</td>
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<td>St. George &amp; Wulff. Community minded</td>
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<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Expanding possibilities</td>
<td>White chap 5</td>
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<td>Unique Outcomes</td>
<td>Carey, absent but implicit</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Sutherland, et al., responsive persistence</td>
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