

Course	COUN 5540 / JA / Family Systems Theory
Term	Fall 1, 2009 – Tuesday – 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm 8/25, 8/26 (Wednesday) , 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13
Instructor	Name: Dr. Matt Borer Cell Phone: (904) 874-1387 Email: mborer2002@yahoo.com
Catalog Description	This course explores the contribution of general systems theory to the development of family therapy. The focus is on examining different theoretical perspectives. Students will expand their acquired theoretical foundation by exploring the influence of family of origin and current family life.
Prerequisites	COUN 5020
Course Level Outcome Objectives	<i>Upon successful completion of this class students will be able to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of Family Systems approaches to therapy.2. Demonstrate understanding of the basic concepts involved in Family Systems therapy.3. Demonstrate understanding of the systemic issues in their own family of origin.4. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in the systemic approach to therapy.
Materials	<p>Papp, P. and Skirk, S.R. (1994). <i><u>The Process of Change</u></i>. (1st Edition). Guilford Publications, Inc, N.Y. ISBN# 0-89-862501-7</p> <p><u>Research Paper Guidelines and Sample Paper</u> – See website @ www.webster.edu/jack and click on Student Resources category</p> <p>To Order Textbooks go to the local North FL website at www.webster.edu/jack and click on Order Textbooks to select a vendor</p> <p>(Note: Textbooks must be ordered 2 weeks prior to class to ensure delivery)</p> <p><u>Supplemental Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be discussed in class

Grading

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>
• Chapter Review	20 Points
• Mid-term Exam	15 Points
• Final Exam	35 Points
• Class Participation and Attendance	<u>30 Points</u>
TOTAL	100 Points

Percentage of Total Points	Grade
95%-100%	A
90%-94%	A-
88%-89%	B+
84%-87%	B
80%-83%	B-
70%-79%	C
Below 70%	F

Activities

Chapter Review:

- Each student will review a chapter from a family therapy book not discussed in class, and present his or her findings to the class in a short 10 minute presentation.

Mid-term Exam: Essay Questions

- Clearly written
- Use of family systems concepts
- Logical answers with supporting information

Final Exam:

- Demonstrate mastery of course material in a scholarly, written form
- At least four references to be used which can include the text book.

Class Participation and Attendance:

- Students are expected to attend all class sessions of every course for the full 36 contact hours. In the case of unavoidable absence, the student must contact the instructor. The student is subject to appropriate academic penalty for incomplete or unacceptable makeup work, or for excessive or unexcused absences. Generally, a student who misses more than one four-hour course period (per course) without a documented military or medical excuse and advanced permission of the instructor should withdraw from the class. The University reserves the right to involuntarily drop enrolled students from classes, which they do not attend. **PLEASE BE ADVISED:** Students who do not attend the first class session, who have not made prior arrangements with the instructor (and approved by the instructor) for being absent, will be

dropped from their courses.

- Attendance the last day of class is mandatory to ensure that all work is completed and to be awarded a passing grade. An Incomplete will not be acceptable without documental proof (Death Notice, Doctor's Letter, etc.) as to absence relating to non-completion of class work. These must be faxed 904-262-1459 or dropped off to Webster University by the Monday after the term ends.
- Participants are expected to arrive on time and be actively involved in the learning experience. Each student should desire to learn, participate, and proactively contribute to the learning of others during each discussion and exercise.
- Students are to participate in classroom discussions. The discussions are an opportunity for students to reveal their understanding of the assignments made for the current and previous classes.
- Assignments are given to prepare the student to participate in class discussions; therefore, it is imperative that reading assignments and associated questions for discussion be completed prior to class.
- A maximum of 30 points will be awarded based on the level and quality of participation and preparation.
- Failure to turn in an assignment within one week will result in a grade of "0" for that assignment. In addition, failure to submit an assignment will lower the final grade by an additional three points.
- All assignments are due as detailed in the Course Schedule.
- Late assignments will be accepted, if they are turned in *no later* than one week later, but will be penalized one letter grade. Furthermore, late assignments will lower the student's final grade by an additional one point. (Late assignments will not be accepted for the final assignments the last week of the course to allow timely completion and grades to be submitted).

**Policy Statements:
University Policies**

University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:

Academic Honesty

The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.

Drops and Withdrawals

Please be aware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.

Special Services

If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.

Disturbances

Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption of class by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.

Student Assignments Retained

From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about that student will be redacted from the assignment or project.

Contact Hours for this Course

It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled. A class cannot be shortened in length. If a class session is cancelled for any reason, it must be rescheduled.

Weekly Schedule

Pre-Assignments for Week 1:

- ◆ Write a two page paper giving an overview of your own family system for your family of origin as you remember it. This will be discussed in class, and not collected.

Week 1

THEME: Introduction to Systems

Topics:

- ◆ General systems theory
- ◆ Understanding your own family system (refer to your pre-assignment here)

Assignments for Week 2:

- ◆ Read Chapters 1 and 2
Read supplied supplemental reading

Week 2

THEME: System Description and Change

Topics:

- ◆ How to observe the family system
- ◆ The Dilemma of Change

Assignments for Week 3:

- ◆ Read Chapter 3 & 4
- ◆ Read supplied supplemental reading

Week 3

THEME: Modern Vs. Post-modern Paradigms

- ◆ Constructivism
- ◆ Social Constructionism
- ◆ Applications for understanding these concepts

Assignments for Week 4:

- ◆ Prepare for the Mid-Term Exam on Chapters 1 through 4 and supplemental readings

Week 4

THEME: Negotiations: Your Family and Changes

Topics:

- ◆ Different Frameworks
- ◆ Mid Term Exam

Assignments for Week 5:

- ◆ Read Chapter 5

Week 5

THEME: Negotiating Change in Family Therapy

Topics:

- ◆ Finding goals for families.
- ◆ What are you willing to change in your life?

Assignments for Week 6:

- ◆ Read Chapters 6 and 7
- ◆ Session notes

Week 6

- ◆ **THEME: Power in Systemic Family Therapy**

Topics:

- ◆ Brief Strategic Therapy
- ◆ Taking a “One down position”
- ◆ Jay Haley Vs. Gregory Bateson

Assignments for Week 7:

- ◆ Read Chapter 8 and supplied supplemental reading

Week 7

THEME: Family Therapy in a Medical Setting

Topics:

- ◆ Demonstrations and Role-play of Family Therapy
- ◆ You will proceed with the family therapy process

Assignments for Week 8:

- ◆ Read Chapters 9, 10, & 11

Week 8

THEME: Treating Couples

Topics: Family Violence, Failures, & Pitfalls

Assignments for Week 9:

Study for Final Exam

Week 9

- ◆ **FINAL EXAM (Paper Due) Personal Changes Discussed**

**Additional
Information**

Course Requirements:

Course Attendance:

The University reserves the right to drop students who do not attend class the first two weeks of the term/semester. Students are expected to attend all class sessions of every course. In the case of unavoidable absence, the student must contact the instructor. The student is subject to appropriate academic penalty for incomplete or unacceptable makeup work, or for excessive or unexcused absences.

Make-Up Requirements

- For each class hour missed, a one (1) page, double-spaced, typed paper, with one (1) reference will be submitted by the end of the term. The instructor will assign the topic. A four (4) hour class will require four (4) pages supported with (4) references from popular or academic press.
- This paper will be graded and incorporated in the class participation grade. If the make-up work is not submitted, the student's final grade will be reduced one (1) letter grade.
- Students are responsible for any class material presented during their absence, and any assignments due should be submitted prior to the absence, if possible.

Conduct:

Students enrolling in a degree program at Webster University assume the obligation of conducting themselves in a manner compatible with the University's function as an education institution. Misconduct for which students are subject to discipline may be divided into the following categories:

1. All forms of dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University.
2. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other University activities or of other authorized activities on University premises.
3. Classroom disruption. Behavior occurring within the academic arena, including but not limited to classroom disruption or obstruction of teaching, is within the jurisdiction of Academic Affairs. In case of alleged campus and/or classroom disruption or obstruction, a faculty member and/or administrator may take immediate action to restore order and/or to prevent further disruption (e.g. removal of student[s] from class or other setting). Faculty members have original jurisdiction to address the immediacy of a situation, as they deem appropriate. When necessary and appropriate, Public Safety and/or the local [or military] police may be contacted to assist with restoring peace and order. Faculty response is forwarded to the academic dean (or his or her designee) for review and, if necessary, further action. Further action might include permanent removal from the course. Repeated offenses could lead to removal from the program and/or the University.
4. Theft of or damage to property of the University. Students who cheat or plagiarize may receive a failing grade for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place.

Students who engage in any of the above misconducts may be subject to dismissal from the University on careful consideration by the executive vice president of the University or his designee. To the extent that penalties for any of these misconducts (e.g. theft or destruction of property) are prescribed by law, the University will consider appropriate action under such laws.

Students are subject to the Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Procedure described in the Online Student Handbook.

Course Contact Hours:

Unless a course has enrolled fewer than four students, faculty have a contractual obligation to meet the full complement of contact/meeting hours (36 for graduate courses). Not to meet this full complement of hours may be construed as a breach of contract and may also endanger Webster University's accreditation by The Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and its licensure by the State of Florida. Finally, course meetings which are missed for any reason must be made up.

Disclaimer

- This syllabus is intended to provide a basic structure to this course. Adherence to this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor without the prior notification or consent of the student.
- Assignment Papers Retention: All papers will be held for one term and then discarded. Students are asked to pick these up after their class ends.

For Webster University policies and procedures, please refer to the Catalog and Student Handbook. If you have a documented disability as described in Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), you can contact our Academic Resource Center (ARC) at www.webster.edu/acadaffairs/asp/arc.htm, or call 800-981-9801 ext 7620, to make arrangements for services. Also, please notify your site administrator if you are attending an extended campus.

Reviewed by: *Dr. Stephanie Vavilala*

Job Title: Counseling Coordinator

Date: 07/21/09

Revised 2/18/09