



The Graduate Counseling Program  
Course Syllabus

Jacksonville, FL Campus

<b>Course</b>	<b>COUN 5650 / JC Conjoint Counseling</b>
<b>Term</b>	Fall 2, 2009 Saturday #1 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, 12/5, 12/19 (8am-Noon)
<b>Instructor</b>	Name: Dr. Deena Richman Phone: (H) 904- 292-0189 (W) 904- 268-7733 E Mail: <a href="mailto:psych10232@aol.com">psych10232@aol.com</a> or <a href="mailto:richman@webster.edu">richman@webster.edu</a>
<b>Catalog Description</b>	This course examines the application of differing styles of counseling couples and families, stressing practice in simultaneously working with more than one client. The primary focus is on the approaches, strategies, and interventions employed in counseling various combinations of persons in relationships. Students will explore the various forms of counseling couples, including persons in marriage, work relationships, friends, and extended family members.
<b>Prerequisites</b>	COUN 5020
<b>Course Level Objective Outcomes</b>	<i>Upon successful completion of this class students will be able to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Demonstrate understanding of the major theoretical approaches in systemic couple therapy.</li><li>2. Demonstrate therapeutic interventions for a range of situations encountered in relationship counseling.</li><li>3. Demonstrate understanding of the role played by gender and power in conjoint relationships and possible therapeutic interventions.</li><li>4. Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate counseling techniques relevant to couples with racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity.</li></ol>
<b>Materials</b>	Long, Lynn L. and Young, Mark E. (2007) <u>Counseling and Therapy for Couples, Second Edition</u> , Thompson Brooks/Cole ISBN: 0-495-00595-9  <b>To Order Textbooks go to the local North FL website at <a href="http://www.webster.edu/jack">www.webster.edu/jack</a> and click on Order Textbooks to select a vendor (Note: Textbooks must be ordered 2 weeks prior to class to ensure delivery)</b>

<b>Methods of Learning</b>	Students will learn through a variety of methods which include, but are not limited to lecture, text readings, discussion, role plays, and interviews.																																				
<b>Grading</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Assignments</b></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>Maximum Points</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>◆ Role-play Counseling Session in Class</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25 Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Audiotape – Initial Counseling Session</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25 Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Written Summary of Initial Counseling Session</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25 Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Mid-Term Exam</td> <td style="text-align: right;">50 Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Audiotape of Second Session</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25 Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Written Summary of Second Session</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25 Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Final Exam</td> <td style="text-align: right;">50 Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Class Participation</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>25 Points</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>250 Points</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b><u>Grades:</u></b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>245-250 points</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>240-244 points</td> <td>A-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>238-239 points</td> <td>B+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>234-237 points</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>230-233 points</td> <td>B-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>220-229 points</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>219 or less points</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Incomplete Work</td> <td>I</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	◆ Role-play Counseling Session in Class	25 Points	◆ Audiotape – Initial Counseling Session	25 Points	◆ Written Summary of Initial Counseling Session	25 Points	◆ Mid-Term Exam	50 Points	◆ Audiotape of Second Session	25 Points	◆ Written Summary of Second Session	25 Points	◆ Final Exam	50 Points	◆ Class Participation	<u>25 Points</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250 Points</b>	245-250 points	A	240-244 points	A-	238-239 points	B+	234-237 points	B	230-233 points	B-	220-229 points	C	219 or less points	F	Incomplete Work	I
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<b>Activities</b>	<p><b><u>Course Requirements:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audiotape of initial interview with couple</li> <li>• Written summary of initial session</li> <li>• Mock counseling in class</li> <li>• Mid Term Exam</li> <li>• Audiotape of treatment intervention with couple</li> <li>• Written summary of second session</li> <li>• Final Exam</li> <li>• Class participation</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Scoring Criteria: Audiotapes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates ability to conduct initial interview and treatment intervention utilizing material learned in class</li> <li>• Demonstrates ability to take charge of counseling sessions</li> <li>• Demonstrates ability to gain rapport with clients</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Scoring Criteria: Mock Counseling in Class</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to practice counseling skills with classmates</li> <li>• Willingness to accept constructive feedback from classmates and teacher</li> </ul>																																				

**Scoring Criteria: Written Summaries**

- Demonstrates ability to summarize information from session with correct English grammar and spelling
- Presents background information and history of couple
- Identifies primary problems with couple
- Identifies couples' verbal and nonverbal interaction styles

**Scoring Criteria: Mid-term and Final Exams**

- Demonstrates understanding of information in textbook
- Demonstrates understanding of information taught in class by applying it to case examples and/or explaining it in written form
- Written in legible handwriting

**Scoring Criteria: 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. Students who do not attend the first class session will be dropped from this course.
- 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 10 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 two points.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assignments are due as detailed in the Course Schedule.</li> <li>• Late assignments will be accepted, if they are turned in <i>no later</i> 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).</li> <li>• Students are expected to speak and write Standard English in this class.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy Statements: University Policies</b></p>	<p>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:</p> <p><b>Academic Honesty</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Drops and Withdrawals</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Special Services</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Disturbances</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>Course Policies</b></p>	<p><b><u>Make-Up Requirements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

	<p>(4) pages supported with (4) references from popular or academic press.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• (Students are responsible for any class material presented during their absence, and any assignments due should be submitted prior to the absence, if possible).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reference Requirements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webster University North Florida Region has developed condensed guidelines for APA references. These guidelines are to be used in all papers written for Webster University classes. The guidelines explain how to list reference sources and in-text citations back to page number locations to give all authors appropriate credit for their intellectual property and scholarly achievement.</li> <li>• All article reviews and any required make-up work will be completed in appropriate APA format.</li> <li>• Copies of the guidelines and a sample paper will be provided to students or are available @ <a href="http://www.webster.edu/jack">www.webster.edu/jack</a> under Student Resources.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Weekly Schedule</b></p>		<p><b>Pre-Assignment for Sessions 1 &amp; 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Session 1</b></p>	<p><b>A.M. Session (8-NOON)</b>  <b>THEME: Overview / Assessment and Initial Interview</b>  <b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Course Objectives and Requirements</li> <li>• Learn techniques for assessing couples</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Session 2</b></p>	<p><b>P.M. Session (1-5PM)</b>  <b>THEME: Traditional Models of Couple Therapy</b>  <b>Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief Strategic Counseling</li> <li>• Cognitive-Behavioral Couple Therapy</li> <li>• Solutions Focused Couples Therapy</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignments for Sessions 3 &amp; 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapters 4, 6, 7, 8, 10</li> <li>• Conduct Initial Interview</li> </ul>

	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>A.M. Session (8-NOON)</b> <b>THEME: Integrative Approaches</b> <b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrative Couples Therapy</li> <li>• Emotionally Focused Therapy</li> <li>• Conflict Focused Therapy</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 4</b>	<b>P.M. Session (1-5PM)</b> <b>THEME: Treatment Strategies</b> <b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principles for Making Marriage Work</li> <li>• Communication Skills</li> <li>• Conflict Resolution</li> <li>• Five Love Languages</li> </ul> <b>Assignments for Sessions 5 &amp; 6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Written Summary of Initial Interview</li> <li>• Review for Midterm</li> <li>• Read Chapters 9, 12, 13, 15</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 5</b>	<b>A.M. Session (8-NOON)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Midterm Exam</b></li> <li>• <b>Initial interview Tape and Written Summary Due</b></li> </ul> <b>THEME: Special Treatment Issues</b> <b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Violence</li> <li>• Infidelity</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 6</b>	<b>P.M. Session (1-5PM)</b> <b>THEME: Special Treatment Issues</b> <b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance Abuse</li> <li>• Sexual Dysfunction</li> <li>• Same Sex Couples</li> </ul> <b>Assignments for Sessions 7 &amp; 8:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete second tape with couple</li> <li>• Read Chapters 11 and 14</li> </ul>

	<b>Session 7</b>	<b>A.M. Session (8-NOON)</b> <b>Second tapes and written summary due</b> <b>THEME: Special Treatment Issues</b> <b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multicultural Couples</li> <li>• Developmental Issues</li> <li>• Individual Psychopathology</li> <li>• Illness</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 8</b>	<b>P.M. Session (1-5PM)</b> <b>THEME: Special Relationship Issues</b> <b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorcing Couples</li> <li>• Blending Couples</li> <li>• Parent/Child Issues</li> </ul> <b>Assignments for Session 9:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Notes for Final Exam</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 9</b>	<b>A.M. Session (8-12)</b> <b>THEME: Recapitulation</b> <b>Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch up and Complete Unfinished Business</li> <li>• <b>Final Exam</b></li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<b>Course Requirements:</b>  <u><b>Course Attendance:</b></u> 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.  <u><b>Conduct:</b></u> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All forms of dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University.</li> <li>2. Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other University activities or of other authorized activities on University premises.</li> <li>3. Classroom disruption. Behavior occurring within the academic arena, including but not limited to classroom disruption or obstruction of</li> </ol>	

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.

For Webster University policies and procedures, please refer to the Catalog and Student Handbook.

Reviewed by: *Dr. Stephanie Vavilala*

Job Title: Counseling Coordinator

Date: 9/21/09