

<b>Course</b>	COUN 5640 Marriage and Family Counseling
<b>Term</b>	Fall 1, 2009; Monday, 5:30 to 9:30
<b>Instructor</b>	Name: Wayne C. Witcher, Ph.D. Phone: 913-787-5249 (cell), 913-677-3553 (office) Email: <a href="mailto:witcher@clinical-assoc.com">witcher@clinical-assoc.com</a>
<b>Catalog Description</b>	This course examines the issues of family therapy, stressing the application of general systems theory. The focus is on the major constructs in family therapy, identification of family structures and communication patterns, and the formulation of treatment goals.
<b>Course Level Outcome Objectives</b>	Upon successful completion of this class students will be able to: 1. Demonstrate the ability to utilize appropriate strategies in working with a variety of family structures from a variety of cultures. (CACREP K.2.c) 2. Demonstrate the ability to accurately and effectively use genograms in marriage and family therapy. (CACREP II K 5 d) 3. Demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of healthy and dysfunctional families. (CACREP II K 5 c) 4. Demonstrate the ability to join, map, and intervene in marriage and family therapy. (CACREP II K 5 d)
<b>Materials</b>	Required Text: Integrating Family Therapy, Handbook of Family Psychology and Systems Theory. Edited by Richard H Mikesell, Don-David Lusterman, Susan H McDaniel, American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C., Third Printing, May 1998 ISBN 1-55798-280-5. Some handouts from the instructor will also be used.
<b>Grading</b>	A/A- 90-100 Superior Graduate Work B+/B/B- 80-89 Satisfactory Graduate Work C 70-79 Work that is barely adequate F 69 & below Work that is unsatisfactory I Incomplete work W Withdrawn from the course
<b>Activities</b>	Students will be provided with the opportunities of constructing family genograms and the formulation of treatment plans. They will also write a review of one journal article that pertains to an issue or area of interest to them in family therapy. There will hopefully be several invited speakers to discuss with the students particular issues in the speaker's own culture in regard to marriage and family problems/issues. There will also be the opportunity to role play in various counseling situations.
<b>Policy Statements: University</b>	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

<p><b>Policies</b></p>	<p>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 in the Graduate Studies Catalogue 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>Attendance at each class session is expected.</p>
<p><b>Weekly Schedule</b></p>	<p>Week 1. Oct. 20. The application of general systems theory to family counseling. Students should read the introduction section in the text.</p> <p>Week 2. Oct. 27. Core Techniques in Family Therapy. Students should read ch. 1 in the text. There will be opportunity to discuss and practice the techniques.</p> <p>Week 3. Nov. 3. Engaging the Family. Students should read ch. 3 in the text. Discussion and practice.</p> <p>Week 4. Nov. 10. Children and Family Therapy: Mainstream Approaches</p>

	<p>and the Special Case of the Multicrisis Poor. Students should read ch. 6 in the text.</p> <p>Week 5. Nov. 17. Typologies of Family Structure. Students will have a handout to read.</p> <p>Week 6. Nov. 24 Ethnic Dimensions in Family Treatment. Students should read ch. 19 in text.</p> <p>Week 7. Dec. 1. Integrating Ethnic Diversity and other Social Systems. Students should read ch. 12 in text.</p> <p>Week 8. Dec. 8. Marital Therapy. Students will have several handouts to read.</p> <p>Week 9. Dec. 15. Healthy vs. Dysfunctional Families. Treatment Planning for Families.</p>
<p><b>Additional Information</b></p>	<p><b>Course Requirements:</b> There will be one journal assignment and several smaller exams rather than a final exam.</p> <p><b>Course Attendance:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Conduct:</b> 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:</p> <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 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</li> </ol>

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 (32 for undergraduate courses; 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.

**DETERMINATION OF GRADES IS BASED THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

**Minimum Requirements:**

Products (papers, case studies, projects) must be on time, in the correct format, corrected for spelling and grammar, appropriate materials included and referenced to-the-point and on topic and conclusions must be supported.

Examinations must be complete, accurate, neat, evidence clear thought, and exhibit concise and to-the-point responses.

Behavior in class discussions and group activities should be responsible, should exhibit open communication, be constructive, and helpful.

Mastery Level (Grade of "B"): Professional Achievement

Products must meet the requirements stated above for minimum requirements and additionally meet professional criteria. For example, documentation should be included to support research papers, the APA format should be used consistently throughout the paper, and substantially more than the minimum number of references should be included. Presentations should be logical, organized, and comprehensive.

Examinations should be organized, in depth, comprehensive, logical and complete, and evidence thorough understanding of the subject /topic through application of principles.

Classroom behavior should exhibit very focused activity and thought on the subject at hand, be motivated, and assist in discovery of new insights and relationships concerning the subject/topic of discussion.

Mastery Level Plus (Grade of "A"): Creative Achievement

Products must meet all requirements stated above and additionally meet creative criteria. These criteria include unique topic or subject selection, synthesis of ideas, evaluation of subject matter and positions found in the literature, be creative in approach, establish new relationships with ideas and provide new insights.

Examination responses indicate insightfulness of understanding, a synthesis of information and unique ideas, and rationale for application of principles following careful analysis.

Classroom behavior should exhibit very focused activity and thought on the subject at hand, be motivated, and assist in discovery of new insights and relationships concerning the subject/topic of discussion.

The grade of "A" represents the best work of students, accomplished in a unique and professional manner.

**Note:**

To achieve the objectives of this course, this syllabus may be revised at the discretion of the instructor without prior notification or consent of the student.

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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_