Advanced Family Practicum  
MFT 773, Fall  
2016  
Marriage and Family Therapy Program

Professor: Ryan M. Earl, MSMFT  
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Time: Thursday 1:00 – 3:45pm  
Room: CICFC – room TBD  
Office Hours: During clinic coverage

Course Description:
1. To assess and diagnose cases, prioritize goals, and treat clients with a variety of presenting problems and clinical populations from a systemic framework.
2. To integrate feedback from supervision into clinical practice.
3. To identify ethical, legal, and professional issues and apply AAMFT ethical standards and professional standards as appropriate.
4. To integrate issues of diversity into the practice of marriage and family therapy.
5. Interpret and apply the major models of marriage, couple, and family therapy.
6. Analyze a wide variety of presenting clinical problems in the treatment of individuals, couples, and families from a relational/systemic perspective.
7. Address contemporary individuals, couples and families as pertaining to gender, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, etc; comprehend therapeutic strategies with diverse/multicultural populations.
9. Recognize and assess substance use and abuse in individuals, couples, and families.
10. Diagnose mental health, considering major psychopharmacological interventions, physical health issues, using traditional psychodiagnostic and relational categories.
11. Maintain a professional identity, engage in professional socialization, and understand the MFT scope of practice, professional organizations, licensure, and certification.
12. Define ethical issues related to the profession of marriage and family therapy and the practice of individual, couple, and family therapy, including: responsibility to clients, students and supervisees, research participants and the profession; issues of confidentiality; professional competence and integrity; the appropriateness of advertising and financial arrangements.
13. Identify the legal responsibilities and liabilities of clinical practice and research, including record keeping, reimbursement, the business aspects of practice, and familiarity with regional and federal laws as they relate to the practice of individual, couple and family therapy.
14. Complete a substantive clinical experience in which students integrate and apply theoretical and practical knowledge from all didactic coursework in the treatment of individual, couple and family problems.

Required Texts:
None. Just one article!


General Requirements & Policies:

Confidentiality: During practicum, you will be expected to engage in discussions related to a wide range of professional issues, including self-as-the-therapist, case consultation, hypothesizing, and live supervision. At times, you may decide to talk about issues that are real and personal to you. If you or a fellow practicum member does this, I expect that it will stay within the group. I take this VERY seriously, and expect you to take it seriously as well. Violations of confidentiality may be considered grounds for course failure.

Each of you will be someone who either contributes to the sense of safety in our practicum or detracts from it. I expect
**Attendance:** Obviously, I expect you to attend practicum. Be ready to talk about cases, show video, etc.

**Participation:** Participation, as you know, is essential if we want this thing to work well. This isn’t a revelation!

**Supervision Contract:** Each of you will complete a formal supervision contract with me during your individual supervision in week 2. We will call back to this contract during the mid and final semester meetings (described below).

**Live Sessions:** I’m a big believer in live supervision. Rather than having assignments and papers, I want to give you the opportunity to engage in live sessions as the therapist and as a person in the reflecting team. To fulfill this, you are required to do the following over the course of the semester:

1. Hold a total of 8 live sessions (roughly one every two weeks). I prefer relational cases.
2. Attend at least one live session of each of the 5 other therapists in our group.
3. Hold at least one “open live” where any of your classmates can attend.
   a. This will include a formal introduction and debriefing after the live.

It is your responsibility to inform your practicum group about your live sessions, and it is especially your responsibility to inform your class about your “open live”. I prefer that you hold your lives with me while I am covering the clinic, but I am willing to come in at other times if necessary. My clinic coverage times are:
   - Monday: 4-8pm, Tuesday: 1-3pm, Wednesday: 5-9pm

**Case Consultation:** I am not requiring formal presentations. Instead, I ask that you bring to supervision whatever issues are currently most salient to you in your work. It could be a specific case, person-of-the-therapist work, asking about how to use a model, a specific video segment, or anything you deem needs-supervision-worthy. Though there will be weeks where we spend more group time on one person or a couple people more than others, I ask that you have something of substance to discuss each week (everyone will have space to talk).

**Record Keeping:** Students are required to keep their cases up-to-date. This means completing progress notes of sessions within 24 hours of the session. As a person who struggles with paperwork, I empathize with how frustrating this can be, but it’s necessary. I reserve the right to spot check files and assess record-keeping skills.

**NOTE:** This is the part of supervising (and being a therapist) that I struggle with the most. It’s VERY difficult for me to stay on top of all the paperwork that you are required to submit to me, let alone stay on top of my own paperwork. As a result, it is your responsibility to make sure that I sign paperwork, case files, etc. in a timely manner and within the time frames that are required.

**Professionalism:** You all already know how to do this. Please observe the dress code, be on time for clients, maintain appointments, respect colleagues, and maintain confidentiality.

**Hours:** You are required to have a minimum of 40 clinical hours over the course of the semester (30 to receive a grade). If you meet this requirement, you are to fulfill your ethical and professional responsibility to see clients through the remainder of the semester. I also expect that you will advocate for yourself in the even that you are short on hours.

**Practicum Organization:**
We will meet as a group from 1:00 – 2:45pm on Thursdays. You will then meet with me individually for one hour per week at a time we both agree upon. This means that you will receive at least 3 hours per week of supervision in addition to any live supervision you receive. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are completing your supervision hours.

At the mid-term, I will devote our individual supervision session to a mid-session “state of the practicum” with you. At the end of the semester, we will use an individual supervision session to formally discuss the semester, my observations, and your reflections. We will discuss what your strengths are, what progress you made, and what areas of growth are still present in your work.
Grading:
Your grade will be based on your attendance and participation in group and individual supervision, the depth to which you engage in the process, your ability to meet your clinical hours, and your fulfillment of the live supervision requirements. It will also be based on your own self-evaluation at the midterm and at the end of the semester.

Additional Policies:

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html.

Copyright: The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/.

Students who are caught cheating or violate standards of honesty and copyright in any way will be given a score of "zero" for the assignments, a referral to the Office of Student Conduct, and possibly a failing grade for the course.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, http://drc.unlv.edu, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excluding modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning
https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency
**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit [http://www.unlv.edu/asc](http://www.unlv.edu/asc) or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is Susie Skarl. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at [https://www.library.unlv.edu/](https://www.library.unlv.edu/).

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: [http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/](http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/).

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: [http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars](http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars).