

**Psychology 691  
Practicum I  
3 Credit Hours  
Summer, 2008**

**Location:** Psychological Services Center

**Time:** Monday, 9-12

**Instructor:**

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Office Psychological  
Services Center

Hours: MW 4:00-5:00

TTh 8:00-9:00

**Required Books**

Sommers-Flanagan, R., & Sommers-Flanagan, J. (2003). *Clinical interviewing* (3rd ed.). NY: John Wiley & Sons.

American Psychological Association. (2002). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. *American Psychologist*, 57, 1060-1073. (Also available online.)

**Course Description**

This course is designed primarily to provide students with their first hands-on practicum experience. Students will work under the supervision of the class instructor with the assistance of advanced graduate students functioning as peer supervisors under the supervision of the class instructor. It allows students the opportunity to bring together theory and practice and to develop clinical skills. The course begins with the assumption that the student has had little or no experience in this domain. Ethical issues involved in the delivery of psychological services will be covered in detail, and diversity and cultural issues will be emphasized throughout the course.

**Course Objectives**

1. To provide students with a systematic approach to the development of basic clinical skills.
2. To review ethical standards of practice for clinical psychologists.
3. To allow students the opportunity to observe, practice, and master basic interviewing skills.

4. To provide an understanding of the basic elements of conducting an intake interview and mental status examination.
5. To explore the application of diagnosis and treatment planning in clinical intervention.
6. To develop an awareness of clinical issues relevant to special populations.

### **Schedule**

The schedule presented is tentative and provided to assist you in planning your reading. The pace may be slowed or accelerated depending upon class response. You are strongly encouraged to begin reading immediately, as class sessions will be of limited value and generate little discussion if you have not first read the material.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reading</b>
06/09/07	Ethical/Professional Issues	Chs. 1-2 & APA Code
06/16/07	Active Listening	Ch. 3
06/23/07	Questioning/Directives	Ch. 4
06/30/07	Suicide Assessment	Ch. 9
07/07/07	The Interview Process	Ch. 6
07/14/07	Mental Status Exam	Ch. 8
07/21/07	Intake and Social History	Ch. 7
07/28/07	Diagnosis & Treatment Planning	Ch. 10
08/04/07	Diversity Issues	Ch. 13

### **Attendance Policy**

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. SHSU policy is that no student will be penalized for three or fewer hours of absence. However, you are required to collect a minimum of 75 hours of supervised experience during your Practicum I tenure. Since 27 of those hours are class attendance, should you miss a class, the hours will need to be made up in some other way arranged with the instructor.

## **Course Requirements**

Active participation in all scheduled classes is required. Participation will include regular involvement in role plays, taking the role of both clinician and client. Students will be required to practice the basic clinical skills with 20 hours of face-to-face contact with volunteer clients. These interviews must be videotaped. An additional 20 hours should be involved with observation of clients at the clinic. This will be followed by a 15-20 minute discussion with the student clinician in which you will process the session. Students are encouraged to attend the weekly clinic meeting that may substitute for an hour of observation. Each student will also be assigned a peer supervisor. Each student will schedule an hour of supervision with the instructor and peer supervisor on a weekly basis to play tapes, discuss the interviews, and receive feedback. A portion of the class period will be devoted to group supervision; this will include the playing of interview tapes and live role playing allowing students the opportunity to give each other feedback. No later than August 6, 2008, each student will be required to submit a log of hours to the instructor. Since the emphasis in this course is on practical experience, no examinations or papers will be required.

## **Professionalism**

Attendance, punctuality, adherence to ethical standards, and the quality of your interactions with colleagues and supervisors all determine your level of professionalism, which in turn signals your readiness to advance to subsequent practica.

## **Evaluation**

Satisfactory performance will result in a grade of B. Excellent performance will be recognized with a grade of A. It is possible that all students receive an A. (It is also possible that all students receive a B.) Failing to complete the required number of experiential hours will result in a failing grade. Performance evaluation will focus on 1) preparation for class and supervision, 2) openness to feedback, 3) ability to make adjustments in response to feedback, 4) ability to provide constructive feedback, and 5) overall level of professionalism.

### Hours required:

- 20 face-to-face with volunteer clients
- 20 clinic observation
- 8 supervision
- 27 class
- Total: 75

## **Instructor Evaluations**

Each student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the

end of the semester. This instructor takes these evaluations very seriously and constructive criticism is appreciated. Changes in class format and techniques are regularly made in response to student comments.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty. Within the practicum experience this would include any deliberate falsification of reports regarding clinical experiences or any deliberate omissions. It would also include any deliberate misleading of volunteer clients. Substantiation of any such unethical conduct would result in a failing grade.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with the instructor so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I may best help you. All disclosures of disabilities are kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

### **Religious Holidays**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a)(2) defines religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. . . .” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after that absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and the

instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will negotiate with the student how the hours missed can be achieved.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

Given the highly confidential and sensitive materials discussed in class, visitors not assigned to the Psychological Services Center and/or registered for the class will not be allowed.