

University of Pittsburgh Communication Science & Disorders
CSD 2061: Clinical Interviewing and Counseling
Course Syllabus -- Spring, 2001

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Course Time: Fridays 12:00p – 2:50p Office Hours: TBA / By Appointment

Course Information

This course is designed to provide speech-language pathology and audiology students with an overview of the goals and practice of counseling in daily interactions with people with communication disorders. Throughout the course, students will participate in specific practice exercises designed to help them develop basic counseling microskills. A strong emphasis will be placed on helping communication disorders professionals understand what types of issues they should be able to address through counseling and what types of issues are best addressed by other professionals outside our field.

Course Description

The course will involve: (a) lectures and group discussions designed to give students an understanding of the basic theory of counseling, (b) student presentations designed to give students an idea of how counseling skills can be used in the treatment of various communication disorders, and (c) specific practice exercises designed to help students develop counseling microskills and to provide a foundation for future clinical practicum in which students can further develop their counseling skills.

Course Rationale

The role of the Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist in helping individuals with communication difficulties involves more than just remediating speech, language, or hearing problems. Often, our clients exhibit other related concerns, perhaps due to difficult coming to terms with the communication disorder, or perhaps due to the difficulty in making the changes required in treatment. Such problems can complicate the process of obtaining the information needed to make an accurate diagnosis of the communication disorder or hinder the client's success in treatment. To effectively deal with these and other roadblocks, speech-language pathologists and audiologists must be adept at developing a truly therapeutic relationship with their clients, both for obtaining relevant information about the disorder (interviewing) and also for helping clients reduce barriers to their success in treatment (counseling). Thus, this course will provide an introduction to the basic interviewing and counseling skills necessary to help speech-language pathology and audiology clinicians achieve the greatest success possible when working with individuals exhibiting communication disorders.

Course Goals

- (1) To provide students with sufficient background in the theory, principles, and practice of therapeutic interaction so they will be able to overcome their initial fears about counseling and be able to achieve the greatest benefit from their clinical practicum experiences.
- (2) To increase students' awareness of the types of concerns and difficulties clients with communication disorders may face and to provide students with some of the tools necessary to help their clients overcome these roadblocks and achieve the fullest success in their treatment.
- (3) To help students recognize the boundaries for what types of counseling activities are appropriate for professionals in communication disorders what types of issues are best addressed by professionals in other fields.

Course Materials

There is 1 required textbooks, available in the student bookstore:

Egan, G. (1998). *The Skilled Helper* (6th Ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishers.

There is also a recommended text...(either *Shames* or *Luterman*)

Course Requirements and Grading

Participation – 20%

The majority of the learning in the class will take place through group projects and in-class practice interactions. Accordingly, it will be necessary for students to actively participate in the class to gain the experience necessary to develop beginning counseling skills.

Quizzes – 15%

Students' understanding of background material and theory will be assessed through a series of three quizzes, administered via CourseInfo.

Quiz 1, due 1/26/01, will include material through 1/19/01 (Counseling Overview/Theories of Counseling).

Quiz 2, due 2/23/01, will include material through 2/16/01 (Basic and Advanced Communication Skills).

Quiz 3, due 3/23/01, will include material through 3/16/01 (The Helping Model).

Presentation – 20%

Students will give presentations to the class on a topic of their choosing that covers aspects of counseling for a specific type of communication disorder. Students will work in pairs or groups of three to prepare their presentations. Presentations will be scheduled during the last 3 weeks of the class, prior to the final exam.

Term Paper – 20%

Students will prepare a term paper summarizing the important issues associated with counseling for the specific communication disorder they selected for their presentation. Although the presentations will be completed in small groups, the term papers will be written individually. The term papers will be due five days following the presentation so students will have time to incorporate any suggestions or changes identified during the in-class presentations.

Final Exam – 25%

There will be one cumulative final examination during the final class period (April 27, 2001). The test will consist of a series of multiple choice and short answer questions and will cover both theoretical and practical aspects of counseling for various communication disorders.

Course Policies

Although this course will include some lectures, much of the material will be acquired through group discussions and small group interactions. Accordingly, it is very important that students make a commitment to attend class regularly and to participate in the group activities. Students who do not participate in the class will not be able to achieve a passing grade.

Course Policies (Academic Integrity)

Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an examination, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

Course Policies (Disabilities)

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you should notify both the instructor and *Disability Resources and Services* no later than the 2nd week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To reach *Disability Resources and Services*, call 648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.