SYLLABUS

I. TEXT (Required)


II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology 5345 Family Theory, Practice and Therapy, is a graduate level introductory survey of the major theories and theorists in the area of family therapy. This course will cover various theories of family therapy as well as how to conduct an assessment of family dynamics, and the implications for the application of family therapy in practice. We will also review of the research done in the area and the applicability of research findings in practice.

Students will examine ethical and professional issues in family therapy. The course materials and lectures are such that students will be encouraged to integrate their existing knowledge of developmental psychology, social psychology, and personality theory into this course material.

III. COURSE GOALS

At the end of this course, you should;

1. Know and understand the principle family theories.
2. Understand the assessment and applications of these theories.
3. Have learned some of the philosophical tools for theory construction in psychological theorizing,
4. Have learned how different theories conceptualize and evaluate the dynamics of the human experience in general and the experience of the family in particular.
5. Have a heightened sensitivity to cultural and ethnic issues that influence family functioning and attitudes.

IV: EXAMS

There will be two examinations worth 200 points each. Examinations will be given on the dates listed in the syllabus. The examinations may be either “blue book” essays or take-home exams or
presentations. There will be no formal make-up exams. Provisions may be arranged in special circumstances. Your exams and papers will be held by me for 60 days after the end of the semester. You can copy them if you wish to have them earlier. All exams must be turned in electronically to the email listed above. They exam must be submitted in hard copy form and a copy emailed to one of addresses above.

V: WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 3 précis written on topics assigned by your professor. Each precise will be between 400 and 440 lines long. Each précis is worth 100 points. These assignment will be written in accordance with the APA Publications Manual, 6th edition. They will contain a title page, citations, but no references. These will be written in Times New Roman font, size #12, with one-inch margins on all sides. The pages will be justified on the left margin and unjustified on the right margin. The précis are due on the dates indicated in the syllabus but may be superseded by the instructor. The précis will be between 400 and 440 lines of text. The number of lines do not include the title page. No abstract page is permitted, nor are reference pages, no figures graphs, nor tables. Again, the précis will be written in accordance with the style manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition and addition form requirements will be given by the instructor. We will be discussing the précis throughout the course as necessary. The précis must be submitted in hard copy form and a copy emailed to one of addresses above.

VI: ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is mandatory. Each unexcused absence or early departure will result in a 10-point deduction from your final grade. It will not be possible to successfully complete this course without regular attendance. If you miss a class, however, you will still be held responsible for all that transpired during that class, including schedule changes, material covered, and exams given. The instructor will work with students who find themselves in emergent situations to allow an excused absence. Any departure before the end of class or arrival for class more than 10 minutes late is considered an absence.

VII: DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Course grades will be based primarily on the total number of points earned by the end of the semester. There are 700 possible points. To receive an “A” for the course, you will need 631 points (or 90% of the possible points). A “B” requires 561 points (80%), a “C” requires 491. At the discretion of the instructor a student’s grade may be raised but never lowered, for any of the following reasons:

1. Quality of class attendance and participation,
2. Improvement throughout the course
3. Isolated low grade.

Total points available in the course are 700. The following are the points necessary to achieve the indicated grade:
631 – 700 = A
561 – 630 = B
491 – 560 = C
421 – 490 = D
Less than 420 = F

These exceptions to the “total points” rule will be considered only when a student’s final average is within a few points of the cut-off for the next highest grade. The grade of “Incomplete” is not an automatic grade. Arrangements for this must be made with me prior to the end of the semester. A minimum requirement for eligibility will be that the student has successfully passed more than half of the course when an “I” is given. According to university regulations, the student must initiate the paperwork necessary to receive an “I”.

VIII. DISABILITY SERVICES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

IX. ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

X. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

The current University Catalog and Student Handbook discuss plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Any student violating these codes will be held responsible.

XI. GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in
the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

XII. DROPPING A CLASS

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term is April 10th.

There will be two examinations worth 200 points each. Prior to the examinations, you will be given information on the material and the format of the exam. Tests will be given on the date announced.

ASSIGNED READING

NB: This syllabus is a guide. The order of the readings will not change but the amount of time spent on a topic may vary upon the needs and interests of the class.

01/21 – PART ONE – INTRODUCTION – The foundations of Family therapy Pages 1-6

Chapter 1 – The Evolution of Family Therapy Pages 8–26

01/28 – Chapter 2 – Basic Techniques of Family Therapy Pages 27–49

02/04 – Chapter 3 – The Fundamental Concepts of Family Pages 50–68
02/11 – PART TWO – THE CLASSIC SCHOOLS OF FAMILY THERAPY

CHAPTER – 4 Bowen Family Systems Therapy  Pages 69 – 88

02/18 – Chapter 5 – Strategic Family Therapy  Pages 89 – 110

02/25 – Chapter 6 – Structural Family Therapy  Pages 111 - 130

03/03 – Chapter 7 – Experiential Family Therapy  Pages 131 – 148

03/03 DISTRIBUTED EXAM #1 DUE 03/31

03/10 – 03/15 Spring Break

03/17 – Chapter 8 – Psychoanalytic Family Therapy  Pages 149 – 166

03/24 – Chapter 9 Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy  Pages 167 - 188

03/24 – EXAM #1 DUE at the beginning of class

03/31 – PART THREE – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FAMILY THERAPY

03/31 – Chapter 10 Family Therapy I the Twenty-First Century  Pages 189 - 218

04/07 – Chapter 11 – Solutions-Focused Therapy  Pages 219 - 238

04/14 – Chapter 12 – Narrative Therapy  Pages 239 - 258

PART FOUR – THE EVALUATION OF FAMILY THERAPY

04/14 – Chapter 13 – Comparative Analysis  Pages 257 –275

04/21 – Chapter 14 – Research on Family Intervention  Pages 276 - 289

04/28 – Run over class

05/05 – Run over class

05/12 – 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM Final Examination