

COURSE SYLLABUS
EDP 381: Practicum in Counseling: M.Ed. (10850)

Wednesdays 4:30- 7:30p.m.
SZB 268
Spring 2016

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Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-4:30p.m.
Thursday noon-1:00p.m.
Or by appointment

Course Methodology

Our primary course methodologies will be a combination of experiential learning, case presentations, and expert guest presenters. Even though students will do case presentations, this course does not substitute for or supersede students on-site supervision.

Rationale for Course

As a professional counselor, you will be called upon to help people or institutions cope with and resolve a wide-range of problems and dilemmas. Through the case presentations you and other students make in this course, it is hoped that you will become more resourceful and effective in applying appropriate treatments or interventions to meet the needs of those who utilize your services.

Course Aims and Objectives

- To help you understand and meet professional practice standards.
- To provide the experiences that will enable you to refine the functional competencies associated with successful intervention.
- To provide you with timely feedback about any deficiencies communicated to me by your practicum placement supervisor.
- To address ethical dilemmas which arise during the course of this practicum seminar
- To address special cultural and diversity considerations essential to attuned practice

Class Requirements

Attendance is Essential

Since much of what we learn in this seminar will occur in class, it is vital that you attend and be mentally present in class. If you cannot attend a particular class meeting, I expect you to notify me in advance. My intent with this policy is not to be punitive, but rather to reassure myself that you are getting the most out of this seminar and are on the right path to becoming a responsible professional practitioner.

Due to the nature of this seminar, students will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. Earning a grade of “credit” will be based on satisfactory performance in each of the following areas: a) commitment to the work of the course; b) performance at the practicum site including effectiveness, ethical functioning, and demonstrated professionalism; c) timely submission of monthly journal entries about class assignments and/or practicum experiences; and d) consistent attendance and participation in class. To receive credit, students must demonstrate satisfactory performance in all four areas.

Learner Evaluation and Grading

Class participation

Your score on this performance measure will reflect the quantity and quality of your in-class participation and preparedness for your class presentations.

Journal entries

The first day of each month you are required to send a journal entry to me via email. The entry should include at least two notable events that happened at your practicum site during that month along with your personal reflections regarding those events and any dilemmas or ethical challenges encountered.

Site-based Feedback

Feedback from your site supervisor will be utilized to assess your performance in this course.

Course format

At the beginning of each class, we will discuss issues/dilemmas that occurred at practicum sites. Following this discussion, two students will make case presentations. The case presentation protocol includes providing appropriate contextual and demographic background; the presenting problem, challenge or dilemma; nature of the intervention provided; precipitating events or relevant history; perceived effectiveness/ineffectiveness of the intervention; and, the desired consultation/feedback. **All case presentations need to have identifying information redacted or disguised. All materials about cases are to be returned to the presenter following the case discussion.**

During some class periods, we will have guest presenters or time set aside to focus on practicing counseling skills. On occasion, these activities may preempt scheduled case presentations.

Course Schedule

The following course schedule describes the topics and assignments to be covered during the month of January. Future assignments, guest presenters and case presentation schedule will be determined during the first two weeks of class. This syllabus may be revised as required by either judgment or circumstances. Changes will be posted on Blackboard and announced in class. It is your responsibility to make note of all changes.

Date	Topic	Case/Guest Presentations
1-20-16	Course overview and initial assignments Discuss seminar goals and case presentations procedures	No class assignment Student case presentation schedule to be determined this session
1-27-16		Case Discussions
1-3-16		Case Discussions
2-10-16		Case Discussions
2-17-16		Case discussions
2-24-16		Case Discussions
3-2-16		Case Discussions
3-9-16		Case Discussions
3-16-16	SPRING BREAK	No Class
3-23-16		Case Discussions
3-30-16		Case Discussions
4-6-16		Case Discussions
4-13-16		Case Discussions
4-20-16		Case Discussions
4-27-16		Case Discussions
5-4-16	Review and closure	No case presentations

Important Statements

The University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

University Electronic Mail Notification Policy (Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students)

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements. Note: If you are an employee of the University, your e-mail address in Blackboard is your employee address.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

In compliance with the UT Austin policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Students who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259- voice or 471-4641 – TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Beginning in 2016, you will have the option to download and print your own Accommodation Letter instead of picking up a hard copy from SSD. If you send me an Accommodation Letter, you will need to follow-up by scheduling and attending a meeting with me to work out the details of the accommodations that need to be made. Your letter should be presented to me at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five business days before an

exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed. See Web site below for more information:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>

Use of Canvas in Classes

This course uses Canvas, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. (Student enrollments in each course are updated each evening.) Canvas can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Canvas course site regularly for class work and announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on the Canvas login page. Scheduled downtimes are **not** an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Canvas is available at <http://courses.utexas.edu>. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm, so plan accordingly.

Religious Holidays

Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. If you miss an examination, work assignment, or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day you will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time **after** the absence. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin that **you must notify each of your instructors at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent** to observe a religious holy day.

Scholastic Dishonesty

The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor. By accepting this syllabus, you have agreed to these guidelines and must adhere to them. Scholastic dishonesty damages both the student's learning experience and readiness for the future demands of a work-career. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, please visit the Student Judicial services Web site at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>

Classroom Evacuation Procedures

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may

occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line

BCAL: 232-5050