

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
CO/WM 712 Cross-Cultural Counseling
Fall 2010

Course Instructor: Dr. Pablo Polischuk

Class Meeting Times: Thursdays, 1:15-4:15 p.m.

I. Course Description

The course provides an overview of cross-cultural considerations in the conduction of therapy with families and individuals of different cultural backgrounds. Emphasis is given to family roles, structures and functions, and to the context in which individuals develop and relate. The course provides an opportunity to develop sensitivity and insight as well as strategies needed to work effectively among people in cross-cultural settings.

II. Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are that the students will:

1. Explore major issues in cross-cultural counseling with emphasis on worldviews, values and ecosystems.
2. Explore major approaches and modalities in the treatment of individuals and families, increasing the awareness of the possible barriers to effective cross-cultural work.
3. Integrate psychological, anthropological and theological perspectives as to develop insights necessary in ministry or delivery of service in different cultural settings.

III. Course Textbook

Sue, D. W. and Sue D. (2002). *Counseling the culturally diverse: Theory and practice* (4th. Ed.) New York: John Wiley.

Recommended Resources:

McGoldrick, M., Giordano, J. & Garcia-Preto, N. (Eds.). (2005). *Ethnicity and family therapy*. (2nd ed). New York: Guilford Press.

Pedersen, P. D., Dragun, J. G., Ronner, W. J. & Trimble, J. (Eds.) (2002). *Counseling across cultures*. (5th ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

V. Course Requirements and Grading

Full attendance and participation is expected in the course. The course is compact, accelerated and challenging, demanding attention, concentration and "being there". Students participate in small group discussions focusing on multicultural cases as to learn from concrete examples.

Assignments

1. Reading. The purpose of the course is to acquire a broad knowledge on the subject. Thus, it is expected that the student will read 2000 pages. The reading log will be due on **December 9th, 2010**.
2. Take home exam. A take home exam will be administered. The exam will be conceptual, drawing from readings, lectures and discussions, plus the personal input from the student's perspective. Given on **December 9th -to be returned on December 16th**.
3. Term Paper. A term paper dealing with counseling a given population from a cross-cultural perspective. Issues in delivery of services, possible barriers, innovative methods, at individual family level, represent possible topics for consideration. Length: 12-15 pp. APA Style. Due: **December 9th, 2010**.

Grading

The final grade will be a composite score, drawn from the take home exam (40%), term paper (40%) and participation in class/reading log (20%).

VI. Course Administration

A. Format

As customary in graduate-level courses, it is expected a participatory interaction that will allow for mutual growth and development between instructor and students.

1. There will be two short breaks (10') or one longer break (20') per class
2. Discussions are encouraged, with participation of students and presentations made by individuals/teams of diverse cultural backgrounds. Small group interaction is also an important aspect of the course, discussing case studies in cross-cultural settings.

B. Attendance Policy

It is expected a full attendance to all ten classes; absences (if any) will negatively impinge on the final grade.

C. Due Dates and Late Penalties

The student will submit the required coursework in the stipulated dates above. Any extensions, if necessary, must be handled in the appropriate fashion through the registrar's office. Penalties may be applied, but depending upon the validity of the request, exemptions may apply in the case of extenuating circumstances impinging upon the fulfillment of the assignments.

D. Assistance

The instructor may be reached at the GCTS campus in South Hamilton: 978-646-4116, or Pablo@gordonconwell.edu

VII. Course Outline

1. Introduction to the topics
Ethnopsychology and cultural issues in counseling
Western and Non-Western worldviews
Post-modern relativism, social constructivism & tribalism
2. Cultural anthropology and biblical anthropology
Christ, the Christian and culture
Psychopathology in cross-cultural perspective
3. Communication across cultures
Styles, sources and recipients of communication
Barriers to effective counseling
4. Family counseling
Structure, functions and extrafamilial contexts
Therapy with families in cultural transition
5. Family counseling across cultures
Counseling Racial/Ethnic minority populations
6. Counseling Racial/Ethnic minorities
7. Counseling Racial/Ethnic Minorities
8. Counseling Racial/Ethnic minorities
9. Counseling the culturally different in USA
10. Review and conclusions

Bibliography

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Atkinson, D. R. (2003). *Counseling American minorities: A cross-cultural approach*. NY: McGraw Hill.

Bemak, F., Chi-Ying, R. C. & Pedersen, P. B. (Eds.) (2002) *Counseling refugees: A psychosocial approach to innovative multicultural interventions* (Contributions in Psychology). Greenwood Press.

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Amerasia Journal

Journal of Black Psychology

Journal of Cross Cultural Psychology

Culture and Psychology

Hispanic Journal of the Behavioral Sciences

Journal of Asian Psychology

Journal of Multicultural Counseling and development

Journal of Asian American Studies