Practicum IB: Interviewing and Personality Appraisal (Adult Intake)
Course # 77700.16175
Fall, 2011

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Day & Time: Tues 2:00
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Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce clinical psychology graduate students to the psychodiagnostic and therapeutic skills of the practicing clinical psychologist. The focus will be on mastering the art of interviewing and the initial phases of clinical processes. The course will focus on approaches to interviewing with a focus on helping you to assess and diagnosis patients. The course will also cover the structural interview that assesses for level of organization of the patient. The class will involve a brief overview of common disorders encountered in outpatient settings, including affective disorders, anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive and dissociative disorders, Post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), and especially all of the personality disorders. The class will also address the issue of differential therapeutics; that is which therapeutic approaches (e.g. individual, family, couple), are appropriate for which conditions. Technical and boundary issues with patients, technical handling of difficult early problems in treatment; treatment planning; and initial stages of therapy will also be covered. Other topics to be covered include how to assess for and respond appropriately to suicidal and homicidal ideation and behavior.

Although there are readings assigned for each class, the course will revolve around having students present their intake interviews to the class with the goal of developing diagnoses and dynamic formulations. The course will also focus on identifying and assessing the particular socio-cultural as well as psychological factors that may be relevant to clinical formulations. In addition, students will be assigned an ongoing psychotherapy case, which will be presented in class.

The adult intake class does the initial screening of people who come to The Psychological Center. We are piloting a new procedure this semester: every student in the intake class must be available from 11:45-1:30 on Wednesday to meet with Ben Harris and Karen Gelder and to interview patients. Intakes will be from ONE TO THREE SESSIONS depending on the vicissitudes of the case. The applicant will be told from the beginning that attendance at the intake meetings is extremely important since we have a long waiting list and far more requests for services than we can fulfill. Given this initial briefing, if the patient misses or cancels a session, s/he will be told that if s/he cancels or misses again, it will be assumed that s/he is not sufficiently interested to continue at this time. If the patient cancels more than two times, s/he will receive a letter informing him or her that s/he can no longer pursue an intake at the current time, but may reapply to the clinic at a later time should s/he decide to commit him or herself to the process.
**Course Objectives:**

1) Students will learn interview skills in order to evaluate patients presenting for psychotherapy
2) Students will learn the basics of diagnosing and assessing patients
   - A) Students will learn to use the DSM
   - B) Students will work with testers and integrate their findings
3) Students will learn to create treatment plans for new patients.

**Requirements and Grading:**

Students will be responsible for writing three in-depth intake reports. These intake reports should be done only on completed intakes. The format for these reports will be distributed in class. No reports will be accepted after the last week of the semester. If all intakes are not turned in at that time, the grade will be lowered accordingly.

If, after presenting your intake patient in class or after consultation with your supervisor or Diana or Ben, you determine that he or she needs a medication consult, please contact our consulting psychiatrist, Dr. David Ott to discuss the case. We have added a section to the psychology consult sheet where you can indicate whether a psychiatric consult has been done. Briefly, a psychiatric consult is in order when the patient has a history of or is currently suicidal or homicidal, depressed, psychotic, has had previous psychiatric hospitalization(s).

Beginning this semester, we will be encouraging patients to be tested by one of the students in the testing course. Psychological testing should be introduced to the patient as part of the intake process that will help us to determine how the patient might best be helped. If it is determined that the patient is not appropriate for the clinic, he or she will most likely not be tested. Feedback on the psychological testing process ought to be given by the tester and the intake interviewer, and ought to occur as early as possible, preferably prior to the beginning of therapy (although this may not be realistic).

Students conducting the intakes will pick up the patients they screen as individual psychotherapy patients as they have openings. When the intake therapist no longer needs therapy patients, s/he will continue to do the screenings, assigning patients as necessary. When the clinic has no more openings for therapy patients, the intake workers will continue to screen people, but with a focus on helping them to find appropriate referrals outside The Psychological Center. In the latter cases, students will be responsible for completing a short intake report on each patient.

**Required Texts:**


**Recommended Texts:**


**Reference Texts (available in the clinic office):**


**WEEKLY CLASS TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Class 1 (8/30/11): Introduction to Clinical Interviewing**


McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Case Formulation*. Chapter 2, Orientation to Interviewing.

Sullivan, H.S., *The Psychiatric Interview*, pp. 3-93

**Class 2 (9/6/11): Introduction to Clinical Interviewing cont.**

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*. Chapters 1, 2, and 3


Class 3 (9/13/11): The Mental Status Exam and Introduction to Personality Assessment and Diagnosis


Mc Williams, N. Psychoanalytic Case Formulation. Chapters 2 and 3

Class 4 (9/20/11): Assessing Structure and Defenses


Mc Williams, N. Psychoanalytic Case Formulation. Chapters 5, 6 and 7.


Class 5 (9/27/11): The Psychodynamic Formulation

Mc Williams, N. Psychoanalytic Case Formulation. Chapters 3 and 4.


NO CLASS ON 10/4/11—Friday Schedule
Class 6 (10/11/11): Substance Abuse Disorders


Class 7 (10/18/12): Trauma

Psychic Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, pp. 100-106. PDM.


Class 8 (10/25/11): Depressive Disorders and Masochism

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*. Chapter 11 and 12.


DSM-IV-TR, pp. 345-427

Class 9 (11/1/11): Hysteria, Dissociative Disorders, and Somatoform Disorders

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*, Chapters 14 and 15

LaBruzza, A. *Using the DSM-IV: A Clinician's Guide to Psychiatric Diagnosis*
Chapter 19, Somatoform Disorders; Chapter 20, Factitious Disorders; and Chapter 21, Dissociative Disorders.


DSM-IV, pp. 519-533.

**Class 10 (11/8/11): Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders**

LaBruzza, A. *Using the DSM-IV: A Clinician's Guide to Psychiatric Diagnosis*  
Chapter 18, Anxiety Disorders, and Chapter 26, Adjustment Disorders

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*. Chapter 12, 13 and 14.

Shapiro, D. *Neurotic Styles*, pp.23-54.

DSM-IV-TR., pp.429-484.

**Class 11 (11/15/11): Personality Disorders**

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*. Chapters 7 and 8

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Case Formulation*. Chapters 8-10

LaBruzza, A. *Using the DSM-IV: A Clinician's Guide to Psychiatric Diagnosis*  
Chapter 27, Personality Disorders.

DSM-IV-TR, pp.685-729.


**Class 12 (11/22/11): Narcissistic Disorders**

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*. Chapter 8.

Class 13 (11/29/11): Schizoid and Paranoid Disorders

McWilliams, N. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*. Chapter 9 and 10

Class 14 (12/6/11): Introduction to Psychotherapy: Setting up the Frame.


Class 15 (12/13/11): Beginning Psychotherapy

