



GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

of Cornerstone University

Fall 2009 Syllabus

COU782 Practicum: Counseling
Professor Catherine Mueller-Bell MA, LPC, PhD Student
Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
Thursday's 1:00-3:00 Room 106

Course Description:

A supervised field ministry experience for students pursuing counseling careers. This course provides, on a limited basis, some of the activities that licensed professional counselors would be expected to perform. Opportunities to learn the practical aspects of individual, marriage, family and group counseling are emphasized. An orientation, experiential and professional development component will be implemented through a group supervision format to facilitate the complex transition of bridging from theory to practice.

Course Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity to engage in the practice of counseling which will involve applying theory into practice.
- To learn the expectations within the professional counseling field.
- To become aware of the process of professional supervision.
- To enhance ability to determine and articulate a personal counseling philosophy.

Required Text:

Russell-Chapin, L. A. & Ivey, A. E. (2003). *Your Supervised Practicum and Internship: Field Resources for Turning Theory into Action*. Wadsworth Publishing. **ISBN:** 0534606156

Course Requirements:

You are required to engage in field work at an approved counseling practicum site. Attendance and participation in the scheduled group supervision meetings is required. In order to register for this course you have purchased and secured a **Malpractice Insurance Policy** and you have signed the **GRTS Code of Ethics** form. In doing so you will be expected to uphold the highest standard of ethical conduct at your practicum site in the role of counseling intern. If you breach any of the ethical codes while you are serving in the role of counseling intern you may be asked to leave the practicum site and your academic standing will need to be reviewed and evaluated by GRTS administration. If you follow all of the ethical guidelines, rely on your support system and complete all of the course requirements you will earn the ability to continue on to your 1st Internship the following semester. This course is graded from the traditional scale based on the assessment factors listed below.

Required Field Hours: 100 Hours (Total) for the semester

1. 40 hours of client contact
 - a. 30 hours of individual counseling
 - b. 10 hours of group, couples or family counseling (recommended)
2. 60 hours of support hours
 - a. Preparing for client sessions
 - b. Meetings with counseling site administrators and personnel
 - c. Writing notes forms and records for agency
 - d. Developing Practicum notebook for GRTS Academic Supervisor
 - e. 5-10 hours of on-site supervision with Site Supervisor

Assessment Factors for grading:

1. Completion of Required Hours
2. Evaluation by Site Supervisor and GRTS Academic Supervisor
- 3. Complete Practicum Notebook due 12/17/09**
4. Prompt Attendance and participation in **all** Practicum group supervision meetings
5. Written summary of weekly reading assignments (500 words)
- 6. Wellness Growth Plan and Wellness Assessment due 12/17/09**
- 7. Upload Final Assessments to your E-Portfolio by 12/17/09**

Disability accommodation- Grant Rapids Theological Seminary will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Contact Information:

If you need to contact me in between scheduled class times you can reach me at:

Office Phone: (616) 222-1455

E-mail Address: [Catherine G Mueller-Bell@Cornerstone.edu](mailto:Catherine_G_Mueller-Bell@Cornerstone.edu)

Class Schedule:

| Date | Group Supervision | Case Presentations |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 9/10/09 | Orientation/Q&A | |
| 9/17/09 | Case Presentations | |
| 9/24/09 Ch. 1 | Case Presentations | |
| 10/1/09 Ch. 2 | Case Presentations | |
| 10/8/09 Ch. 3 | No Meeting | |
| 10/15/09 Ch. 4 | Case Presentations | |
| 10/22/09 Ch. 5 | No Meeting | |
| 10/29/09 Ch. 6 | Case Presentations | |
| 11/5/09 Ch. 7 | No Meeting | |
| 11/12/09 Ch. 8 | No Meeting | |
| 11/19/09 Ch. 9 | Case Presentations | |
| 12/3/09 Ch. 10 | No Meeting | |
| 12/10/09 | Case Presentations Professional Development | |
| 12/17/09 Finals Week | No Meeting/No Final Exam | <i>Notebooks Due</i> |
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