PSYX 530.01: Clinical and Diagnostic Interviewing

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Course Location and Time
Skaggs 246
Tuesday 9:40 – 12:00

Instructor Information
Instructor: Craig McFarland, Ph.D.
Office: Skaggs 202
Phone: 406.243.6845
Email: craig.mcfarland@umontana.edu
Office hours: Monday 11:00-12:30; Thursday 9:00-10:30; and by appointment

Teaching Assistants
Ciara Hansen
Office: CPC 106
Phone: 406.243.2367
Email: ciara.hansen@umontana.edu

Course Objectives
The first objective of this class is to provide you with the opportunity to develop and refine micro-counseling skills. This course will offer you the opportunity to actively learn those skills believed to be crucial to the interview process, and essential building blocks to effective psychotherapy and counseling. Much of the interviewing in the helping professions is goal-oriented and therefore you will learn to conduct interviews with various goals in mind. Because helping professionals function in a multicultural world, this course will consider and explore the importance of multi-cultural knowledge and sensitivity in interviewing throughout the semester.

Learning Objectives
1. Students will develop basic skills (e.g., attending, reflecting, influencing) that are critical to the development and maintenance of a productive therapeutic relationship.

2. Students will learn how to provide and receive constructive feedback to and from peers. and have the opportunity to incorporate that feedback into their clinical interviews. In the process, they will begin to develop a sense of their own clinical identity and approach to therapy.
3. Students will learn about evidence-based approaches to therapy, and to identify the strengths and limitations of widely used approaches to therapy.

Course Requirements

Attendance
Class attendance, participation, and involvement in exercises are expected. Only two excused absences will be allowed before one’s grade will suffer. If you will be absent, you should leave a message on my voice mail or e-mail prior to class. You should also inform your current partner (see below). If you know in advance about a conflict, please let us know.

Interviews
Required is completion of 10 weekly, 30-minute interviews emphasizing that week’s micro counseling skill or goal-directed interview. Interviews 1-8 are to be audiotaped, turned in, and reviewed each week in supervision. Interviews 9 and 10 will be videotaped, turned in and reviewed as well. Prior to your supervision it is helpful if you to review your tape or have considered your performance. A 1-page written self-analysis of your interview experience should accompany each tape. In that review highlight, what worked best and what you had the most difficulty performing. Each week you and your partner must schedule a half-hour appointment for individual feedback with either me or your TA to review your tape. Groups will rotate among the three supervisors, in order to allow you to experience alternative supervision styles. Please call or e-mail to notify us if you will not make your supervision due to illness, schedule conflicts or no-show. You can re-schedule or pick up the next week. Please note that there is time near the end of the semester for those who fall behind, however, do not get backed up or you will have a hard time getting your final project in while attempting to complete other interviews.

1. Your interviews will be conducted with a class partner. You will work in pairs for live observation of and feedback to each other (behind a one-way mirror). This means that you will be spending one hour per week on interviews (yours and your partner’s). We will switch partners twice (after 4 and 8) through your 10 interviews to allow for fresh observational ideas from a new partner. Observer feedback sheets are to be turned in each week with your written analysis. YOU MUST HAVE AN OBSERVER- there are no exceptions to this.

In Room 246, two designated side rooms will be available for observation and interviewing. You will need to reserve the room on the schedule posted on the door outside. In order to avoid chaos, we will expect that you and your partner will keep the same interview time for your first five interviews as posted on the room door. If you happen to have a no-show, you will need to check the door and the room reservation book for room 246, which is kept in Skaggs 143 with front desk staff for room availability to re-schedule. Skaggs 143 is open 8-12 and 1-5. Once you establish a time for your last five interviews, you will be expected to keep these under the same instructions above.

2. Psychology 100 students will be available to you for practicing your interviews. The attached sheet is set for you to place outside of SB 246 on the experiment table. This is a multi-step process: a) You and your partner decide on a weekly interview time. b) You ensure that the room is available that time each week for interviews. c) You put the specific times requesting Psyc 100 students on your experiment sheet to be placed on the table. d) You give credits to students by stamping a form they should bring with them (we also have extra forms in case students forget to bring one) each week. Please give reminder emails the day before to
increase your attendance rate. You will technically need 9 interviewees per person this semester. Interview 10 is acted with your partner.

NOTE: You cannot interview anyone you know. Doing so would affect your interview and be observable in the tapes.

3. Your last 2 interviews (9 and 10) will be videotaped (one with a psychology 100 student, one with a partner) goal-directed interviews (1 problem-oriented interview, 1 suicide assessment). Videotaping will be set up in 246. You will conduct the suicide assessment with your partner who will perform an Emmy winning performance of a suicidal client.

Grading
Students will earn a B or C for the interviewing skills requirements of this course. Conducting the interviews, turning in your paper work, behaving professionally, and receiving supervision are technically not graded exercises. If you complete all of these with demonstrated effort and no serious limitations or concerns, you will receive a B for this portion of the course. A “C” will be assigned for this portion for students who are seriously struggling with the basic skills of interviewing, have problems with attendance or completion of the interviews and supervision. This will constitute 70% of your grade.

Final Interview Project
Students desiring an A or B will need to complete the final interview project. Clinical interviewing has developed into a science. Current practice requires that you are comfortable conducting interviews for a variety of referral questions. You will be expected to conduct an interview that integrates class material (lecture, text, and Interviewing Guide), and your own research into a diagnostic area or population of your choice. This may be guided by structured interviews but cannot consist only of a structured interview. You will need to conduct a role-play interview on videotape and turn this in as your final in the final two weeks of the semester December 2-13. Acceptable topics include depression, substance abuse, psychopathology, post-traumatic stress, eating disorders, and many others. All areas expect specific information to be gathered in order to assess the presence of a condition or respond to the needs of a client. You will not conduct an interview with a known structured interview instrument (SCID, etc.). We will schedule a due date during finals week (or the week before if you prefer) where you will review your tape with a TA or me for 1 hour.

Your project will be graded for micro-counseling skill use, appropriate inquiry into background relevant to your diagnostic area, and the queries and management of responses that are essential to the diagnostic area. I will give you an outline for evaluating yourself and your partner. You MUST do the additional research and include references related to interviewing in the area you choose to role-play. For example, if you choose to interview for Schizophrenia, PTSD or Depression, you should investigate what the structured interviews recommend as relevant diagnostic questions, differential diagnoses and likely co-morbidities that you will need to consider in conducting the interviews.

To ensure that not everyone does the same areas, please clear your diagnostic group or area with me no later than November 12.

Required Texts

**Recommended Text**  

**Additional Readings**  

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Aug. 27</td>
<td>Overview Wellness &amp; Competence</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2, 3, Clinical Interviewing Listening and attending exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Sept. 3</td>
<td>Attending Skills</td>
<td>Chapter 3, Clinical Interviewing Conduct 1st Interview, get supervision after interview is conducted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3: Sept. 10</td>
<td>Observational Skills: Client &amp; Self</td>
<td>Chapter 4, Clinical Interviewing Conduct 2nd Interview; supervision</td>
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<td>Week 4: Sept. 17</td>
<td>Questioning: Open and Closed</td>
<td>Chapter 3, Clinical Interviewing Conduct 3rd Interview; supervision</td>
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<td>Week 5: Sept. 24</td>
<td>Encouragers, Paraphrases and Summaries</td>
<td>Chapter 2, Cozolino Conduct 4th Interview; supervision;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6: Oct. 1</td>
<td>Reflection of Feeling and Empathy: Relationship Skills</td>
<td>Chapter 5, Clinical Interviewing Get new partner and supervisor Conduct 5th Interview; supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7: Oct. 8</td>
<td>Basic Listening Sequence Integration: Strengthening Skills</td>
<td>Chapter 10, Ivey CATCH UP ON INTERVIEWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8: Oct. 15</td>
<td>Structuring and Focus Skills</td>
<td>Chapter 12, Ivey Conduct 6th Interview, supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9: Oct. 22</td>
<td>Influencing Skills</td>
<td>Chapter 6, 7, Clinical Interviewing Conduct 7th Interview, supervision</td>
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<td>Week 10: Oct. 29</td>
<td>Goal-Directed Interviewing Intake Interview and Report Writing</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Clinical Interviewing Conduct 8th Interview, supervision (Problem-oriented Interview-POI)</td>
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<td>Week 11: Nov. 5</td>
<td>Goal-Directed Interviewing Diagnosis and Treatment Planning</td>
<td>Chapter 9, Clinical Interviewing Get new partner and supervisor Conduct 9th interview (POI) videotaped, supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12: Nov. 12</td>
<td>Goal-Directed Interviewing Suicide Assessment</td>
<td>Chapter 8, Clinical Interviewing 10th interview assigned complete with partner suicide assessment, videotaped</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13: Nov. 19</td>
<td>Goal-Directed Interviewing Mental Status Exam</td>
<td>Chapter 14, Clinical Interviewing Supervision only to catch up</td>
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<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td><strong>No Class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15: Dec. 3</td>
<td>Multi-cultural Considerations in the</td>
<td>Chapter 11, Supervision if required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Lecture Topic</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>Interview Process</td>
<td>Work on Final interview Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16: Dec. 10</td>
<td>NO CLASS: Finals Week&lt;br&gt;Supervision all week</td>
<td>FINAL VIDEO SUPERVISION (1 hour)&lt;br&gt;due DEC 3-13 (Schedule due date)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Course Guidelines and Policies**

**Academic Integrity**
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

**Disability Modifications**
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Add/Drop Deadline**
Please take note of important registration dates listed in the Fall academic calendar. October 28th is the last day to drop classes with an add/drop form. After that date, no petitions to drop the course will be signed and no Incompletes will be given except in documentable emergency situations.