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PSYX 534.02: Applied Clinical Methods

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PSYX 534 – Applied Clinical Methods (Practicum)

Fall 2018

Course Information

Group supervision Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:50pm, CPC 115
50 minutes individual supervision Tuesdays to be arranged
Office Hours: by appointment

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alison Cobb, Ph.D.
Email: acobb@bigsky.net
Office Phone: 406.830.3069
Emergency Phone: 406.546.2222 (cell)
Backup Supervision Phone: 406.241.1126

Course Description

This clinical practicum is focused on the skills of assessing and treating adults with psychological difficulties. It involves a combination of group and individual supervision with a focus on improving your skills as a therapist-in-training.

Objectives

Your objectives in this practicum depend on where you are in your training. In your initial meetings with me, and throughout the semester, we will discuss your training needs. We will set clear, definable goals for your training for the semester and will review these periodically during the practicum. In addition to your individual goals, you can expect to improve your skills in making an accurate clinical diagnosis, formulating a case conceptualization, designing a treatment plan, modifying this plan to meet the changing needs of your clients, and documenting your work with your clients.

Grading/Evaluation

The grading system for this course is credit/no credit (CR/N). I will encourage you to evaluate your own work in our individual meetings, and I will provide you with feedback to improve your clinical skills. In order to receive credit for the course, you must follow all of the policies and procedures outlined in the CPC handbook. At the end of the semester, you will receive a detailed evaluation of your progress, which we will discuss in individual supervision.

Attendance

You are expected to attend all group and individual supervision sessions, as well as in-service trainings and CPC staff meetings. Exceptions should be arranged with me in advance, if at all possible.

Course Materials, Requirements and Expectations

You are expected to carry a clinical caseload of 3-4 clients at a time. New client assignments will be discussed in your meetings with me before an assignment is made. If a client becomes inactive or sporadic, you are expected to begin an additional case as soon as possible. We will monitor the number of weekly client contact hours to evaluate how well your case load is meeting your training needs.

All students seeing patients at the CPC are required to have current malpractice insurance. Please give a copy of your notice of insurance to the CPC assistant prior to seeing any clients.

Sessions are to be recorded using the CPC webcam system. Audio-only recording is allowed as an exception only. Recordings need to be of sufficient quality to allow substantive discussion of session content.

Students are expected to attend all CPC staff meetings, which occur on a monthly basis. During these meetings, you will receive additional information about topics relevant to the CPC, including the supervision process (see Practicum Syllabus Addendum). Meetings that cover this topic will include pre- and posttests to assess your knowledge of supervision.

Students are expected to be familiar with the current APA Ethics Code, the CPC Policy and Procedures Manual, and the Psychology Department Policies and Procedures. All clinical and didactic work in this practicum is to be conducted in accordance with these documents. In the event of uncertainty about ethical and professional issues, it is your responsibility to seek consultation with me or the CPC Director.

Maintaining appropriate records (and timely completion of documentation) is required. I will review all of your client intake, progress, and termination notes, as well as any assessment reports, and will co-sign all notes that go into your clients' records. If client documentation is not complete by the end of exam week of Spring Semester, 2018, a grade of "N" will be assigned.

Students are expected to practice cell phone and computer etiquette in group and individual meetings. Make sure cell phones are turned off or set to vibrate, and please do not engage in texting or online activity during meetings.

Preparation for the 50-minute individual meetings includes signing up for a room and notifying me of the room number; cuing video; completing the "Preparation for Supervision" form so that our supervision time is well-structured; and having the week's case notes ready for review and signature on Titanium.

Practicum meetings will blend didactic elements and case consultation. Each session will begin with a mindfulness practice, which all members of the group will share responsibility for leading. Each student will make at least one formal case presentation at some point during the semester. Additionally, I would like each student to present a clinical idea or intervention to the group. This might be an unusual intervention, a new perspective on an old idea, or a bit of wisdom you want to hang onto. This is a good opportunity to practice a new skill as a role play.

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 with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

You are expected to adhere to the University of Montana [Student Conduct Code](#) with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university.