COURSE SYLLABUS COUN 564 SUMMER 2012
Family Crises and Resources

Instructor: Linda Ball, Ed.D. E-mail (preferred way of contact)
  linda_ball@tamu-commerce.edu
  (903) 886-5637 or (903) 886-5649

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

564. Family Crises and Resources. Three semester hours.
Crisis and special problems encountered in family living with individual and community
resources pertinent to them.

Hmm… that says a lot, and nothing at all, agree?

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

The notion of a crisis is based on the premise that a perceived or real threat has presented itself
into the life of an individual who is otherwise on a “healthy” human development path in life
with a cognitive, emotional, and spiritual template in place with which to apply to ordinary
obstacles encountered while navigating his or her road in life. This course explores research
based knowledge of crisis models to assist those working with families in the midst of crises.
Useful interventions will be reviewed, to help clients identify, develop, and use a variety of
resources to achieve a return to their pre crisis functioning level. Special focus will be on
developing tools to assist these families with the acquisition of needed coping mechanisms and
skills in the moment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES include but are not limited to the following:

Students will identify, describe, and/or demonstrate knowledge of:

1. Various theories and models of crisis intervention, a review.
2. Basic crisis intervention skills, a review.
3. Perceptions, experiences and needs of culturally diverse in crisis, and culturally sensitive
   intervention strategies.
4. Dynamics associated with various crisis events, as they pertain to various family
   members.
5. Professional resources appropriate to crisis intervention
6. Appropriate behavior with regard to ethical and legal issues in the practice of crisis
   response. Demonstration of such behavior also required.
7. Assessment of professional’s own readiness for crisis intervention work

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
1. **Attendance:** As this class meets only one time per week, regular class attendance is required. Please be mindful of timeliness and preparedness. You will have many opportunities to contribute to the total learning experience but can only do so if you are present. More than three (2) absences will jeopardize successful completion of the course, i.e. grade will be lowered.

2. **Participation.** Appropriate (as defined by instructor) level of interaction/participation during online discussions and presentations is expected. Concerns/Infractions will be addressed individually by the instructor and recommendations made.

   - Faculty are required to include in their course syllabi the following statement: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

3. **Required Papers:** Papers are due on the dates noted in the syllabus. Late papers will have 10% deducted from the final score.
   
   **a. Personal Assessment Paper:** In this paper, you will evaluate your own potential to effectively perform crisis intervention counseling. Your paper needs to reflect accurate knowledge of effective crisis worker characteristics and the dynamics of professional burnout, vicarious traumatization, and compassion fatigue. You will use the course readings, and at least 3 professional journal articles dealing with burnout, vicarious traumatization, or compassion fatigue as references. Approximate length of 5 pages is suggested. **Guidelines for this paper will be included in the ‘doc sharing’ section of our ecollege classroom.**

   **b. Literature Review:** You will identify a ‘crisis within the family’ topic of particular interest to you, and of particular relevance to the work setting and the clientele you intend serve as a professional counselor. You may choose a topic that has been covered class, and cover it in greater depth. Or you may choose a topic that has not been covered in class. You will cite and synthesize information from the related literature. Minimum length is 10 pages, typed and double-spaced using APA style. Your literature review must include at least 10 professional journal articles; it may also include chapters from books on your topic, as well as relevant online resources. **Guidelines for this paper will be included in the ‘doc sharing’ section of our ecollege classroom.**

4. **Presentation of findings to group.** Prepare summary of your lit review, with handouts, to present to peers.

   Papers must be typed (12 point font), double-spaced, with a one-inch margin on all sides. Use APA format to cite all references. Please correct typos and grammar. Consider these professional papers.

**ETHICS SPECIFIC TO THIS CLASS**
If you are currently in crisis yourself, this is probably not a helpful class for you to take this semester. Please seek professional help where possible.
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Assessment Paper</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150 points</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING**

- 135-150 = A
- 105-119 = C
- 120-134 = B
- ≤ 105 = D

REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

~ Faculty are encouraged to include in their course syllabi the following statement ~

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

**TEXTS**


**CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC HONESTY**

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Polices and Procedures, Conduct) “Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work.” (See Section A13.12, Academic Honesty, A&M-Commerce Procedures.)

**UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER**

Check http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/ regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/10/12</td>
<td>Introduction and overview of course; Crisis defined…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/12/12</td>
<td>Crisis models in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/17/12</td>
<td>Communication in families; models</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/19/12</td>
<td>Communication within families during crisis events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/24/12</td>
<td>Professional intervention skills with those in crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/26/12</td>
<td>Event specific crisis and response; skills and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/31/12</td>
<td>Event specific crisis and response; skills and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/02/12</td>
<td>Event specific crisis and response; skills and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/07/12</td>
<td>Event specific crisis and response; skills and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/09/12</td>
<td>Presentations &amp; wrap-up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Whew… Our acute crisis abates, til next semester!*

*HAPPY TRAILS!*