

**COUN 697:**  
**Special Topics (Sexual Deviancy and Sex Offender Counseling)**

**May-Mini 2015**  
3 semester hours  
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**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday (Virtual – By Appointment)

**COURSE MEETINGS**

Online – eCollege

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:**

COUN 697 Special Topics: Sexual Deviancy and Sex Offender Treatment – This course provides an overview related to the assessment and treatment of clients who engage in deviant sexual behaviors, with an emphasis in sex offender treatment and rehabilitation. The development of knowledge, skills and attitudes for effective counseling for clients who participate in deviant sexual behaviors are discussed in this course. Substantial attention is given to understanding boundaries, mandated counseling, ethics, secondary trauma, and best practices. Developing awareness of one's own attitudes and beliefs as it relates to counseling offender clients and clients with deviant sexual behaviors is also a key aspect of this course.

Material discussed in this class should be considered sexually explicit. Students who are uncomfortable with the frank discussion of sexual issues, attitudes, and practices should consider whether or not participation in this course is appropriate for them at this time. Discussion with the instructor may prove helpful in this regard. Some class discussion will be assisted by appropriate self-disclosure. Students are reminded that they bear responsibility for the level and content of their self-disclosure and that such self-disclosure has no bearing on the final grade. Confidentiality is encouraged and appreciated, but cannot be guaranteed in this setting.

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

Online (eCollege)

**TEXT**

Beech, A., Craig, L., Browne, K. (2009). Assessment and treatment of sex offenders: A handbook. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. **ISBN-10: 047001900X | ISBN-13: 978-0470019009**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To assist students in examining their own values and experiences as a way of developing their own unique approach to counseling sexual concerns of clients.
2. To introduce counselor education students to the theories, therapeutic process, and techniques involved in counseling sexual offenders/perpetrators.

3. To familiarize students with the literature pertinent to the field of sex offender treatment and counseling.
4. Students will develop of knowledge, skills and attitudes for effective counseling for clients who participate in deviant sexual behaviors are discussed in this course.
5. Students will express understanding of boundaries, mandated counseling, ethics, secondary trauma, and best practices related to sex offender treatment.
6. Students will use counseling-related research techniques and practices as well as technology and other resources to facilitate continued professional growth
7. To examine and discuss the ethical and professional dimensions of counseling for sexuality issues.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS include, but are not limited to:**

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES**

Turning in the annotated bibliography late will result in a 10 point deduction for each day the assignment is late. A point will be deducted from each day after the deadline the discussion question is not answered and reflection journal entries are not submitted.

1. **Class Participation (Discussion Boards):** Students are expected to keep up with all assigned readings and be prepared to enter into class discussion based on those readings/lectures/handouts. Active class participation reflects a willingness to interact with the subject matter of the course and is indicative of a professional orientation to graduate study; therefore, student participation in class will be assessed. Two separate sets of questions will be posted on **May 18** and **May 25**, respectively. Each student is required to submit a response to the initial prompt and two separate responses to responses provided by fellow students. For the first prompt, students have from **May 18 – May 17** to complete the required responses. For the second prompt, students have from **May 25 – May 31** to complete the required response.

The earlier your post the better! Your peers are waiting you to respond so they can post their response postings. Please be respectful of their time and your role in the learning environment.

Discussion Boards = 5 (initial post) + 2.5 (1<sup>st</sup> response to peer) + 2.5 (2<sup>nd</sup> response to peer) X 2 = 20 points

2. **Annotated Bibliography & Treatment Plan:** Students will complete an annotated bibliography and treatment plan on an **approved topic** (ex: pedophilia, sexually reactive children) of interest citing at least 10 books or **articles (doctoral students will cite at least 15 sources)**. Please email the instructor for approval of your topic or post it in the virtual office (on or before May 27<sup>th</sup>). The student will draw conclusions based on the information in their bibliography and write a paper (10 page minimum and 20 page maximum) regarding the conclusions and treatment plan. Students are expected to share their information in presentation format on the online environment (PowerPoint and Prezi are acceptable). If you would like to submit your presentation in another format

please request permission from the instructor. A sample paper, treatment plan, and presentation have been provided for you in the document sharing section of the class. **Each student will comment on at least two of their classmates presentation (5 points each = 10 points).**

3. **Reflection/Journal Project:** Journal your experiences during the course of the class. We will utilize the “journal” section of eCollege. Everyone is expected to have a minimum of 4 journal entries and journals do not have to be submitted in APA format and have no specific word count. Please submit all journals in the journal section of eCollege. See the semester schedule below for journal topics.
  - **Individual Sexual History (Journal Entry):** Students will complete a thorough individual sexual history of their own. A model will be provided. I will not share your histories and you will not be asked to turn them in. You will turn in a reflection describing how your experience of conducting your own sexual history will impact your work with clients and their sexual problems. You will also include interventions and techniques you would utilize in order to assist clients with disclosing their sexual history during counseling. Again, please do not turn in your detailed sexual history. This is a reflection about your experience completing this particular activity.

**All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the specified due date.**

**GRADING:**

Class Participation/Discussion Boards (2 @ 10 points ea.)	20 points
Annotated Bibliography & Treatment Plan	50 Points
Comment on Classmates Presentation (2 @ 5pts ea.)	10 Points
Reflection/Journal Project (4 journals @ 5 points ea.)	20 points

- A= 100-90 points
- B= 89-80 points
- C= 79-70 points
- D= 69-60 points
- F= 59 or fewer points

**ATTENDANCE:**

This course is totally online and you will study it on your own schedule, however, there are deadlines for writing assignments that you have to follow. Each day you will get an assignment and new materials will be placed online for you to review. Your active participation in answering questions is required. I will be asking question online and expect you to fully participate in answering the questions. Even though, you are not required to be at your computer at certain hours of the day or week, I do expect to hear from you on the discussion area. You need to give feedback to other students on their work.

This course is online. I do not keep any paper record (including a grade book) on this class. This means that your work must be uploaded on “eCollege” in order for you to receive credit. Emailed work is not accepted; please post all assignments to eCollege. Please make sure that you are familiar with eCollege. Please forward all your technology questions to support services.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

### **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, Policies 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.tamuc.edu/> regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).