COURSE SYLLABUS COUN 530 SPRING 2018
Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

COUN 530 - Clinical Mental Health Counseling

As the foundation course for those planning to be counselors in mental health settings, this course includes theoretical and applied information regarding mental health counseling services in the context of the larger social services system. A variety of delivery systems, staffing procedures, case management procedures, emergency services, treatment paradigms, and the need for consultation and collaboration among mental health professionals are discussed.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Level 1 Counseling Courses (Coun 501, 510, 516, 528) and Level 1 Examination or consent of instructor.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Clinical mental health counseling is based on the premises that counseling helps clients to identify, develop, and use a variety of resources to achieve goals, and that the desired outcomes of counseling are positive change, personal growth, and the acquisition of coping mechanisms and skills. The course examines the identity, professional standards, professional organizations, and employment settings of the professional counselor. Models of problem definition, administrative structure, and service delivery in clinical mental health settings will be explored.

COURSE OBJECTIVES include but are not limited to the following:

Students will identify, describe, and/or explain:

1. The role(s), functions, and professional identity of counselors in a variety of clinical mental health practice settings.

2. The structures and operations of professional organizations, preparation/accreditation's boards, and credentialing bodies related to clinical mental health counseling.

3. Pertinent developments in historical, philosophical, societal, cultural, economic, and political contributions to the mental health movement.

4. Appropriate behavior with regard to ethical and legal issues in the practice of clinical mental health counseling. Demonstration of such behavior may also be required.

5. Implications of professional issues unique to clinical mental health counseling including but not limited to recognition, reimbursement, and right to practice.

6. Implications of diversity issues relevant to clinical mental health counseling.

7. The clinical mental health counselor's relationship to other professionals in various settings.
8. Organizational, administrative, fiscal, and legal dimensions of clinical mental health practice settings and institutions.

9. Theories and techniques of needs assessment in designing, implementing, and evaluating clinical mental health counseling interventions, programs and systems.

10. Linkages with other entities with regard to consultation, education, and outreach.

11. The need for and process of creating and developing human services programs and networks, public, private, and volunteer, in local communities.

12. Characteristics of individuals seeking clinical mental health counseling services, including but not limited to the effects of socioeconomic status, unemployment, aging, gender, culture, race, ethnicity, chronic illness, developmental transitions, and interpersonal, family, and community violence.

13. Principles of program development and service delivery for a clinical mental health practitioner’s clientele, including but not limited to prevention, implementation of support groups, peer facilitation training, parent education, career information and counseling, and encouragement of self-help.

Students will identify, describe, explain, and/or demonstrate:

14. Effective strategies to promote client understanding of and access to community resources.

15. Principles and models of biopsychosocial assessment, including techniques, and/or methods for conducting an intake interview, case-conceptualization, theories of human development and concepts of normalcy and psychopathology leading to diagnoses and appropriate treatment plans with regard to planning counseling interventions and tracking client progress.


17. Appropriate and effective strategies for client advocacy in public policy and governmental relations.

18. Application of appropriate treatment modalities for initiating, maintaining, and terminating counseling, including the use of crisis intervention, brief, intermediate, and long-term approaches.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. **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)

   Students are expected to actively participate in and contribute to their learning experience. Active participation includes completing text readings and activity assignments in each unit and offering thoughtful contributions to online discussion. For each student, participation in discussion boards will NOT be determined by LENGTH of response, but by the level of thought put into the postings, the relevancy of the posting to the discussion, and the number of thoughtful and relevant postings. Students will be expected to respond to weekly discussion posts and also at least one post to a peer’s per week to facilitate more of an interactive discussion. The Participation portion of your grade includes the Discussion Boards found under each week, and under Course Home. Some of your responses to discussion boards will be counted as projects as listed below.

   Participation includes the ability of the student to interact with the professor and peers in a professional and respectful manner. Failure to do so will result in points being deducted from your final grade.

2. **Exams.** Two multiple-choice exams, with a section of application questions, will be given. (~50 questions each.) Students will demonstrate knowledge of content areas on midterm and final exams. The exams will be multiple choice and short essay over material in assigned readings and activity assignments in units. Exams will be administered on-line. I expect the time allowed for each exam to be about two hours, however this will be determined after the exams are developed. You will have a 48 hour period within which you can take the exam. Instructions will be posted.

4. **Activities/Projects.** (all graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory):

   a. **Ethical Case Opinion.** Four ethical cases will be posted for student comment. Students will be assigned to one of two groups and will complete an opinion statement for two of the ethical cases presented and put it in the “dropbox” by the deadline indicated. Students will be graded according to the level of thought put into the opinion and the accuracy of the content of their opinion. Download complete Ethical Opinion Directions provided under “handouts” in document section of course.

   b. Case studies, diagnostic workup. Two case studies will be provided with an example as to how to approach a diagnostic assessment. Place completed cases in “dropbox” section of the course by due date listed on syllabus.

   c. Constructed treatment plan, developed from a hypothetical case. Again, an outline will be provided to you for this project. Place in “dropbox” section of course by due date listed on syllabus.

   d. **Intervention Program.** View an Intervention program on A&E. After you have viewed a program, please go to Course Home, click on Discussion, click on Select a Topic, select Intervention, and post your comments about the program by the due date listed on syllabus. For a
schedule of Intervention programs, check your local listings.

e. View and respond to questions related to “Sicko”, a film documentary directed by Michael Moore. After you have viewed the documentary, please go the Course Home, click on Discussion, click on Select a Topic, and select “Sicko” and post your thoughts about the documentary in relation to the issues raised in your readings. **Relate your responses to these issues.**

f. Structured interview with knowledgeable representatives of two community mental health settings, one publicly funded and the other private. Details of how you will do this project, the product of which you will type using a consistent format such as that in the APA’s *Publication Manual*, will be distributed in a separate document to be found in “handouts” under documents tab in course. Students will place in “dropbox” section and post relevant information from their interviews on the discussion board listed as such under Course Home.

6. I’ll determine your grade on this basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In order to earn a/an</th>
<th>you must have a test grade average of</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 &amp; complete all 6 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 &amp; complete A, B, C, &amp; D projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 &amp; complete A, B, &amp; C projects</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Because the NCE for your licensure is competency based on a lot of this information you simply need to know it. Therefore, if you have less than a 90 average, you will not be able to earn an “A,” no matter how many projects you do. Similarly, if you have less than an 80 average, your course grade can be no higher than a “C.”

**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

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Faculty members teaching courses must also include in their syllabuses the following disavowal of discriminatory practices by the university (I have touched it up to name the university correctly, and to eliminate an unnecessarily ugly passive voice construction):

[Texas] A&M [University]-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, [we will maintain] an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression—will be maintained.

**TEXTS**


COUN 530

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC (May Vary)</th>
<th>READINGS/DUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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Outline will be posted online in ecollege under course schedule.

University mandates for course syllabi... some overlap from above.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site [http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.


Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
- Pop-ups are allowed.
- JavaScript is enabled.
- Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - Adobe Flash Player (version 17 or later) [https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
  - Adobe Shockwave Player [https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical)
This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to myLeo and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. [http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx](http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx).

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

**Note:** It is strongly recommended you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

**Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com/).

The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:

- **Chat Support:** Click on ‘Live Support’ on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

**Accessing Help from within Your Course:** Click on the ‘Tech Support’ icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend’s home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

**Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio**

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number.
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your personal computer and internet access problems are not a legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.
**COUN 530**

**myLeo Support**
Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at myLeo. https://leo.tamuc.edu

**Learner Support**
The One Stop Shop was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/

The Academic Success Center provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success. http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/

**FREE Mobile APPS**

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

| App Title: | iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone  
| Android – LearningStudio Courses – Phone |
| Operating System: | iPhone - OS 6 and above  
| Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS |
| iPhone App URL: | https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8 |

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses
- View course filters on activities
- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

**LearningStudio Notifications**

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course. Enrolled students will automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can opt out of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.
COUN 530
By default the student’s university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

| Course Specific Procedures/Policies |
| Attendance/Lateness, Late Work, Missed Exams and Quizzes and Extra Credit |

Syllabus Change Policy
The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

| University Specific Procedures |
| Student Conduct |

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

| TAMUC Attendance |

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

| Academic Integrity |

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/I3students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

| ADA Statement |

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
Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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, Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures.)

UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER… (probably will not affect this online course)
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).