

Clinical Work With Trans* And Genderqueer Populations CPSY 590-02

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Date: November 16th 9-5:30pm and November 23rd 9-5:30pm

Course Description: This class will explore affirmative perspectives in working with trans* clients. Drawing from current research and practice in the fields of counseling, education and psychology, this class will serve as an introduction to issues faced by these populations including transphobia and social constructs of identity. We will examine a range of clinical implications, interventions, and treatment strategies specific to trans* individuals to increase your knowledge and ability to provide culturally sensitive care to these clients.

Objectives:

- To provide an overview of working with trans* clients and explore specific clinical issues faced by this population.
- Think critically about gender identity as it is defined by the dominant culture and explore it's impact on trans* individuals.
- Identify and critically understand identity as intersecting/multiple and recognize issues of power and privilege relative to the intersecting identities of gender, race, class, religion, sexual orientation, ability, national origin, age, and language and how these influence social location in and out of therapeutic contexts.
- Develop empathy for a broad range of ways trans* clients are socially and psychologically impacted.
- Critically discuss trans/genderqueer identity and psychological development.
- Review current research and theory in trans* psychotherapy, ethical guidelines and competencies.
- Develop an awareness of one's own assumptions, values, and worldview of trans-spectrum identities.
- Explore treatment strategies and interventions to provide affirmative and effective treatment.

Course Template

Activities

Day 1

Welcome, Introductions, Group Agreement and Syllabus Review	Introduction Activity
General guidelines when working with trans* clients.	Power point Large group discussion
Trans* 101-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terminology• Components of identity• Social Constructs/Gender Binary• Risk factors	Power Point Terminology Activity Small group discussion

Barriers to culturally sensitive care and therapist/medical provider gate-keeping.	Power Point Video: Diagnosing Difference Small and large group discussion
Therapist role in transition, issues faced by significant others, post-transition relationships.	Power Point Guest Speaker: Reid Vanderburgh, MA
Clinical and therapeutic concerns when working with trans* children	Guest speaker: Jonathan Weedman, LPC
Day 1 wrap up	Q&A Large Group Discussion

Day 2

Review and follow up from last week	Large group discussion
History of medicalization of trans* identities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the psycho/medical community in pathologizing gender • DSM changes 	Power Point Large group discussion
Aspects of transitioning: Medical and non-medical paths	Power Point
Medical transitioning 101	Power Point Video: Simon's Story Guest speaker: Suzanne Scopes, ND
Letter writing: Hormones and gender affirmation surgery to facilitate medical transitioning	Power Point Guest speaker: Alyssa Moore, MA
Trans* legal and medical rights	Power Point Video: Faces of Trans Inclusive Health Care
Trans* youth, homelessness, marginalization, and your role as advocate	Guest speaker: Sarah Freeman from The Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC)
Vignette activity/homework review	Small group discussion
Wrap-up and closing activity	Large group discussion

Course Requirements:

Grading: This class is offered as pass or fail. Participation and the homework between classes will be considered in this decision.

Participation in a Learning Community: Students are required to attend and *actively* participate in all scheduled class meetings. This includes being on time, reading all of the assigned material and discussing it, and otherwise engaging with colleagues as fellow professionals.

Assignment: Students will be provided with a clinical vignette and will be required to write a 2-3 page paper including the following components:

- Describe intersecting identities of individual and how this might impact/influence treatment
- Immediate concerns/risk factors
- Client coping skills (healthy and maladaptive)
- Client strengths and protective factors
- Possible clinical interventions (e.g. narrative, motivational interviewing, harm reduction, CBT, DBT, trauma informed, etc.)
- Case management interventions

Students will be required to participate in a large group discussion where each vignette will be presented and explored. This will be due at the beginning of class on day 2.

Required Text:

Please note: The author of this text will be present for Day 1 of class. He will bring copies that will be made available for students at a discounted rate.

Vanderburgh, R. (2007). *Transition And Beyond: Observations On Gender Identity*. Portland: QPress.

Recommended Text:

Serano, Julia. (2007). *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman On Sexism And Scapegoating Femininity*. Berkeley: Seal Press.

Green, J. (2004). *Becoming a Visible Man*. Vanderbilt University Press

*Trans- for the purposes of this class this term will be utilized as an umbrella term for individuals whose lived sex, gender identity and/or gender expression differ from cultural norms or societal expectations based on their assigned sex at birth.