



LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

CPSY 559 - Social Constructionist and Critical Family Therapy

Time & Day: Monday 9:30 am- 11:45am

Place: SCON 114

Instructor: Andraé L. Brown, Ph.D.

Office: 319 Rogers Hall

Contact: ALBrown@lclark.edu; 503-768-6092

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the history, theoretical assumptions, and practice of social constructionist and critical family therapies. Special attention is paid to how societal structures, modern practices of power, and internalized cultural discourses contribute to family problems and can constrain clients' abilities to make desired change. The primary focus of the course is on the application of the Cultural Context Model in work with families.

COURSE PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

- Describe tenants of social constructionist, post-modern and critical marriage and family therapy perspectives.
- Specify the implications these theories have in regard to counseling practice.
- Articulate the basic principles of just therapy.
- Provide an introduction to the Cultural Context Model
- Develop an understanding of tools and techniques utilized in the Cultural Context Model
- To learn concepts useful for understanding and delivering social-justice based interventions
- Increase critical consciousness around issues of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, community and domestic violence.

ASSIGNMENTS

This course has two overarching assignments

The first consists of developing socio-educational tools which that can be utilized in therapy.

- Students will identify a specific topic to address and develop an intervention i.e. socio-educational tool to address the issue.
- Students will prepare the tool and demonstrate its effectiveness in class.

- The individual socio-educational tools will be compiled into one package to represent comprehensive module.

Students will compile a listing of additional readings that are utilized while developing their socio-educational interventions. Must submit to professor to be added to moodle site.

GRADING

A = 93-100 A- = 90-92 B+ = 88-89 B = 83-87 B- = 80-82
C+ = 78-79 C = 73-77 C- = 70-72

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The course is taught in using multiple formats including lecture, discussion, demonstrations, video, and small group experiential exercises. This class is highly interactive and requires consistent participant from all students. Student will develop an active database of readings and tools to support their understanding and application of the Cultural Context Model.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Required:

Almeida, R.V., Dolan-Del Vecchio, & Parker, L. (2008). *Transformative family therapy: Just families for a just society*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Freire, P. (1970). *Pedagogy of the oppressed*. New York: Continuum.

Recommended: [additional readings will be provided/required throughout the course]

Almeida, R. (Ed.). (1998). *Transformations of gender and race: Family and Developmental Perspectives*. New York: Hawthorn Press.

Almeida, R. (2003). Creating collectives of liberation. In L.B. Silverstein T.J. Goodrich (Eds.), *Feminist Family Therapy*, (pp. 293–306). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Almeida, R., & Bograd, M. (1990). Sponsorship: Men holding men accountable for domestic violence. *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*, 2, 243–256.

Almeida, R., & Dolan-Del Vecchio, K. (1999). Addressing culture in batterers intervention: South Asian communities as an illustrative example. *Violence Against Women*, 5, 654–683.

Almeida, R.V., & Durkin, T. (1999). The Cultural Context Model: Therapy for couples with domestic violence. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 25, 5–32.

Almeida, R., & Hudak, J. (2002). The Cultural Context Model. In E. Aldarondo & F. Mederos (Eds.), *Programs for men who batter: Interventions and prevention strategies in a diverse society*, (pp. 108–140). Kingston NJ: The Civic Research Institute.

- Brown, A.L. (2008). I Too am Feminist: The Journey of a Black Male Transformative Feminist Family Therapist. *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*, 20(1), 1-20.
- Brown, A.L., Dimititriou, M., & Dressner, L. (2009). Rituals as tools of resistance- From survival to liberation. In B. Riseman (Ed). *Norton anthology: Families as they really are*. Norton: New York.
- Hernandez, P., Almeida, R., & Dolan-Del Vecchio, K. (2005). Critical consciousness, accountability, and empowerment: Key processes for helping families heal. *Family Process*, 44(1), 105-119.
- Hernández, P. Siegel, A. & Almeida, R. (2009). How does the cultural context model facilitate therapeutic change? *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. 35(1), 97-110.
- McGoldrick, M., Gerson, R., & Shellenberger, S. (1999). *Genograms in family assessment* (2nd ed.). New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Waldegrave, C (2009) "Cultural, Gender and Socio-economic Contexts in Therapeutic and Social Policy Work" *Family Process*, vol.48(1). New York.

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<http://www.familycentre.org.nz/Publications/index.html>

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY/SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Lewis & Clark College adheres to a nondiscriminatory policy with respect to employment, enrollment, and program. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, or marital status and has a firm commitment to promote the letter and spirit of all equal opportunity and civil rights laws.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability and/or you have emergency medical information to share please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1 1/11/10	Orientation	
Week 2 1/18/10	NO CLASS – MLK DAY	
Week 3 1/25/10	Remembering Context	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 1;
Week 4 2/1/10	Critical Consciousness	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 2;
Week 5 2/8/10	Expanding Gender Identities	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 3; Freire (1970) Ch 1
Week 6 2/15/10	Families as Subsystems	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 4;
Week 7 2/22/10	Culture Circles	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 5;
Week 8 3/1/10	Sponsors & Cultural Consultants	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 6; Freire (1970) Ch 2
Week 9 3/8/10	Children: Seeds of Change	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 7;
Week 10 3/15/10	Domestic Violence & substance Abuse	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 8; Freire (1970) Ch 3
Week 11 3/22/10	No Class Spring Break	
Week 12 3/29/10	Case Studies: Power, Privilege & Oppression	Almeida, Dolan-Del Vecchio & Parker (2008) Ch 9-10; Freier (1970) Ch 4
Week 13 4/5/10		
Week 14 4/12/10	Last day of class	