

## **CPSY 590 – Critical Theory and Liberation Psychology** - Summer 2010 – 2 semester hours

Instructor: Tod Sloan, Ph.D. Email: [sloan@lclark.edu](mailto:sloan@lclark.edu) Office: Rogers 335, hours by appt.

**Course Description:** This seminar reviews primary approaches in critical social theory that inspired the emergence of European and North American critical psychologies and Latin American liberation psychology, for example, Western Marxism, feminism, critical hermeneutics and poststructuralism. These approaches led to arguments within psychology aiming to correct for mainstream scientific psychology's individualism, sexism, essentialism, reductionism, and ideological collusion with the status quo. After reviewing these critiques, the seminar will address implications for rethinking psychosocial practices in the human services and community development.

### **Textbooks:**

Quinones R., R. (2007). *Consciousness in action: Toward an integral psychology of liberation and transformation*. Puerto Rico: Ilé.

Watkins, M. and Shulman, H. (2008). *Toward psychologies of liberation*. London: Palgrave.

### **Book chapters** (distributed electronically):

Hook, D. (2004a). *Critical psychology: The basic coordinates*.

Hook, D. (2004b). Foucault, disciplinary power and the critical pre-history of psychology.

Marecek, J. & Hare-Mustin, R. (2009). *Clinical psychology: The politics of madness*.

Sloan, T. (2009). *Theories of personality*.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Full preparation for **participation** in seminar discussions of readings. This means reading the assigned material, coming prepared to suggest questions or issues worth further discussion, and actually contributing to the dialogue. Worth 25% of final grade.
2. Prepare to **facilitate** the discussion of two chapters of the readings (submit a one-page plan for guiding the discussion). Each worth 15% of final grade.
3. Submit **3 two-page essays** in response to assigned readings. Respond to a deep theme in the readings for a given week and explore it in a crafted essay (written as if it were to be published as part of a reflective book review). Each essay worth 20% of final grade

### **Course Schedule**

May 24 – Introduction and discussion of Hook (2004a,b), Sloan (2009), Marecek & Hare-Mustin (2009)

June 7 – Watkins and Shulman (2008), Parts 1 and 2 [Chs. 1-2; 3; 4-5; 6; 7]

June 14 -- Watkins and Shulman (2008), Part 3 [8; 9; 10]

June 21 -- Watkins and Shulman (2008), part 4 [11; 12; 13; 14 skim; 15]

June 28 – Discussion of Quinones (2007) [Intro and Ch. 1; 2; 3; 4; 5] and conclusions

