The University of Oklahoma
College of Continuing Education
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:
Family Systems and Family Reconstruction

Course Number:
HR 5423-102

Course Description:
This HR course was created by Bill Nerin, MA. in the 1980’s. At the time the concepts and practices associated with family systems therapy were relatively new and experimental. Family Reconstruction was the “imaginative process” Bill used to describe his therapeutic approach that was inspired by Virginia Satir. The original course materials are now out of date or unavailable. The value and utility of systems theories and experiential family systems therapies has been challenged by post-modern and social constructionist philosophy and practices. This course will review the introduction of systems theory into family therapy, human relations counseling and other human relations practices. The method of Family Reconstruction will be demonstrated and critiqued. More contemporary uses of family systems theory and family systems therapies will also be examined. This course content conforms to the criteria for a LPC/LMFT eligible course in either Theoretical Foundations or Interventions/Methods.

Students will be expected to participate in multiple experiential demonstrations of family systems therapy approaches and practices.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: December 2-4 & 9-11, 2016
Location: OCCE, Norman, Oklahoma. Classes are held at the Thurman White Forum Building of OCCE, 1704 Asp Avenue.
Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 3, 2016

Site Director:
Email: apnorman@ou.edu. Phone: 405-325-3333.

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Marc Charney Ph.D., LMFT, LPC
Mailing Address: 5116 N. Portland Ave.
OKC, OK 73112
Telephone Number: (405) 943-7500
Email Address: marccharneylmft@gmail.com
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](http://learn.ou.edu); enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of the course student should be able to

1. Describe the history, development and uses of systems theory in a variety of human relations and mental health contexts.
2. Distinguish the differences between first order and second order systems theories.
3. Describe a family as a system.
4. Apply family systems constructs and concepts to one’s own life in way that is informative and helpful.
5. Describe their understanding of the benefits and limits to using a family systems theory approach with a client family.
6. Describe the philosophy, basic tenets, basic approaches and practices of narrative therapy

**Course Outline:**

**First Friday:**

- Introductions of participants, course description and itinerary.
- What is a System and why does it matter?
- Is a system a system is a system?

**First Saturday:**

- Systems Theories continued
- Family Systems theories: a review

**First Sunday:**

Family Systems Theories a review continued

**Second Friday:**

Family Reconstruction and other Psychodrama inspired interventions

**Second Saturday:**

- Post-modern philosophy and Social Construction
- Narrative approaches to Families

**Second Sunday:**

- Narrative Family Therapy: Reconstruction or Re-authoring?
- Course evaluation
Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Ten Questions:
After reading the assigned text create a list of ten questions you have related to the reading.

Daily Reflections:
At the end of each day each student will write a reflection paper (1-2 pages) over that day’s discussions, activities, etc. What ideas or experiences had significance for you? What expressions caught your attention? What images did you have, as you participated in the day’s activities? How did you relate the day’s topics and activities to your own life?

Final Paper:
Write a 10 page, APA style paper applying a minimum of 5 family systems theory concepts to your family of origin or your current family. Demonstrate your understanding of how these concepts can be applied and how doing so is potentially helpful to understanding your family as a system. You must use at least three reference sources.

Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A (90-100), B (89-80), C (79 – 70), D, or F.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ten Questions</td>
<td>First Night of class</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Reflections</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>30 points (5 points each X 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>14 Days After Last Class, December 25, 2016</td>
<td>60 points</td>
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Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc....; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Marc Charney, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC

Education:
- BA, Social Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., 1969
- MHR, Human Relations, Univ. Oklahoma, 1971
- Ph.D., Social sciences of Health Behavior, OUHSC, 1983

Current Positions:
- Co-owner, Clinical Director of Family & Children’s Consultants, Oklahoma City, 1987-present
- Adjunct Professor of Human Relations 1990- present; formerly Assistant Professor HR 1971-1976
- AAMFT Approved Supervisor 1993 – present
- LPC and LMFT Approved Supervisor in Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- Marital & Family Counseling
- Family Assessment
- Ethics in HR Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Narrative Therapy

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Narrative Therapy practices
- Infant Mental Health
- Relational Ethics in Counseling

Representative Publications and Presentations
- Relational Ethics: A series of workshops for LPC, LMFT and LADCs
- Supervision Redux: A series of workshops for LPC, LMFT and LADCs
- Narrative Therapy practices: A series of workshops for licensed mental health professionals

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Memorable Veteran Award, Children’s Mental Health Conference, 1999 Oklahoma Department of Mental Health
- Outstanding Contributions Award, Department of Human Relations, 1995
- Juvenile Outpatient Coordinator of the Year, Children’s Mental Health Conference, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health, 1995
- Faculty of the Year Award, Department of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma, 1991

Major Professional Affiliations
- AAMFT