Course Title:
Family Counseling

Course Number:
HR 5100-221

Course Description:
The course will take a historical view of family therapy and study some of the major schools of family therapy practice. The course will further explore family therapy with special consideration to ethnic, gender, and religious issues. Through group projects, simulations, videos and role playing, intervention strategies for working with families in crisis will be explored.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: March 6-11, 2012
Location: Wiesbaden, Germany. Class will be held in Basement of the Middle School Complex, in the Hainerberg Housing areas, Bldg. #778.
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: February 6, 2012

Site Director:
Wade Jackson. Phone: DSN 337-5937, CIV 0611-705-5937; Fax: 0611-705-6188; E-mail: apwiesbaden@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Dr. Avraham (Avi) Scherman
Mailing Address: 4105 Beechwood Drive
Norman, OK 73072-5016
Telephone Number: (405) 360-2787
Fax Number: (405) 325-4402 H R Dept
E-mail Address: ascherman@cox.net
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail 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 Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore 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 the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

1. Introduce the student to family counseling and therapy across the life span from coupling to death of a spouse. Particular attention will be given to crises faced by the American family today.
2. Introduce you to issues and literature related to family counseling and therapy. Historical development of family therapy and major schools will be presented.
3. Introduce you to some of the treatment methods commonly utilized by family practitioners.
4. Begin or continue to develop skills in the use of techniques of family counseling in preparation for further development in this area.
5. Introduce you to and begin to develop skills in research on family issues including family development, adjustment and counseling research.

Topics of the course:

- Chapter 1: Introduction to Family Therapy
- Chapters 2 and 3: Chronological development of Family Therapy
- Chapter 4: Concepts of Family therapy
- Chapter 7: Psychoanalytic Family Therapy 7
  - Nathan Ackerman
- Chapter 5: Intergenerational Family Therapy
  - Murray Bowen
- Chapter 11: Strategic Family Therapy
  - Jay Haley and Cloe Madanes and the Milan Systemic Models
- Chapter 8: Structural Family Therapy
  - Salvador Minuchin
- Chapter 6: Experiential Family Therapy
  - Carl Whitaker and Virginia Satir
- Chapter 9: Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy
- Chapter 12: Narrative Therapy
- Chapter 13: Integrative Models
- Chapter 10: Issues in Family Therapy

Assignments, Grading and Due dates:

1. The course will use a seminar format. Therefore, we will try to keep lecturing to a minimum and class discussion and practical application of the material as a primary focus.
2. Read assignments before class. It is hard to discuss and evaluate what you haven't read.
3. Students will identify three (3) issues from each chapter to serve as discussion topics in class. They should be in typed and submitted on the first day of class. (20% of the grade)
4. Students will interview three families:
   a. A family who has been married at least ten years
   b. A family who has been married in the last three years
   c. A single parent family.
   The following points should be explored with each of the families:
      1. What are the traditions of this family
      2. Communication patterns in the family
      3. Decision making procedures in the family
4. Power within the family
5. How are holidays celebrated in the family
6. Relationship with the extended family
7. What are three things you are proud of in the family
8. Overall satisfaction in family functioning
9. If you were to change one thing what will it be?

The information you have collected should be integrated in a paper entitled: The Tale of Three Families. It should include at the end some observations you have made on behavior during the interviews and personal insights you have gained from doing this project. (20% of the grade)

5. Read Inside Family Therapy: A Case Study in Family Healing.

Provide a two-page critique of the ideas and the approaches presented in the book. Then select three theories discussed in the course to suggest your plan of intervention with the Salazar Family. In doing so clearly identify the theory you are using, the point at which you propose to intervene and describe your strategy. This part should be about six to eight pages. Total length of the paper should be around 8-10 pages. You should adhere to APA Style. (Consult the APA Publication Manual) (30% of the grade)

6. A final including case studies in which you will be asked to suggest treatment plans and apply intervention strategies to indicate your understanding of the theories will be given. This is an open book open notes exam. (30% of the grade)

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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. 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 Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism,
- falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement;
- assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your 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.

Copyright

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

Avraham (Avi) Scherman

Education

- Ph.D., Michigan State University - 1972
- Oklahoma Licensed Professional Counselor #73
- Approved Supervisor #73

Current Positions

- Department of Educational Psychology
- Professor of Counseling Emeritus

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- HR 5013 Current Problems in Human Relations
- HR 5433 Group Counseling in Human Relations
- EIPT 5430 Group Process in Education
- HR 5113 Working with Divorcing Families
- EIPT 6493 Divorce Related Counseling
- HR 5100 Family counseling

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Avraham Scherman, Professor of Counseling a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the State of Oklahoma, joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma in the Fall of 1974. He is teaching Advanced Programs classes since 1975. He received his bachelor's degree from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, and his master's and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University. Prior to his appointment at OU, he was a teacher and principal of a high school in Israel, and on the Faculty of the University of Hartford for two years. He is the author of numerous publications in the area of crisis in the family, intervention with children of divorce and support systems available to the child in crisis. In addition, he has a small private practice where he sees clients and conduct support and growth groups.

Representative Publications and Presentations

Publications:


Presentations:

• 1999 Exploration of roles grandparents can play in the extended family. Paper presented at the Oklahoma Counseling Association Mid-Winter Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, February


• 2002 Robbins, R., Lynn, L., Scherman, A., & Wilson, J. Native American Grandparents’ Involvement with their Grandchildren During Times of Crisis in the Family. Paper presented at the Oklahoma Association of Teacher Education Annual Conference, Edmond, Oklahoma, November


• 2004 Roles grandparents can play when crisis occur in the family. Paper presented at the Oklahoma Counseling Association Mid-Winter Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, February

• 2005 Grandparents as a support system for their grandchildren in US, Panama, and South Korea. Paper presented at the Oklahoma Counseling Association Mid-Winter Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, January

Representative Honors and Awards Received

• 1981 Regents’ Teaching Award. University of Oklahoma, April.
• 1985 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award, University of Oklahoma, October.
• 1986 Counselor of the year - Oklahoma, Central region, October.
• 1986 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award. University of Oklahoma, October.
• 1987 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award. University of Oklahoma, August.
• 1988 Associate Distinguished Lectureship Award. University of Oklahoma, August.
• 1989 Oklahoma Association for Counselor Education and Supervision – President.
• 1996 Oklahoma Counseling Association - President Elect.
• 1996 Oklahoma Association for Counselor Education and Supervision President.
• 1997 Oklahoma Counseling Association - President.
• 2000 Rufus G. Hall Faculty Award - College of Liberal Studies, University of Oklahoma
• 2004 Regents' Superior Teaching Award. University of Oklahoma, April

**Major Professional Affiliations**

• American Association for Counseling and Development.
• Association for Counselor Education and Supervision
• Oklahoma Association for Counseling and Development