

Counseling 697: Advanced Play Therapy Summer I 2016

Instructor: Steve Armstrong, Ph.D., LPC-S, RPT-S

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Office Hours: In this course, I will be available prior to any class or supervision session if we have a scheduled appointment.

Course Description:

This advanced course is designed to (1) assist those who work with children in understanding complex tenets of play therapy, (2) help participants develop advanced play therapy clinical conceptualization and intervention skills, (3) deepen participants' understanding of the inner world and behavior of children (including play therapy themes that help therapists to understand the meaning of the child's play), (4) help students develop more relational depth with children, (5) promote self-awareness and self-understanding, (6) increase participants' understanding of child development, particularly with children ages three to nine, (7) help students become more effective in consulting with parents of young children, and (8) enhance participants' sensitivity to and acceptance of others. All students participating in this class have completed COUN 539. This course meets requirements for becoming a Registered Play Therapist (RPT).

Course Procedures: Involvement and learning in the course will be facilitated by means of:

- Lecture
- Guest lecturer
- Small group activities and discussion
- Assigned readings and class discussion
- Arranged play therapy sessions with children
- Field trip to university based clinic
- Clinical triadic and group supervision

Required Text:

Ray, D. (2011). Advanced play therapy: Essential conditions, knowledge, and skills for child practice. New York: Routledge.

Additional reading as assigned

Class Requirements:

- 1. Reading text:** It is essential to keep up with assigned reading in the text. This material is integral to your development as a play therapist.
- 2. Play therapy sessions with clients:** Arrange on-going play sessions with two children (ages 4-8), in a play therapy room or appropriate setting. Use authorized toys listed in the text you used for introduction to play therapy. Videotape all sessions if possible for triadic and group supervision and choose two to submit for a grade. You will critique the graded session in a paper (3-4 pages for each session).
- 3. Clinical Supervision:** The most significant requirement of this class in addition to conducting play therapy sessions is clinical supervision. In addition to providing you with in-depth didactic material to deepen your understanding of effective play therapy concepts and practice, my primary role in this course is to facilitate your growth and development as a play therapy practitioner. It is essential that you attend all arranged supervision sessions and bring videotaped sessions with you to share with other students and the instructor. Clinical supervision sessions will be arranged at a time and place that is acceptable to students.
- 4. Paper:** You will be required to submit a theoretical conceptualization of both children. Details for this assignment will be discussed and provided.

Grading:

Attendance/class participation & supervision	40 pts.
Play therapy tapes (two)	200 pts.
Conceptualization paper	60 pts.

A	90%	270 points
B	80%	240 points
C	70%	210 points

Attendance: A large part of what we do in class is experiential, therefore, class attendance is considered to be crucial. **More than one absence will result in the final grade being lowered one grade level.** Being repeatedly **late** for class will affect your final grade. Any late assignment will result in a deduction of 10 points per week for that assignment.

Digital devices: It is inappropriate to text, email, check email or texts, use a laptop or go online during this course. I expect your full attention and participation. Confine your use of digital devices to breaks.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library Rm 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER

Check <http://www.tamuc.edu/> regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

Discrimination Free Environment

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.