Nashville State Community College
Survey of Counseling Theories
SWRK 2025

Instructor:
Times:
Classroom:
Office/Office Hours:
Phone:
Email:

Course Description:
A comparative analysis of the major theoretical approaches to the practice of counseling and psychotherapy. Topics include psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive behavioral, gestalt, transactional analysis, and rational emotive and family systems therapy.

Credits: 3

Course Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify the basic theories of counseling and psychotherapy.
- Discuss the application of these theories to the practice of counseling.
- Identify the situations that are indicators of the appropriateness of a particular therapy.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and professional issues in counseling.
- Discuss the personal qualities of the counselor as they relate to therapeutic effectiveness.
- Demonstrate an integration of theoretical and experiential learning in order to work effectively with clients who may be in therapy or who may require referral to licensed therapists.

Required Text:
Please see bookstore link for textbook information.

Course Competencies:
Course competencies are to enable the students to:

1. Apply a generalist framework of knowledge, skills and values for entry-level social work practice based on a problem-solving process including engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, termination, and follow-up with systems of various sizes.
2. Demonstrate appropriate professional integrity and apply social work values and ethics, respecting the dignity of the individual client’s self-determination and human diversity.
3. Understand the essential facilitative qualities and the characteristics of professional social work.
4. Attain proficiency in the interpersonal skills of talking and listening.
5. Know the core values, ethics, and legal obligations of professional social workers.
6. Attain a basic proficiency in ethical decision making.
7. Know the phases and processes of social work practice.
8. Be able to apply the skills of social work interviewing including the phases of preparing, beginning, exploring, assessing, contracting, evaluating, and ending a client service process.
9. Gain proficiency in recording and documentation, and appreciate the confidentiality of records.
10. Conceptualize the rapport building skills and attitudes of positive regard, empathy, genuineness, controlled emotional involvement, tolerance for human diversity, and practitioner optimism about the ability of individuals to change and demonstrate the ability to develop this rapport.

Grading, Examinations and Papers:

Grading Policy:

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Grading Scale:

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Attendance/Withdrawal Policy:
Absences in excess of the total number of class hours in one week may result in a drop in a letter grade.

Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of “FA” or “FN”

- FA – Failure – attendance related (last date of attendance required)
- FN – Failure – never attended class

It is the student’s responsibility to check D2L and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

Nashville State Community College has implemented an Early Warning System to notify students via e-mail about academic problems such as poor classroom attendance, poor performance on assignments/tests, poor communication skills, late/missing assignments, and/or lack of classroom participation. Please note that Early Warning Alerts do not affect a student’s academic standing.
Accommodations:
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Consult with the office of Student Disability Services. If you need any accommodation(s) for this class, notify the instructor by the second class meeting.

Classroom Misconduct and Procedures:
Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College. Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevents concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.). Each student should refer to the current Nashville State Student Handbook for guidelines for student conduct.

Academic Dishonesty:
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. “Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your works” (A Writer’s Reference, 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructors’ permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else’s work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper or examination, or to assign an “F” for the course.

If a student believes that he/she has been erroneously accused of academic dishonesty and if his/her final grade has been lowered as a result, the student may appeal the case through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

NOTE:
This syllabus is a master syllabus. Specific course requirements are subject to revision at the discretion of the individual instructor. A course syllabus will be provided the first day of class.