**AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, REHABILITATION, AND COUNSELING**

**SYLLABUS**

**Fall Semester 2017**

**Course Number: COUN 7500**

**Course Title: Crisis Intervention in Counseling**

**Credit Hours:** 3 Semester hours

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** None

**Date Syllabus Prepared:** Initial submission January 2012, Revised August 2012, October 2012, July 2014, August 2015, August 2016; August 2017

**Instructor:** Melanie M. Scherer Iarussi, Ph.D., LPC

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Office: 3010 Haley Center

Office Hours: Wednesday: 10am – 11am; By appointment

**Texts:**

**Required:**

Jackson-Cherry, L., & Erford, B. (2018). *Crisis assessment, intervention, and prevention* (3rd ed.)*.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

**Recommended:**

Kerr, M. M. (2009). *School crisis prevention and intervention.* Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

**Optional:**

James, R. K., & Gilliland, B. E. (2017). *Crisis intervention strategies* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

**Articles and Resources:**

American Red Cross. (n.d.) *Preparing for disaster with people with disabilities and other special needs.* Author.

American Society of Suicidology. (n.d.). Core competencies for the assessment and management of individuals at risk for suicide. Retrieved from http://www.suicidology.org/training-accreditation/rrsr

Bemak, F., & Chung, R. C. (2017). Refugee trauma: Culturally responsive counseling interventions. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 95*, 299-308. doi:10.1002/jcad.12144

Brymer, M., Jacobs, A., Layne, C., Pynoos, R., Ruzek, J., Steinberg, A., Vernberg, E., & Watson, P. (2006). *Psychological First Aid: Field Operations Guide (2nd ed.*). National Child Traumatic Stress Network and National Center for PTSD. Retrieved from www.nctsn.org or www.ncptsd.va.gov.

Brymer M., Taylor M., Escudero P., Jacobs A., Kronenberg M., Macy R., Mock L., Payne L., Pynoos R., & Vogel J. (2012). *Psychological first aid for schools: Field operations guide (2nd ed.)*. Los Angeles: National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Buser, T. J., & Buser, J. K. (2013). The HIRE model: A tool for the informal assessment of nonsuicidal self-injury. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling, 35*, 262-281.

Cavanaugh, B. (2016). Trauma-informed classrooms and schools. *Beyond Behavior, 25*(2), 41-46.

Classen, C. C., & Clark, C. S. (2017). Trauma-informed care. In S. N. Gold, S. N. Gold (Eds.). *APA handbook of trauma psychology: Trauma practice* (pp. 515-541). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. doi:10.1037/0000020-025

Hyldahl, R. S., & Richardson, B. (2011). Key considerations for using no-harm contracts with clients who self-injure. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 89*, 121-127.

Kelly, U., Boyd, M. A., Valente, S. M., & Czekanski, E. (2014). Trauma-informed care: Keeping mental health settings safe for veterans. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing, 35*, 413-419. doi:10.3109/01612840.2014.881941

Lewis, L. M. (2007). No-Harm Contracts: A Review of what we know. *Suicide & Life-Threatening Behavior, 37*, 50-57.

Mills, K. L. (2015). The importance of providing trauma‐informed care in alcohol and other drug services. *Drug And Alcohol Review, 34,* 231-233. doi:10.1111/dar.12273

National Child Traumatic Stress Network: <http://nctsn.org>

National Center for PTSD. (2013). *Understanding PTSD treatment.* Retrieved from www.ptsd.va.gov

Sachs, A. (2011). A memoir of schizophrenia. *TIME*. Retrieved from www.time.com/arts/article/0.8599.1656592.00.html

Sommers-Flanagan, J., & Sommers-Flanagan, R. (2009). The mental status examination. In *Clinical Interviewing* (4th ed.)(pp. 213-243). Hobroken, NJ: Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2012). *Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools*. HHS Publication No. SMA-12-4669. Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Author.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2013). *Disaster planning handbook for behavioral health treatment programs.* technical Assistance Publication (TAP) Series 34. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4779. Rockville, MD: Author.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). *Trauma-informed care in behavioral health services.* Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series 57. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4801. Rockville, MD: Author.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2015). *A journey toward help and hope: Your handbook for recovery after a suicide attempt*. HHS Publication No. SMA-15-4419. Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, Author.

WICHE Mental Health Program. (2009). *Safety planning guide.* Boulder, CO: Education Development Center & Author

**Course Description:**

Development of skills and knowledge for crisis intervention and management in counseling, including prevention planning, intervention strategies and evaluation.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate these learning outcomes:

* counselors’ roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams (CACREP 2016, II.F.1.c.)
* ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling (CACREP 2016, II.F.1.i.)
* strategies for personal and professional self-evaluation and implications for practice (CACREP 2016, II.F.1.k.)
* self-care strategies appropriate to the counselor role (CACREP 2016, II.F.1.l.)
* the role of counseling supervision in the profession (CACREP 2016, II.F.1.m.)
* multicultural counseling competencies (CACREP 2016, II.F.2.c.)
* effects of crisis, disasters, and trauma on diverse individuals across the lifespan (CACREP 2016, II.F.2.g.)
* ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan (CACREP 2016, II.F.2.i.)
* suicide prevention models and strategies (CACREP 2016, II.F.5.l.)
* crisis intervention, trauma-informed, and community-based strategies, such as Psychological First Aid (CACREP 2016, II.F.5.m.)

**Clinical Mental Health**

* potential for substance use disorders to mimic and/or co-occur with a variety of neurological, medical, and psychological disorders (CACREP 2016, V.C.2.e.)
* impact of crisis and trauma on individuals with mental health diagnoses (CACREP 2016, V.C.2.f.)
* techniques and interventions for prevention and treatment of a broad range of mental health issues CACREP 2016, V.C.3.b.)

**Rehabilitation Counseling**

* potential for substance use disorders to mimic and/or co-occur with a variety of neurological, medical, and psychological disorders (CACREP 2016, V.D.2.g.)
* impact of crisis and trauma on individuals with disabilities (CACREP 2016, V.D.2.h.)

**School Counseling**

* characteristics, risk factors, and warning signs of students at risk for mental health and behavioral disorders (CACREP 2016, V.G.2.g.)
* signs and symptoms of substance abuse in children and adolescents as well as the signs and symptoms of living in a home where substance use occurs (CACREP 2016, V.G.2.i.)

**Assignments/Projects:**

1. ***Weekly reading application and reflection assignments*** (10pts each)
   1. ***Reading questions:*** Students will read assigned material and respond to questions related to this reading each week.Students are expected to provide thoughtful responses that include references to the reading to demonstrate knowledge competency. Students are encouraged to critically think about and apply the reading material to counseling practice. Students’ responses should be uploaded to Canvas before the start of class on the due date.
   2. ***Mindfulness and self-care reflection:*** Students will be asked to practice mindfulness at the conclusion of each class. As part of the weekly assignment, students will reflect on their use of mindfulness in class and between class sessions as well as their overall self-care and wellness.
2. ***Surviving Client Suicide Reflection:*** Students will read and reflect on at least two entries submitted to the “Clinicians as survivors of suicide: Personal accounts by clinician survivors” at <http://mypage.iu.edu/~jmcintos/personacc.htm>. Students will write about their reactions, personally and professionally, to these accounts. ***Due 10/18/17*** (15pts)
3. ***Crisis Intervention Demonstration:*** Students will demonstrate a crisis intervention demonstration. Students must demonstrate their ability to conduct a risk assessment, including but not limited to suicide, homicide, psychosis, and/or self-harm. Following the assessment, students must be able to demonstrate their ability to make a clinical judgment based on their conceptualization of the risk and to connect the client to appropriate care. After the demonstration, students will complete the Crisis Intervention Documentation and Plan for Services form for the mock client.
   * Students will complete the demonstration in-class on ***10/25/17*** (50pts)
   * Crisis Intervention Documentation and Plan for Services form is due by 11:59pm ***10/27/17*** (25pts)
4. ***Crisis memoir analysis:*** Students will read a book that is a memoir (i.e., true story) of the author’s crisis experience. Students may select a memoir of their choice and receive the instructor’s approval by ***9/13/17***. After reading the memoir, students will complete an analysis including the components listed below. Papers will be a minimum of 8 pages, not including reference or title page, and will be in APA 6th edition style formatting. A minimum of 5 scholarly sources must be cited within the paper and a reference list must be provided. ***Due 11/15/17*** (75pts; see Grading Rubric in Appendix**) (Note: please do not choose a fictional novel; this must be a true story)**
   1. Introduce the protagonist
   2. Describe the crisis the protagonist experienced
   3. Provide information from your textbook and from the literature about this type of crisis (e.g., provide diagnostic criteria for a mental disorder the protagonist may have experienced; apply the tasks of mourning to a protagonist who was grieving). This information (i.e., what is typically expected after such a crisis) should be compared and contrasted with the experiences of the protagonist.
   4. Describe any legal and ethical issues involved in the crisis situation (e.g., describe issues related to confidentiality and privacy, mandated reporting, any court proceedings that did or could have occurred related to the crisis, police or law enforcement involvement, etc.)
   5. Describe the environmental, cultural, and developmental influences – How did the person’s environment, culture, and development impact the crisis situation and the person’s response to and ability to cope and heal from the crisis? Consider the person’s resources related to each of these factors.
   6. Describe the services the protagonist received to related to the crisis. **In addition,** describe the following:
      1. How could a clinical mental health/school/rehabilitation counselor be helpful to the protagonist in the midst of his or her crisis? (Write about your specialty area)
      2. What specific types of assessments and interventions might you have used with this person?
      3. Who might you collaborate with when helping this person? What types of referrals might you offer him or her?
   7. Describe your personal experience of reading this person’s crisis experience. Reflect on what it might be like for you to hear this person describe his or her story to you in person. How would you manage your personal response to the client’s experience with remaining in the role of a helper to the client?
5. ***Crisis Intervention Plan Group Project:*** Students will work in assigned groups to develop a comprehensive crisis intervention plan for one specific crisis situation in their future work setting. Groups may choose the crisis scenario, but it must be relevant to the groups’ specialty area. Examples of crisis scenarios include a shooting, act of terrorism, hostage situation, natural disaster (e.g., tornado), suicide, homicide, fire, sexual violence, childhood abuse, and so on. Crisis management plans should apply information covered over the course of the semester in addition to other scholarly and reference material. The plan should be comprised of the following sections and will be presented to the class in approximately 20-30 minutes on ***12/6/17.*** The plan must also be submitted to Canvas by ***12/6/17***:
6. **Crisis Scenario.** The crisis scenario created by the group should include *who is involved, what happened, and where and when the crisis took place*. The scenario should be specific to group members’ specialty area (e.g. school counselors should create a scenario in a school setting; clinical mental health counselors in a clinical mental health counseling setting; rehabilitation counselors in a rehabilitation counseling setting). ***Due for approval by 10/4/17.***
7. **Prevention and Mitigation.** Describe the plan for *prevention or mitigation* related to this specific scenario. For example, describe lockdown drills for a shooting scenario or prevention programming for a scenario involving suicide. Provide citations from the literature to support these strategies.
8. **Crisis Intervention**. Students will develop an action plan that identifies the roles and responsibilities of the professional counselor, specific to clinical mental health, school, or rehabilitation counseling, in response to the crisis to support the agency, school, or clients during the crisis. These should be *supported by literature and cited*. The action plan should include the following components:
   * 1. Describe *what specific crisis interventions would be applied* *and how* (e.g., assessments, counseling interventions, ethical/legal protocols such as mandated reporting, Psychological First Aid, etc.), including a rational *for why these interventions were chosen.* Consideration should be paid to the match between the interventions and the needs of diverse individuals.
     2. Describe *collaborations with other professionals* (e.g., law enforcement, parents, healthcare providers) that would be necessary for this crisis and what *resources*professional counselors might connect students, clients, or families to (e.g., food, shelter, support, medical care).
     3. Write *sample letters*to stakeholders (e.g., parents within the school setting, employers in rehabilitation setting) if applicable. (see Kerr, 2009).
9. **Debriefing.** Describe the content and the process for professional and personal debriefing after implementing the crisis interventions. Provide citations from the literature.

**Grading and Evaluation:**

Course assignments are due **before the start of class** on the dates specified. When an assignment is turned in late, the student’s grade will be reduced by 5% per day, with no assignments accepted more than 1 week past the due date without an approved excuse. Please refer to the Class Policy Statements in the course syllabus for information about excused absences and making up assignments. Students in this course are required to complete the specified course requirements. Students’ final grades are based on these components:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Due** | **Points** | **Standards** |
| Weekly Assignments | Weekly | 110  (11\*10pts) | II.F.1.i.; II.F.1.k.; II.F.1.l.; II.F.1.m.; II.F.2.c.; II.F.2.g.; II.F.5.l.; II.F.5.m; V.C.2.e.; V.C.2.f.; V.C.3.b.; V.D.2.g.; V.D.2.h.; V.G.2.g.; V.G.2.i. |
| Surviving Client Suicide | 10/18/17 | 15 | II.F.1.k.; II.F.1.m.; II.F.2.g. |
| Crisis Intervention Demonstration | In-class Demonstration: 10/25/17  Documentation: 10/27/17 | 75 | II.F.2.c.; II.F.2.g.; V.C.2.e; V.D.2.h.. |
| Crisis Memoir Analysis | Book approval: 9/13/15  Analysis due: 11/15/17 | 75 | II.F.1.c.; II.F.2.c; II.F.2.g.; II.F.2.i.; II.F.5.m |
| Crisis Intervention Plan Group Project | Scenario approval: 10/4/17  Group Presentation: 12/6/17 | 50 | II.F.1.c.; II.F.1.i.; II.F.2.g; II.F.2.i.; II.F.5.l; II.F.5.m.; V.C.3.b.; V.D.2.h.; V.G.2.g. |
|  | **Total** | **325pts** |  |

The following scale will be used:

90 – 100% =A

80 – 89.9% =B

70 – 79.9% =C

60 – 69.9% =D

59.9% and Below =F

**Class Policy Statements:**

1. Attendance: Students are expected to attend class and to be on time for class meetings. Distance students are expected to view all recorded lectures. Students are expected to prepare for class and to participate in class activities and discussions, when applicable. Should students need to be absent for any reason, please contact the course instructor before missing that class meeting. Students are allotted one absence.
2. Excused absences: Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student’s immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for university classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance, and religious holidays. Students who wish to have excused absences from class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall notification occur more than one week after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see Student Policy eHandbook [www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies](http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies) for more information on excused absences.
3. Make-Up Policy: Arrangement to make up a missed major examination (e.g., hour exams, mid-term exams) due to properly authorized excused absences must be initiated by the student within one week of the end of the period of the excused absence(s). Except in extraordinary circumstance, no make-up exams will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins.
4. Academic Honesty Policy: All portions of the Auburn University student academic honesty code (Title XII) found in the Student Policy eHandbook [www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies](http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies) will apply to university courses. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee.
5. Educational Accessibility Accommodations: Students who need instructional modifications are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).
6. Course contingency: If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.
7. Professionalism: As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:
   1. Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
   2. Contribute to collaborative learning communities
   3. Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
   4. Model and nurture intellectual vitality
8. Use of Electronics: Cell phones must be put on silent and stored during class times, unless the instructor is notified of special circumstances (e.g., on-call professional services, family emergencies). Computers and electronic notepads are welcomed, **but may be used for class purposes only and must not be a distraction.**

**Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Content** | **Readings** | **Assignments Due** | **2016 CACREP Standards** |
| 1 | 8/23/17 | Introduction to Crisis Intervention  Professional Counselors’ Roles in Crisis Intervention | Ch. 1 |  | II.F.1.c. |
| 2 | 8/30/17 | Legal, ethical, and multicultural considerations  Counselor safety and self-care in crisis counseling | Ch. 2, 3, & 14  Alabama’s Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law (2012) and 2013 Changes document | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.1.i.  II.F.1.k.  II.F.1.l.  II.F.1.m.  II.F.2.c.  II.F.2.g.  V.D.2.h. |
| 3 | 9/6/17 | Essential Crisis Intervention Skills  Mental Status Exams  Trauma-Informed Care | Ch. 4  Sommers-Flanagan & Sommers-Flanagan (2009)  CMHC & Rehab: Classen & Clark (2017)  SC: Cavannah (2016)  SAMHSA (2014)\* | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.2.i.  II.F.5.m.  V.C.2.f.  V.C.3.b.  V.G.2.g.  V.G.2.g. |
| 4 | 9/13/17 | Crisis, Diagnosis, and Evidence-Based Treatments  Psychological First Aid | National Center for PTSD (2013)  CMHC & RC: Brymer et al. (2006)  SC: Brymer et al. (2012) | **Weekly Assignment – Include memoir title for approval** | II.F.5.m.  V.C.2.f. |
| 5 | 9/20/17 | Emergency Preparedness & Responses | Ch. 12 &13  American Red Cross (n.d.)  SAMHSA (2013)\* | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  II.F.1.c.  II.F.5.m.  V.C.3.b.  V.D.2.h.  V.G.2.g. |
| 6 | 9/27/17 | Crisis and Substance Use Disorders | Ch. 7  Mills (2015) | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.1.c.  II.F.1.i.  II.F.2.g.  V.C.2.e.  V.C.3.b.  V.D.2.g.  V.G.2.i. |
| 7 | 10/4/17 | Loss, Grief, & Bereavement | Ch. 5 | **Weekly Assignment**  **Submit Group Project Scenario for Approval** |  |
| 8 | 10/11/17 | Suicide and Homicide: Prevention, Risk Assessment, and Intervention | Ch. 6  Lewis (2007)  SAMHSA (2012, 2015)\* | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  II.F.5.l.  II.F.5.m.  V.C.3.b.  V.G.2.g. |
| 9 | 10/18/17 | Nonsuicidal Self-Injury and Psychosis: Assessment and Intervention | Buser & Buser (2013)  Sachs (2011)  Hyldahl & Richardson (2011)\* | **Weekly Assignment**  **Surviving Client Suicide Reflection Due** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  V.C.3.b.  V.G.2.g. |
| 10 | 10/25/17 | Risk Assessment and Intervention: Skill Demonstrations |  | **Crisis Intervention Demonstrations** **& Documentation** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  II.F.5.l.  V.C.3.b.  V.D.2.h. |
| 11 | 11/1/17 | Intimate Partner Violence  Sexual Violence  *Guest speaker: Melissa McConaha, AU Safe Harbor* | Ch. 8 & 9 | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  II.F.1.c.  V.C.3.b. |
| 12 | 11/8/17 | Child Abuse  *Guest speaker: Jacqueline Burgess, Tri-County Child Advocacy Center* | Ch. 10 | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  II.F.1.c.  V.C.3.b.  V.G.2.g. |
| 13 | 11/15/17 | ***ALCA*** |  | **Crisis Memoir Analysis Due** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  II.F.1.c.  V.C.3.b. |
| 14 | 11/22/17 | **THANKSGIVING BREAK** | |  |  |
| 15 | 11/29/17 | Military Issues and Crisis  Counseling Refugees | Ch. 11  Kelly et al. (2014)  Bemak & Chung (2017) | **Weekly Assignment** | II.F.2.g.  II.F.2.i.  V.C.3.b. |
| 16 | 12/6/17 | **Crisis Intervention Plan: Group Presentations** | | | II.F.1.c.; II.F.1.i.; II.F.2.g; II.F.2.i.; II.F.5.l; II.F.5.m.; V.C.3.b.; V.D.2.h.; V.G.2.g. |

\*Notes optional reading

**Justification for Graduate Credit:**

This course includes advanced content crisis intervention. This includes content as specified by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP, 2009). All academic content approved by CACREP is for advanced Masters and/or Doctoral graduate study. This includes rigorous evaluation standards of students completing the student learning outcomes specified in this syllabus.

**SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed due to the developmental needs of the students.  In the event that changes are deemed necessary, the instructor will inform students at the earliest date possible in class or via email.