**Introduction to Prevention and Mental Health Promotion**

**Spring 2025**

**SYLLABUS**

Course Number: COUN 4010-002

Prerequisites: COUN 2000 or COUN 2007

Credit Hours: 3 Semester hours credits/Graded

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00pm-3:15pm

Class Location: Online/Synchronous

Instructor: Katrina D. Wilson

Office Hours: Thursday 3:15pm-4:15pm

E-mail: kdw0066@auburn.edu

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary and will be communicated to the class in a timely manner.

**Created: January 2022 Revised: January 2023 & July 2023 & January 2024**

**Course Description:**

Addressing the ideas of prevention and health promotion in counseling psychology. We will address concepts such as polyvagal theory, intersectionality, stress, body image, and health promotion and prevention.

**Student Learning Outcomes**:

1. Understanding of how the ideas of prevention and promotion apply to counseling psychology, as well as how these ideas apply to psychology in general.
2. Gain an understanding of what science has shown to be worth promoting.
3. Gain an understanding of what science has shown to be worth preventing.
4. Gain a cross-cultural perspective of health, growth, and community.
5. Understand the impact of social justice and advocacy.

**Required Reading:**

***All these articles will be uploaded on Canvas. Please read the assigned articles before we meet.***

Bohlman, A. F. (2022). Next Time Won’t You Sign with Me: Joan La Barbara on Sesame Street. *TEMPO*, *76*(301), 50–60. https://doi-org.spot.lib.auburn.edu/10.1017/S0040298222000055

Conroy, J., & Perryman, K. (2022). Treating trauma with child-centered play therapy through the SECURE lens of polyvagal theory. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, *31*(3), 143–152. https://doi-org.spot.lib.auburn.edu/10.1037/pla0000172

Davies, E., Read, J., & Shevlin, M. (2022). The impact of adverse childhood experiences and recent life events on anxiety and quality of life in university students. *Higher Education (00181560)*, *84*(1), 211–224. https://doi-org.spot.lib.auburn.edu/10.1007/s10734-021-00774-9

Discovering the Importance of Play through Personal Histories and Brain Images: An Interview with Stuart L. Brown. (2009). *American Journal of Play*, *1*(4), 399–412.

Gerhardt, L. (2020, February 5). *The rebellious history of the Fat Acceptance Movement*. Center For Discovery. Retrieved January 10, 2022, from https://centerfordiscovery.com/blog/fat-acceptance-movement/

Haney, A. M., & Rollock, D. (2020). A Matter of Faith: The Role of Religion, Doubt, and Personality in Emerging Adult Mental Health. *PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY*, *12*(2), 247–253. <https://doi-org.spot.lib.auburn.edu/10.1037/rel0000231>

Jones, Jacqueline P., Jessica M. Drass, and Girija Kaimal. 2019. “Art Therapy for Military Service Members with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury: Three Case Reports Highlighting Trajectories of Treatment and Recovery.” The Arts in Psychotherapy 63 (April): 18–30. doi:10.1016/j.aip.2019.04.004.

Kay, T. (2022). Culture in transnational Interaction: how Organizational Partners Coproduce Sesame Street. *THEORY AND SOCIETY*. https://doi-org.spot.lib.auburn.edu/10.1007/s11186-022-09484-2

Marks, D. F. (1996). Health Psychology in Context. *Journal of Health Psychology*, *1*(1), 7–21. https://doi.org/10.1177/135910539600100102 **(please read pages 4-15 only)**

Stephen W. Porges. (2022). Polyvagal Theory: A Science of Safety. *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience*, *16*. https://doi.org/10.3389/fnint.2022.871227

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| **COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE** | | |
| **Topic** | | **Assignments and Articles** |
| **Week 1** | | |
|  | Introductions; Review of Syllabus |  |
| **Week 2** | | |
|  | Mental health promotion and prevention | READ: Marks, 1996 (4-15) |
|  | Neuroscience in Action |
| **Week 3** | | |
|  | The Autonomic Nervous System  Polyvagal Theory | READ: Porges, 2022 |
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| **Week 4** | | |
|  | The Benefits of Play  Play Personalities | **SUBMIT: Vlog**  READ: Discovering the Importance of Play Interview with Brown |
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| **Week 5** | | |
|  | The Impact of Stress:  ACES, PTSD, C-PTSD | **SUBMIT: Journal 1** |
|  | READ: Davies, 2022 |
| **Week 6** | | |
|  | Fostering Healthy Attachment  Co-Regulation | READ: Conroy, 2022 |
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| **Week 7** | | |
|  | The Creative Arts Therapies | **SUBMIT: Documentary Review**  READ: Jones et al., 2019 |
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| **Week 8** | | |
|  | Midterm |  |
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| **SPRING BREAK** | | |
| **Week 9** | | |
|  | Body Image: The Media and Relationships |  |
|  | READ: Gerhardt, 2020 |
| **Week 10** | | |
|  | Eating Disorders |  |
|  | **SUBMIT: Journal 2** |
| **Week 11** | | |
|  | Mindfulness, spirituality, and religion | READ: Haney, 2020 |
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| **Week 12** | | |
|  | Sports Psychology  Exercise and Movement | **SUBMIT:** Interview |
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| **Week 13** | | |
|  | Self-care and community care |  |
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| **Week 14** | | |
|  | Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street | **Submit:** Health Across Cultures PowerPoint |
|  | **READ**: Kay, 2022 and Bohlman, 2022 |
| **Week 15** | | |
|  | Symposium | **Your presentation and participation are graded** |
|  |  |
| **Final Exam** | | |

**Assignments:**

Assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the date listed on the syllabus and Canvas. Canvas is considered the official time stamp for assignments. Assignments turned in after the indicated time on Canvas are subject to point deduction. Late papers/assignments will receive a 10% deduction in grade for each business day they are late.

**A. Journal 1**

(5 points) - Summarize what you have learned about the importance of play. What information was new to you? Where do you disagree/agree? *What life circumstances have shaped your opinions?* Discuss your play personality and explain what shaped it. How did you play as a child? How do you play as an adult? **Your journal must be at least TWO pages long and utilize APA format (typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, and use 1.0-inch margins).**

**B. Journal 2**

(5 points) - Summarize what you have learned about body image. *What life experiences have shaped* ***your*** *opinions?* Discuss how the material we covered in class has influenced the way you understand your relationship with food, movement, and your body. What is your understanding of body politics, body liberation, and body respect? **Your journal must be at least TWO pages long and utilize APA format (typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, and use 1.0-inch margins).**

**C. Vlog**

(5 points) Record and upload a 3–5-minute video (audio and video):

* define three terms that you learned in this class *in your own words*
* discuss how you are going to apply what you learned to your own life
* How does learning about the brain and the nervous system benefit you personally?
* What insights have you gained?
* What questions are you pondering about the brain and the nervous system?
* The goal is for you to be direct, and thoughtful about what you’re learning.

**D. Documentary Review**

(15 points) You will choose one of the following documentaries to watch and write your paper.

Must include correct references & citations per APA guidelines

<https://www.easybib.com/guides/citation-guides/apa-format/apa-citation/>

<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/paper-format> This includes correct formatting.

OPTION A: Heroin(e) - available on Netflix

OPTION B: Period. End of Sentence - available on Netflix

OPTION C: [Homeless with Mental Illness](https://youtu.be/Dx6OiJiQSks)- available free on YouTube

OPTION D: [Nadiya: Anxiety and Me](https://youtu.be/rkfTHRkl47w)- available free on YouTube

In a 3-5 page essay, respond to the following:

1. What issues are discussed in the documentary? What did you personally learn? (3 points)
2. Why are these issues important to the community in the documentary? How are community members impacted? Discuss power, privilege, and intersectionality. (3 points)
3. How did the community help each other, as discussed in the documentary? (3 points)
4. Name two other organizations, initiatives, or individuals who are addressing this issue as well (either in the same city or elsewhere in the country, or in the world). This will not be mentioned in the documentary, you will have to conduct your own research. How is their work similar/different from the individuals/organizations in the documentary? (3 points)
5. Bring in two external sources to present an in-depth understanding of the topic, from a counseling psychology perspective. These must be *peer-reviewed articles or journals*. Do studies support what you saw in the documentary? How are scientists and practitioners in the field approaching this topic? (3 points)

**E. Health Across Cultures Interview and PowerPoint Presentation: (You can work with a group or individual)**

**The interview portion of the assignment (this is 25-30 minutes long):**

(20 points for the PowerPoint) – Select a mental health professional (counselor, social worker, psychologist, etc.) This interview is to be video recorded (Zoom) and submitted to me**.** After you complete the interview, you will compose a PowerPoint presentation with the following slides:

1. Whom did you interview? Introduce your interviewee by speaking about their intersecting identities. Mention parts of their identity like gender, race, disability, immigrant status, professional status, etc. Introduce them by telling a story - we’re not just collecting data here.
2. How does your interviewee define health and how do they define mental health? (**One** **brief direct quote 2-3 lines is acceptable here.** You may also paraphrase). Why/how did they reach this definition? Who has access to health care in their community - what is that access like? Who does not have access? Why?
3. How do they wish health care was different in their community? What do they currently like/dislike? Who has the power and/or the responsibility to make changes happen?
4. Finally, ask about personal/communal practices that your interviewee engages in to promote health and well-being (prayer, meditation, exercise, therapy, healing rituals…etc.)
5. Utilizing at least *four external academic, peer-reviewed sources,* expand on two concepts that your interviewee mentioned. How are these topics currently discussed and viewed in the literature?
6. How are you personally similar/different from your interviewee? Do you hold similar opinions? Discuss your identities and topics that brought you tension or that you found yourself in agreement with. Explain why you might have felt this way. Discuss your intersectionality, and life experiences.

(5 points for the interview)

1. You must be engaged, respectful, and *present* during your interview. No distractions from phones/electronics or other sources.
2. You must “arrive at the interview early”, you must be alone in the space, and you must notify your guest that you are recording.
3. You must take a few minutes to establish rapport. Do not dive right in. Introduce yourself and the class you are enrolled in. Remind your interviewee that you will be talking to them for 25-30 minutes.
4. You must be prepared with questions. Your questions are short, clear, and concise. If your interviewee skips ahead and answers a question, be mindful of that.
5. You thank the interviewee for their time and write a follow-up e-mail in which you cc your instructor.

**Everything for this project must be submitted on Canvas before the deadline.**

**F. Symposium**

(10 points) - As a class, we will organize and host a symposium on health promotion and prevention. You will be asked to present your project (the person you interviewed, and a topic of interest related to the interview that you learned about). You will help advertise for this symposium, invite, and interact with guests, present your work, and be open to feedback/questions. You will be graded on the following:

1. Design and prep work, invitations, and organization (2 points)
2. Your interaction with guests (2 points)
3. Your presentation - thorough introduction of the person and topic, in-depth discussion, Q&A (6 points)

**G. Midterm**

(20 points)

**H. Final Exam**

(20 points)

**I. Extra Credit Opportunities**: You are eligible to earn extra credit in this course (described below). I reserve the right to add additional extra credit opportunities as the course progresses. However, the maximum total extra credit you may earn in this course is 5 points.

See extra credit opportunities below:

1. SONA Extra Credit. The College of Education has a subject pool operated through SONA system. The system provides students access to sign up for research studies for course extra credit. These studies can be in person or online. For every SONA credit you earn, you earn [1] extra credit point(s). If you have questions about participating in studies, please email [sona@auburn.edu](mailto:sona@auburn.edu).

**Grading Scale:**

All assignments must be completed. Grades will be based on total point accumulation in the course:

Vlog 5

Journal 1 5

Journal 2 5

Documentary Review 15

Interview and PowerPoint 25

Presentation 10

Midterm 20

Final 15

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Total Points 100

A 90-100%; B 80-89%; C 70-79%; D 60-69%; F <60%

**Class Policy Statements**

**Name/Pronoun Statement:** Please advise me of your name and pronouns early in the semester (either via email or in person).

**Attendance:** Attendance is expected and crucial. You are responsible for all class material covered in your absence. I appreciate that emergencies happen but do not happen each week. Please use good manners regarding your cell phone.

**Excused Absences**: 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 once a week after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see university policies for additional information on absences.

**Religious/Cultural Observance**: Persons with religious or cultural observances that coincide with this class should let me know in writing before the date of said religious or cultural observance.  I strongly encourage you to honor your cultural and religious holidays!  However, if I do not hear from you, I will assume that you plan to attend all class meetings.

**Personal Technology**: The use of a laptop, tablet or any other device for taking notes or otherwise participating in class is permitted. However, please do not use a personal device for any purpose unrelated to our class. All devices should be silenced. Cell phones should be put away, except in the rare instance that I ask you to use them for an activity. If there is a serious need to leave your cell phone on, such as a family emergency, please let me know.

**AI Policy:** In this course, students are permitted to use Generative AI Tools such as

ChatGPT for formatting (e.g., APA style, grammar, sentence structure, etc.), study

assistance, and specific instances designated by the instructor. Students ARE NOT

allowed to use Generative AI Tools for content generation. As always, students must

properly use attributions, including in-text citations, quotations, and references. To

maintain academic integrity, students must disclose any use of AI-generated material. A

student should include the following statement in assignments to indicate use of a

Generative AI Tool: “The author(s) would like to acknowledge the use of [Generative AI

Tool Name], a language model developed by [Generative AI Tool Provider], in the

preparation of this assignment. The [Generative AI Tool Name] was used in the following

way(s) in this assignment: [e.g., brainstorming, grammatical correction, citation, which

portion of the assignment].

**Email**: Outside of class, I will communicate primarily through Canvas. Therefore, all students are expected to regularly check their Canvas inbox and announcement section for class updates. Additionally, if you have any questions regarding class material, feel free to email me using your official Auburn email. If you do not receive a response from me within 24 to 48 hours of sending an email, please be sure to follow up with me.

**Recording**: To create a safe classroom and learning environment and to respect students’ rights to privacy, recording of class is prohibited. This includes audio and video recordings.

**Class Cancellation**: If a class is canceled or the university closes, I will post the planned class activities on canvas, and students are responsible for completing these assignments.

**Make-Up Policy**: Arrangements to make up a missed in-class activity, or presentation 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).**

**Late papers/assignments will receive a 10% deduction in grade for each day they are late and will not be accepted after 3 days!**

**Academic Honesty**: The University Honesty Code and the university policies, see the website at https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/default.aspx for more information, pertaining to cheating will apply to this class. Much plagiarism occurs because of missteps in regard to reading, note-taking, and citation practices, procrastination, and/or panic. Care, timeliness, and communication will eliminate most of the risk. If you have questions about whether you should give credit to a source in your work, you may clarify it with me. In general, though, I recommend always citing sources you have consulted as well as those you borrow from directly. If you have difficulty with an essay, please contact me immediately!

**Disability Accommodations**: Students who need accommodations are asked 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).

**Student Mental Health and Well-Being:** If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact **Student** **Counseling and Psychological Services (SCPS)** at **(334) 844-5123and** <http://wp.auburn.edu/scs> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in the Medical Clinical and Haley Center. The East Alabama Mental Health Center has a toll-free number that may be called 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for emergencies **800-815-0630**.

**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:

a. Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices

b. Contribute to collaborative learning communities

c. Demonstrate a commitment to diversity

d. Model and nurture intellectual vitality

**Title IX:**  Auburn University is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based on protected class. If you believe you have been the victim of harassment or discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression), we encourage you to report it. If you report sexual assault or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, the faculty member is obligated to notify the University’s Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. For more information about your Title IX reporting and resource options at Auburn University, please go to: [www.auburn.edu/titleix](http://www.auburn.edu/titleix)

*Course Policies Adapted for Use from CRLT, University of Michigan.*