

CNS 762: Clinical Issues in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*Wake Forest University*  
*Summer 2009*

**Instructor:**

Chris P. Rodriguez, MA, LMFT

**Contact Information:**

336-923-5639 (home)

[rodrigcp@wfu.edu](mailto:rodrigcp@wfu.edu) email

**Meeting Place and Time:**

Tribble Hall

Tues., Wed. Thurs. 9:00am – 3:00 pm

Note: This course will integrate “field trips” to selected sites in the community - specific locations and corresponding dates to be announced the first day of class.

**Texts:**

James, R.K. (2008). *Crisis intervention strategies (6<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Brooks/Cole.

**Course Description:**

This course will examine selected issues related to clinical mental health counseling including but not limited to: Advocacy, Bereavement and Grief, Crisis Intervention, Divorce and Mediation, Spirituality, Abuse related issues – Partner Violence/Safe Relations, and Child and Adult Protective Services.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To recognize, understand and demonstrate an integration of ethical and legal implications related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling;
2. Familiarize oneself with Professional Counseling Associations (ACA, NBCC, etc) and credentialing bodies (NCLPC) and their respective preparation standards relevant to the practice of clinical mental health counseling;
3. Understand the impact of crisis, disasters and other trauma related events on people;
4. Become familiar with the operation of an emergency management system within clinical mental health agencies and in the community;
5. Understand the principles of crisis intervention for people during crisis, disasters and other trauma causing events;
6. Apply the DSM IV-TR to selected clinical issues for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment, and referral;
7. Apply multicultural competencies to case conceptualizations, diagnosis, and treatment of clinical mental health counseling;
8. Understand advocacy and it's centrality to the practice of clinical mental health counseling, e.g., client support, influence public policy, enhancing equity, and access to clinical mental health services, etc.

**Course Requirements:**

1. *Attendance and Participation* – **(10 points)** Attend all classes, complete all assigned readings and actively participate in class discussions and activities.
2. *Class presentation s*– **(40 points)** Select a clinical issue of interest not covered during the course of this session. Review the DSM IV-TR diagnostic criteria, prevalence, etc. and prepare a presentation on the clinical issue that includes a Biopsychosocial case conceptualization/Treatment formulation. Other aspects you may want to consider for inclusion are: advocacy, multicultural considerations, and legal/ethical implications.

Research and support your presentation with current literature, articles, texts, etc. (no more than 1 website may be included). You may also seek consultation of a clinician in our community that may have expertise or clinical interest in your selected issue.

The presentation may take the form of a brochure, poster, paper, powerpoint, etc. Be prepared to facilitate a 15-20 minute presentation for the final class meeting - June 4<sup>th</sup>.

3. *Advocacy Project* – **(20 points)** Read and familiarize yourself with the “Public Policy” link of ACA website. Identify a current legislative initiative, e.g. Medicare coverage, Improved Mental Health Services on College Campuses, etc. Compose a letter requesting sponsorship of the Bill and submit to your Senator/Representative.
4. *Field Trip/Guest Lecturers* – **(30 points)** Chronicle your reactions to each guest speaker and field trip describing at least three (3) benefits and three (3) challenges that became apparent as a result of the experience. Consider how each experience was relevant to broadening your knowledge about clinical mental health counseling. Submit this as a typed, double-spaced paper in 12- pt Times New Roman or 10-point Arial font.

**Tentative Schedule**

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
May 26	<b>Course overview – Review Syllabus</b>  <b>Professional Identity</b> <b>Professional Licensure/Credentialing</b>  <b>Crisis Intervention</b>	Syllabus  <a href="http://www.counseling.org/Students/">http://www.counseling.org/Students/</a> <a href="http://www.counseling.org/Counselors/LicensureAndCert.aspx">http://www.counseling.org/Counselors/LicensureAndCert.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.ncblpc.org/">http://www.ncblpc.org/</a>  James Ch.'s 1, 3, 4 Field Trip WS local Red Cross
May 27	<b>Advocacy</b>	<a href="http://www.counseling.org/PublicPolicy/">http://www.counseling.org/PublicPolicy/</a> Myers, Sweeney, & White (article) Kiselica & Robinson (article)
May 28	<b>Integrating Spirituality and Belief Systems</b> <b>DSM, MCC</b>	Guest Panel Steen, Engels, Thweatt (article) Souza (article)
June 2	<b>Safe Relationships</b>	James, Ch.'s 8 & 9 Field Trip to Family Services, W-S, NC Lawson (article)
June 3	<b>Mediation and Divorce</b> <b>Loss, Grief and Bereavement</b>	Hays, Green, Orr, & Flowers (article) James, Ch. 11 Field Trip to Bell, Davis, Pitt
June 4	<b>Class Presentations</b>	Class Presentations/Finis