Access to Materials

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. will be made available at the beginning of the course by email from the professor to all students. Any additions or changes will be sent as needed.

Course Description

An examination of current issues in marriage and family therapy related to substance use, sexual issues, and development across the lifespan. Course will cover theories and contemporary issues in these areas with an emphasis on critical thinking. This is a co-researched, collaborative course, and students will be co-responsible for content.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The course will focus on the knowledge and skills essential to effective and accountable counseling and psychotherapy intervention in clinical situations where sexuality, substance use, or life transitions are an issue. This course will review the clinical perspectives about these topics that are culturally and professionally mainstream and critique these in terms of what would constitute helpful conceptual approaches and effective treatment procedures. A significant dimension of this course is raising awareness of the impact of predominant discourses within the three areas of concern and to encourage students to develop critical thinking in this regard. The course is less about what to do and more about how to think.

It will be collaboratively constructed in that students will select one of the three topics for which the small group will be responsible (three groups of 2-3 each). The tasks of each group include: 1) selecting two articles (one academic and one popular) that address the
topic; 2) selecting a film or television program (popular or documentary) that address concerns within the topic; and 3) finding a speaker from within the local community who will come to the class and present their knowledge about the topic. Students will consult with the professor about their selections.

Course Content Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and summarize multiple perspectives dealing with issues of sexuality, substance misuse, or life transitions.

2. Evaluate the validity, utility, and treatment applicability of contemporary local, national, international, and cross-cultural research within these three areas.

3. Assess and analyze the ways in which problems might arise because of dilemmas of identity, sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, age, and socio-economic circumstances.

4. Make informed and effective referrals by developing an awareness of local resources and communities of concern.

5. Apply critical thinking to ideas and practices within the wide range of theories and practices that address these three areas of interest.

6. Apply principals and procedures of ethical decision-making to clinical situations involving any of these areas as well as those involving dual disorders or multiple physical and psychological difficulties.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks
One book is required from which selected chapters will be assigned. Two books are optional. (I suggest you purchase these from Amazon.)


Other Readings
(Included below is a preliminary list of readings—these will be sent to you. We may not use all of them, and we will add other readings as researched and added by you.)

Sexuality


**Substance Abuse**


**Lifespan Issues**


http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/features/2009/05/18/090518fi...

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**Classroom Protocol**

Since you all are collaboratively involved in co-creating this class, I expect that you be present and that you introduce whatever material for which you are responsible at the given calendared class date.

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**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at [http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html). Information about late drop is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.
Assignments and Grading Policy

Assessment is based on the completion of three requirements:

1. Completion of the group task of researching and finding relevant films or tv shows, popular and academic readings, speakers (subject to the guidelines discussed in class). 30%

2. Completion of three papers: one for each section that demonstrates how your learning specifically affected your thinking and future clinical work. 60%

3. Demonstration of your understanding and learnings in the class. 10%

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disabilities.
### Course Schedule

**This schedule is subject to revision.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/31/11</td>
<td>Overview of the Course. Choice of Groups. Initial Planning. Each topic 3-4 weeks, beginning with Sexuality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/07/11</td>
<td>Research by each group of relevant readings, films, and possible speakers. Bergner. Connell &amp; Hunt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/14/11</td>
<td>Sexuality: nature or social construction. Also “vetting” of possible speakers. <em>Sex is not a natural act</em>. Pt. 1, Chs. 1-2; Pt. 2, Chs. 2, 4, 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/21/11</td>
<td>Medicalization and FSD. <em>Sex is . . .</em> Pt. 3, Chs. 2, 3, 4; Pt. 4, Ch 5 / Film (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1/28/11</td>
<td>More on Sexuality. <em>Sex is . . .</em> Pt 5, Ch. 2. / Speaker (?) Kitzinger &amp; Frith. Iasenza.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3/07/11</td>
<td>Sociological perspectives on licit and illicit drug consumption and social policy. / Epstein. Sanders. Paper 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/14/11</td>
<td>Models and metaphors of addiction. Varieties of counseling perspectives. / Carey. Lebow. Marlatt / Speaker (?)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/21/11</td>
<td>Addiction Dilemmas / Alexander. Etherington / Film (?)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3/28/11</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4/04/11</td>
<td>Intersections / Work with Couples where there are Substance Misuse and/or Sexuality Difficulties / Bulow</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/18/11</td>
<td><em>Who Cares What You’re Supposed to Do?</em> -- Young Adult / Dickerson / Powerpoint and Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/25/11</td>
<td>Aging. Film and/or Speaker / Rushdie</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>5/02/11</td>
<td>Ritual and Community / Myerhoff Film: <em>Number Our Days</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/09/11</td>
<td>Summary Paper 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5/16/11</td>
<td>DMH 308 Final Exam</td>
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