

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

COUN 585 Crisis Intervention: Theory and Practice

Spring 2012

Thursdays 4:00-6:45

Bill McHenry, PhD, NCC, LPC: Instructor

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Office Hours:

Course Description: This course is an overview of crisis intervention. Major theoretical models of situational crises are examined and operationalized across a variety of service delivery models. Students will develop conceptual competency necessary for professionals engaged in crisis interventions. Special emphasis is given to contemporary research on suicidology, disaster psychology, and crisis management for public schools. Topics of the discussion include emergency situations such as natural disasters, terrorism, school violence, abuse, and crisis interventions with diverse populations.

Student Learner Outcomes:

1. Awareness of differences between the need for crisis counseling and typical counseling
2. Describe the basic characteristics of crisis intervention theory
3. Delineate the steps to assess and work with clients with suicidal or homicidal ideation
4. Develop skills and abilities to work within and enhance crisis teams either in school or local agencies
5. Recognize and intervene in family crises
6. Understand the macro and micro needs of populations dealing with major disasters

TEXT: Greenstone, J & Leviton, S. (2010). *Elements of crisis intervention: Crises and how to respond to them (3rd. ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Cengage.

Evaluation:

1. **Quizzes.** Throughout the semester we will have 5 quizzes that cover both reading and presented material. **100 points**
2. **Tests.** We will have a midterm and end of semester exam covering material presented in class as well as through the reading. **200 points (100 points each)**
3. **Crisis Intervention Theory Paper.** In this 5-7 page paper, you will pick a topic to cover from those provided in class and discuss the details of how a counselor might use effective crisis intervention skills to assist client(s) in need. **100 points**

4. Participation. Because the helping profession involves both communication and feedback (both sent and received), it is critical that you develop skills in these areas. Participation requires both attendance and presence in the classroom. Students will be evaluated regarding their comments, suggestions, thoughts and observations throughout the semester. **100 points**

GRADING: 500 total possible points: A = 500-450; B = 449-400; C = 399-350; D = 349-300; F = 299 or lower.

All written assignments must reflect graduate level presentation/composition. Students must learn APA reference style. Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar are expected. Points (can be up to 5 pts per error) will be taken off for poor quality of work. Points will be taken off for not following APA style rules. All assignments are to be typed.

Please come see me during office hours if you are having trouble, do not wait until the end of the semester.

Classroom courtesy: Students are required to turn off cell phones or beepers while in the classroom. NO TEXT MESSAGING. If an emergency situation exists which requires you to be contacted immediately, you are expected to discuss the situation with the professor prior to the beginning of class. Please refrain from talking and distracting your fellow students. Please refrain from talking while the instructor/professor or students are presenting class information, i.e. teaching.

Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated at the graduate level. Students will be confronted concerning any possible plagiarizing of the work of others. Dismissal of the student from class is probable. Please investigate <http://www.turnitin.com> for information about plagiarism.

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of F in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information see the university catalog.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and

consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Class schedule is subject to change by the instructor for educational purposes.

Date	Topics covered	Readings
1/19	Introduction to topic of crisis intervention, cover syllabus and class expectations	
1/26	Approaches to crisis counseling	Chapter 1
2/2	Procedures involved in crisis counseling	Chapter 2
2/9	Effectively communicating with people in crisis	Chapter 3
2/16	Using clinical judgment in the process of crisis assessment and counseling	Chapter 5
2/23	Team interventions in crisis management and treatment approaches	Chapter 4
3/1	Exam 1	
3/8	Counselor survival and techniques to remaining safe during crises	Chapter 6
Spring break		
3/22	Children in crisis	Chapter 7
3/29	Hot line workers roles, responsibilities and activities in the process	Chapter 8
4/5	Families in crisis	Chapter 9
4/12	Grief and loss and the relationship to crisis	Chapter 10
4/19	Legal implications; Crisis Intervention paper Due	Chapter 11
4/26	Disasters	Chapter 12
5/3	Exam 2	