



MHC 590: Advanced Assessment Techniques for Mental Health Counselors

Spring Semester, 2024

Instructor:	Jeffrey Christensen, Ph.D., LPC
Class Day and Time:	Wednesdays 5:30-8:30pm (3 hour weekly;5 weeks; 15 contact hours)
Class Location:	York 101
Office Location:	Rogers 329
Office Hours:	By appointment
Phone:	503-768-6071
Email (preferred):	jchristensen@lclark.edu
Prerequisites:	MHC 541
Credit:	1 hour

Required Text

Readings will be posted on Moodle Page

Catalog Description

This class will build off the concepts introduced in MHC 541 and introduce more test-worthy assessments that are centered around topics of Domestic Violence, Suicidal Ideation, and other potential topics of interest brought in by students. Students will demonstrate the administration of these assessments and provide results to clients.

CPSY Department Attendance Policy

Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time will be made up by completing extra assignments designed by the instructor. Missing more than ten percent of class time may result in failure to complete the class. This would be 4.5 hours of a 45 hour class (3 credits), 3.0 hours for a 30 hour class (2 credits) or 1.5 hours for a 15 hour class (1 credit.) In case of extreme hardship and also at the discretion of the instructor, a grade of incomplete may be given for an

assignment or the entire course. In such cases, the work to be submitted in order to remove the incomplete must be documented appropriately and stated deadlines met. Students are expected to be on time to class and tardiness may be seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

Disability Services Statement

If you have a disability that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office in the Albany Quadrangle (503-768-7192). After you have submitted documentation and filled out paperwork there for the current semester requesting accommodations, staff in that office will notify me of the accommodations for which you are eligible.

Assignments & Activities Scale

Attendance

Attendance and general participation is expected. Coming to class ready to discuss topics, contribute to class discussions, and critically analyze assessments reviewed is expected. In addition, you will be administering several assessments that we review in class in small groups, to better familiarize yourself with the skills necessary for gathering information that can effectively guide treatment planning and diagnosis. Attendance is mandatory (see course expectations).

Technical Requirements students need to be aware as we begin a new virtual semester.

Tech Requirements: The main learning platforms for this class will include Moodle and in the advent of inclement weather, or other circumstances, Zoom may be utilized. Moodle will be used as the primary course site and is where students will find additional readings and resources based off class discussion. Log in to moodle.lclark.edu using your Lewis & Clark ID to access our class.

Reading Reflection Forum

Students will find assigned readings posted on the Moodle page and will respond to 2-3 prompts related to the readings on the Course Moodle Page. These responses will be able to be seen by your colleagues. In addition, you are expected to respond to one of your colleagues reflections. Total, your responses can be anywhere between 1-2 double spaced pages. These responses may also be used to help facilitate class discussions.

Assessment Video Demonstration

Students will pick 1 of 3 assessments (an intake assessment, a domestic violence screening, or a suicide screening inventory) and administer this test to another participant (this participant should be another student in class). Students will determine whether this test is given as an initial test (first meeting) or several sessions into the therapeutic process and demonstrate: (i) informed consent (ii) personalized style in asking questions in a semi-structured interview and (iii) addressing any questions that participant might

have and (iv) providing results to clients.. The video clip is expected to be anywhere between 10-15 minutes and will be submitted via Moodle on the last day of class.

Course grading scale

- 95-100% = A
- 90-94% = A-
- 87-89% = B+
- 84-86% = B
- 80-83% = B-
- 77-79% = C+
- 74-76% = C
- 70-73% = C-
- 67-69% = D+
- 66-64% = D
- 60-63% = D-
- ≤59% = F

Course Outline

This outline is designed to be our schedule for the Spring 2024 semester. Based off class discussion, additional readings may be assigned. If there is a change needed, it will be announced in class.

DATE	TOPIC(S)	ASSIGNMENT
3/20	Introductions, Class Overview, Syllabus, Advanced Techniques in Assessment	Course Syllabus
3/27	No Class – Spring Break!	Read
4/3	Intake Assessments, Informed Consent, Art of the Semi-Structured Interview	Reading Reflection #1
4/10	Suicide Assessments	Reading Reflection #2
4/17	Domestic Violence Screenings	Reading Reflection #3
4/24	Wrap up!	Assessment Demonstration