

Course Descriptions for the Family Therapy Program

SW 651: Foundations of Family Therapy (3)

Elective for MSSW students (non-MFT Specialization students)

This course is designed to give students a comprehensive and substantive understanding of the family life cycle, family dynamics, systemic thinking, and interactional theories.

Systemic concepts that describe intrapersonal and interpersonal interactions and dynamics and their relationship to family development and interaction will be presented as they pertain to the field of marriage and family therapy. Major concepts are related to actual case material.

Foundational concepts will be viewed through the lenses of smaller social (family) systems, language systems, and larger social cultural systems. Students will also be introduced to the role of the marital and family therapist in terms of relationship to clients, a relational approach to understanding clients, and the self of the therapist.

SW 659: Introduction to Family Therapy Practice (3)

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: SW651.

Elective for MSSW students (non-MFT Specialization students)

This course emphasizes understanding assessment; case planning, and intervention in marriage and family therapy. The student will be introduced to the major assessment and intervention ideas/skills associated with the major schools of marital family therapy. Skill development will encompass systemic assessment, consensus building, case planning and the tools necessary to conduct an initial interview.

SW 700: Foundations of Family Therapy: Theory and Practice (5)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MFT Specialization Program.

Required for MFT Specialization students.

This course is family social work preparatory course that covers three foundational elements of family therapy practice, 1) a comprehensive and substantive understanding of the family life cycle, family dynamics, systemic thinking, and interactional theories, 2) an introduction to the major assessment and intervention ideas/skills associated with the major schools of marital family therapy, and 3) the foundational skills that encompass systemic assessment, consensus building, case planning and the tools necessary to conduct an initial interview.

Systemic concepts that describe intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics and their relationship to family development and interaction will be presented as they pertain to the field of marriage and family therapy. Foundational concepts will be viewed through the lenses of smaller social (family) systems, language systems, and larger social cultural systems. Students will also be introduced to the role of the marital and family therapist in terms of relationship to clients, a relational approach to understanding clients, and the self of the therapist.

SW 701: Family Therapy Assessment and Treatment in Diverse Populations (3)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of SW700

This course will focus on more in-depth assessments and interventions regarding specific problem populations faced in marital and family therapy practice. These may include, but are not limited to child and teen behavior, school difficulties, chemical dependency and adult mental health concerns. Emphasis will be given to a critical review and evaluation of the evidence based practices as well as interventions or strategies that represent integrative approaches in the field. Special attention will be given to the use of the DSM-IV and pharmacology as it related to MFT practice. Throughout the course there will be attention to the ethical and professional issues that arise in working with these populations.

SW 702: Marital Therapy: Theory and Practice (3)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of SW 703.

This course provides the student with a framework for managing difficult and controversial issues in the field of marriage therapy. The student will become versed in marital assessment, marital enrichment and marital interventions. Protocols regarding special issues in the field of marital therapy will be taught including divorce, sexual problems, domestic violence etc. The course will examine pertinent ethical issues and concerns as it relates to the field of marital therapy.

SW 703: Macro Marriage and Family Intervention Issues in the Profession and Community (3)

Prerequisite: SW 701

Marital and Family Therapy has made significance advances in the development and validation of psycho educational interventions to address complex family problems. This course will review social problems facing families as well as evidence-supported educational programs to address these problems. Particular emphasis will be placed on social problems such as domestic violence, divorce, child maltreatment, substance abuse, mental health and health issues. . Students will study concepts, strategies, and skill sets required for systemic work on marital and family therapy casework issues family, local community, and larger societal levels. The tools for learning will include lecture, discussion, role-playing, case reviews, and teamwork on projects designed to develop and enhance specific skills.

(SW 703 replaces SW 641 for students in the MSSW-MFT specialization)

SW 704: Integrating Marital and Family Therapy (3)

Prerequisite or Co-Requisite: SW 702.

This is the capstone course in the MSSW-MFT Specialization designed for each student to refine his/her own theory of change. Utilizing critical thinking skills, students will work to integrate intervention models and skill sets in the areas of assessment, treatment /intervention planning, case management, and outcome evaluation. Students will be assisted in integrating the clinical

theory, practice, and research coursework and fieldwork in marital and family therapy with their study of change in larger social systems. This course also provides an opportunity for individual students to tailor and deepen their learning about areas of personal interest previously covered in the curriculum.

SW 721: Family Therapy Supervision I (1)

Co-requisite: SW 670. (Fall, 1st year)

Supervision of student clinical work with a variety of families and family problems in community agency settings.

SW 722: Family Therapy Supervision II (1)

Co-requisite: SW 671. (Spring, 1st year)

Supervision of student clinical work with a variety of families and family problems in community agency settings.

SW 723: Family Therapy Supervision III (1)

Prerequisite: SW 722. (Summer, 1st year)

Supervision of student clinical work with a variety of families and family problems in community agency settings.

SW 724: Family Therapy Supervision IV (1)

Co-requisite: SW 673. (Fall, 2nd year)

Supervision of student clinical work with a variety of families and family problems in community agency settings.

SW 725: Family Therapy Supervision V (1)

Co-requisite: SW 674. (Spring, 2nd year)

Supervision of student clinical work with a variety of families and family problems in community agency settings.