

Valdosta State University Marriage and Family Therapy Program
MFTH 7880: Professional Ethics Seminar
Summer 2012

June 7, 9:00-2:00, 8th, 9:00-1:00, and 15th, 9:00-1:00.

Instructor: Kate Warner, Ph.D.

Telephone: (229) 293-6264

Email: kwerner@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course will address professional issues in the workplace. Some of these issues include setting up a practice, marketing oneself, professional licensure, clinical membership, working in interdisciplinary teams, professional wellness, and the ethics, values, and decision-making associated with current practice issues.

VSU MFT Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

SLO1. Practice from a culturally sensitive lens.

SLO2. Practice from a systemic lens.

SLO3. Be prepared to obtain entry-level employment in mental health agencies.

SLO4. Claim the professional identity of Marriage and Family Therapist

Goals

- Develop knowledge of educational, training, and supervision requirements in the field of marriage and family therapy. (SLOs 3 & 4)
- Develop knowledge of professionalism, identity, and practice in the field of marriage and family therapy. (SLOs 3 & 4)
- Acquire basic knowledge of the professional organization and state licensure requirements. (SLOs 3 & 4)
- Explore the importance, value, and benefits of working collaboratively with other disciplines. (SLOs 3 & 4)
- Gain an awareness of professional practices and strategies for career development in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy. (SLOs 3 & 4)

Required Texts

- Georgia Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapy Law
- Georgia Application for Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist
- Current AAMFT Code of Ethics

Grading

1. 25 points - Professional introduction
2. 25 points - Self assessment and goals for professional development
3. 25 points - Resume
4. 25 points - Cover letter, including mention of your therapeutic orientation

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

Professional introduction

Prepare a brief introduction of yourself that tells the listener your name, your field, your degree (optional), *and one set of the following*:

A.

- ✓ The position you are seeking
- ✓ The population you would like to work with
- ✓ The kind of work setting you seek

Or

B.

- ✓ A description of your agency and who they serve
- ✓ A description of your current position

Or

C.

- ✓ The name of your (dream) job (private practice, consulting, etc.)
- ✓ A description of the services you offer and the clients you serve

How you will be graded:

Each of the following will be evaluated and awarded points on a scale of 0-5:

10 points: A polished and confident presentation (no stammering, umhs, hesitations, or rushing) that can be used at a professional meeting or a job interview.

5 points: Concise (not too long--but memorable, and you don't seem frightened or hurried)

10 points: Content and organization (all required areas are included, your delivery flows in a logical, sequential manner)

Self-assessment and goals for professional development

Write a self-assessment that, at a minimum, addresses the following items:

1. What skills you are currently working to develop in therapy?
2. Discuss how you want your supervisor to help you develop these skills
 - a. What kinds of input will be helpful and/or what won't be helpful?
 - b. How will you know when you have achieved your goals?
3. Where in the therapy process do you have the most difficulty applying theory to practice?
 - a. What strategies are you planning to use/using to address this?
4. What are your skill strengths?
5. What areas of theory do you easily translate to practice?
6. What content areas do you want or need to learn more about (for instance, theories, substance abuse, pre-marital issues, treating sexual problems, depression, human development, etc.).
 - a. How do you plan to do this?

Resume

Develop a resume that is tailored to the kind of position you are seeking. Be sure to include:

1. Contact information, including email!
2. Brief description of your therapeutic orientation
3. Professional memberships
4. Specialized training, skills
5. Date by which you anticipate achieving LAMFT and or LMFT
6. Relevant Work/volunteer/internship history
7. Education History

Finally, if you have relevant publications, experience with grant writing and/or administration these should be included.

Keep this in mind: a resume must be flawless.

Cover letter

Write a sample cover letter to accompany your resume. Be sure to include:

1. The position you are seeking
2. Your knowledge of the mission of the organization
3. Your appreciation for the mission of the organization
4. How you are a fit with the organization
5. Contribution you can make to the organization
6. Your strengths
7. Your return address & contact information
8. Ask for the job

Keep this in mind: a cover letter must be flawless.

Application for Georgia Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist

- Number each page as soon as you print out the form
- Do not fill in any boxes or lines that require notarized signatures or instructor/supervisor signatures.
- To the fullest extent possible, do fill out areas that are designated for completion by others. This is your run-through of the real thing: You are filling in sections intended to be completed by others so that you learn what information you might need to supply in order to assist those who are filling out forms for your application.
- Feel free to bring in an application for any other state that you prefer

Keep in mind: An application for licensure must be flawless.

- ◆ Staple all work – no paperclips, no plastic folders, no binders!
- ◆ Because this is a short seminar class, I will not accept late assignments

Weekly Topics, Reading, & Assignments

Week One

Topics:

- ◆ Review the syllabus
- ◆ Professional Presentation: Short & Sweet Introduction, practice
- ◆ Resumes
- ◆ Cover Letters and Interviews: Highlighting the Strengths of a Systemic Orientation
- ◆ Your dream job – steps to getting there & Developing a Career Path & Career Planning
- ◆ Life as a Licensed Professional: Ethics, Legalities, & Pragmatics
- ◆ Networking and the fine art of mingling from DFCS to The Optimist Club to office soirée
- ◆ Interview preparation and practice
- ◆ Dream Planning

Week Two

Topics:

- ◆ Professional Presentation: Short & Sweet Introduction, practice
- ◆ Resumes and cover letter, peer review
- ◆ Guest Speaker, Martha Laughlin, Licensure Applications: 11:30 – 1:00
- ◆ Assignments Due:
 1. Bring a draft of your cover letter and resume for peer review
 2. Application for Licensure (Georgia LAMFT or the application for any other state that you prefer)

Week Three

Topics:

- ◆ Collaborating with Other Professions
- ◆ Professional Identity: Professional Organizations and Membership Categories & Continuing Education
- ◆ Supervision and Professional Development—choosing a supervisor and Continuing Education
- ◆ Cultivating Creativity and Innovation in Clinical Practice and using awareness emails and newsletters
- ◆ Guest speaker, MFT alumni, Maike Wegner-Klein, Developing and Maintaining a Private Practice, 11:30 – 1:00
- ◆ Assignments Due:
 3. Cover letter
 4. Resume
 5. Final (graded) delivery of your short and sweet introduction
 6. Self-assessment and goals for professional development

Suggested Readings & Resources

- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. (1991). AAMFT Code of Ethics. Washington, DC: American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.
- Anderson, C. (1995, March/April). Small victories. *Family Therapy Networker*, 19(2), 48-49.
- Associated Press. (1994). *Therapy for those on the move*. AP Online.
- Bonnington, S. B., McGrath, P., & Martinek, S. A. (1996). The fax of the matter: The electronic transfer of confidential material. *The Family Journal: Counseling and Therapy for Couples and Families*, 4, 155-156.
- Browning C. H., & Browning B. J., (1996). How to partner with managed care: A "do-it-yourself kit" for building working relationship and getting steady referrals. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Bruyere, S. M., & O'Keeffe, J. (Eds.). (1994). Implications of the Americans with Disabilities Act for psychology. Washington, DC: Springer.
- Butler, K. (1996, November/December). The latest on recovered memory. *Family Therapy Networker*, 20(6), 36-37.
- Cooper, G. (1996, March/April). Therapists online. *Family Therapy Networker*, 20(2), 12-14.
- Critser, G. (1996, September/October). Oh, how happy we will be. *Family Therapy Networker*, 20(5), 34-38.
- Doherty, W., & Wylie, M. S.(1995, November/December). The good therapist. *Family Therapy Networker*, 19(6), 21-24.
- Freeny, M. (1994, September/October). Getting well in the fast lane. *Family Therapy Networker*, 18(5), 73-76.
- Gallo, F. (1997, March/April). Author's response. *Family Therapy Networker*, 21(2), 74-75.
- Gallo, F. (1997, March/April). A no-talk cure for trauma: Thought Field Therapy seems to violate all the rules. *Family Therapy Networker*, 21(2), 65-71.
- Griffeth, J. L., Griffith, M. E., Meydrech, E., Grantham, D., & Bearden, S. (1991). A model for psychiatric consultation in systemic therapy. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 17, 291-294.
- Haas, L., & Malouf, J., (1989). Keeping Up the Good Work: A practitioner's guide to mental health ethics. Florida: Professional Resource Exchange.
- Harris, S. M. (1998). Sexual attraction in the therapeutic relationship. *Family Therapy News*, 29, 15 & 21.

- Hoagwood, K., Jensen, P., & Fisher, C. (1996). Ethical issues in mental health research with children and adolescents. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Earlbaum.
- Jacobson, N. (1995, March/April). The overselling of therapy. *Family Therapy Networker*, 19(2), 41-47.
- Layton, M. (1995, November/December). Mastering mindfulness. *Family Therapy Networker*, 19(6), 28-30, 57.
- LeShan, L. (1997, March/April). Case commentary 1. *Family Therapy Networker*, 21(2), 71.
- Lipchik, E. (1994, March/April). The rush to be brief. *Family Therapy Networker*, 18(2), 35-39.
- Pittman, F. (1995, November/December). Turning tragedy into comedy. *Family Therapy Networker*, 19(6), 36-40.
- Raymond, T. (1996). *Emotional fitness online*. Web page (<http://virtual-valley.com/traymond>).
- Seligman, M. E. P. (1994). *What you can change and what you can't* (Chp 3: Drugs, germs, and genes: The age of biological psychiatry). New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Simon, R. (1997, January/February). The family unplugged. *The Family Therapy Networker*, 21(1), 24-33.
- Speckhard, A. (1997, March/April). Case commentary 2. *Family Therapy Networker*, 21(2), 71-74.
- Strand, P. S., & Nash, M. R. (1997). The recovered memories debate and clinical practice with families. In D. T. Marsh & R. D. Magee (Eds.), *Ethical and legal issues in professional practice with families* (pp. 197-216). New York: Wiley.
- Taffel, R. (1995, November/December). Honoring the everyday. *Family Therapy Networker*, 19(6), 25-28, 56.
- Vesper, J. H., & Brock, G. W. (1991). Ethics, legalities, and professional practice issues in marriage and family therapy. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
- Wynne, L. C., McDaniel, S. H., & Weber, T. T. (1987). Professional politics and the concepts of family therapy, family consultation, and systems consultation. *Family Process*, 26, 153-166.
- Wylie, M. S. (1996, January/February). Does therapy work? *Family Therapy Networker*, 20(1), 12-14.