Course Description:
Examines diversity and multiculturalism as it relates to couple and family therapy theory and practice. Explores theories of family interaction, multicultural counseling, and communication and how culture, gender, value differences, divorce, and abuse impact communication.
Prerequisite(s): MMFT 615, MMFT 635, MMFT 645.

Course Outcomes:
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the multicultural, gender, and value differences in communication
2. Develop an awareness of communication issues associated with divorce, physical, emotional, or substance abuse.
3. Understand early and current conceptual models of the family;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of developmental perspectives of the family;
5. Identify current variations of family life;
6. Develop an awareness of family rules, roles, and assumptions unique to each system.

Textbooks and Materials:


Recommended / Optional Readings:
Suggested Learning Activities:

1. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and role plays. (20 % of grade) 
   NOTE: All students need to recognize that a degree of personal risk is involved in this class. 
   Therefore, it is expected that all class participants will abide by professional codes of 
   conduct, including respecting confidentiality, with regard to classroom topics.

2. Student will construct a personal Genogram representing his/her family of origin to include 
   intergenerational family patterns of roles, role expectations, intimacy patterns, and 
   communication methods. Write a 5-8 page paper surrounding your understanding of your 
   Genogram and its impact on your current life situation. Present your Genogram to the class. 
   (Genogram/Paper=30% of grade, Presentation=10% of grade)

3. Watch a movie assigned by your instructor. Write an 8-10 page paper outlining the 
   dynamics of the family, family rules, family roles, and identifiable value systems for this 
   family. Identify how perspectives vary with each family member. Describe a problem faced 
   by this family and analyze this problem from at least three different perspectives. After 
   conceptualizing this problem, the student will then offer methods of resolution based upon 
   each specific perspective. (40% of grade)

Course Calendar, Readings and Assignments:
Week 1: Introduction to the course: What do we mean when we talk about “family 
   dynamics?” 
   DUE: Review Syllabus 
   Reading assignment: Ch. 1 and Ch. 5 
   In-class role-plays

Week 2: Introduction to Genograms 
   Discussion: Emotional Relationships 
   DUE: In class exercise from “Family ties that Bind” (pg. 18) 
   Reading assignment: Ch. 6-7

Week 3: Video Presentation (for final paper) 
   Discussion: Understanding of the readings to date: Gender roles, families of 
   color, socioeconomic status 
   DUE: Reading assignment: Ch. 8-10 and Ch. 16

Week 4: Lecture and Discussion: “Young” families: Newly married couples with or 
   without children and single parent families 
   DUE: Reading assignment: Ch. 11-15

Week 5: Discussion: Multiculturalism and its impact on the dynamics of the family 
   DUE: Genogram presentations 
   Genogram papers due 
   Reading assignment: Ch. 17-18
Week 6: Lecture and discussion: Families experiencing divorce, remarriage, and stepfamily situations and diversity in families  
DUE: Reading assignment: Ch. 19-22  
In-class role-plays

Week 7: Lecture and discussion: Families with special issues: disabilities, illness, death, and/or trauma

Week 8: Discussion of final papers  
DUE: Final Papers

A supplemental Faculty syllabus will be distributed on the first night of class; the supplemental syllabus will address specific grading, attendance, and assignment criteria as well as provide additional pertinent course information.