Course Description:
An analysis of theory, assessment, and intervention techniques used with children and adolescents within the family system. Exploration of a multi-systemic model used to assess and treat various disorders that may impact that family milieu. Prerequisite(s): MMFT 615, MMFT 635, MMFT 645

Course Outcomes:
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of family systems theory and therapeutic techniques used to treat children and adolescents within the family milieu;
2. Understand DSM-IV-TR disorders that may require assessment and treatment;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical principles as they apply to working with minor children.

Required Materials:


Recommended/Optional Readings:


**Learning Activities:**

1. **Students will participate in class discussions and role plays.** This will include sharing of thoughts, comments, and questions regarding the reading material. NOTE: All class members 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 the confidentiality of others, with regard to thoughts shared and therapeutic role plays. (20% of final grade)

2. **Project 1:** Choose a movie that has a theme which may be considered an “issue” for a child or family with a child (some ideas are listed below). Pretend that after the first significant event (concerning the child) occurs in the movie, you have your first counseling session with the child/ren or family. Talk about what kinds of questions you would ask during the intake and what you would tell the family about confidentiality / limits on confidentiality and what they can expect from you as a therapist. What would your plans be? Would you offer an intervention at the first session? If so, what would it be?

You may have as many sessions as you wish before the next “significant event” in the movie. For each session that you see the client(s) describe (in detail) in your session. What interventions were made? How would you expect for these clients to respond? Keep in mind what theory or theories you are using to determine your strategies / interventions and give rationales for the interventions that you are making based on your theory or theories.

Have one (or more) counseling sessions each for three or four significant events in the movie and describe each session as outlined above. After the last session write out a “discharge summary” in which you summarize the client’s condition at the start of treatment and at the end of treatment. Give a Five Axis DSM-IV diagnosis for the start of treatment and the end of treatment. Are any referrals necessary? Will there be follow-up sessions recommended?

**Movie ideas:**
- Mrs. Doubtfire
- Liar, Liar (the Lifetime version or the Jim Carey version)
- Kramer vs. Kramer

**Writing the paper:**
First, describe the move that will be the basis for your paper. When moving on to each significant event, describe the event for the reader. Your paper should be 10 – 15 pages in length (following APA guidelines). Papers will be due on week 6. (40% of final grade)
3. **Project 2:** Write an 8 – 10 page paper surrounding the following topic: Choose one specific concern that may be faced by children who come in for counseling, and describe interventions that could be used to treat that problem. The interventions should cover various theories and take into consideration that some children will have special conditions or circumstances that may require inventiveness in addition to traditional treatments.

**Sample topics:**
- Parents’ divorce
- Acting-out behaviors (i.e., temper tantrums)
- Eating disorders
- Self-mutilation
- Bed-wetting
- Depression or Dysthymic disorder
- Drug use
- Sexual abuse or incest
- Conduct disorder / Oppositional defiant disorder
- Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder

(30% of final grade)

4. **Presentation of Project 2:** Present your findings from Project 2 to the class (due week 7 and/or week 8). The presentation must be 15 – 20 minutes in length; use of handouts and supplementary audio / visual equipment is acceptable. (10% of final grade)
## Weekly Meetings & Assignments

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<td>Discuss the syllabus and explain major projects / papers</td>
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<td>Lecture: Introduction to the course</td>
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<td>Discussion: Ethical principles in working with children and mandatory reporting</td>
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<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: Application of individual counseling theories when working with children (Psychoanalytic, Reality, Person-centered)</td>
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<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: Application of individual counseling theories when working with children (Gestalt, REBT, Behavioral, T.A., Adlerian)</td>
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