

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

IFSA-Butler Psychology in English Program in Buenos Aires

US Semester Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: 45

Course Code: PS838-05

Course Length: Semester

Delivery Method: Face to Face

Language of Instruction: English

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the core principles of clinical psychology. By the end of the course, students will understand the types of questions clinical psychologists ask, the methods they use to conduct research, and the unique role of the clinical psychologist as a scientist-practitioner. Students will also understand the ways clinical psychologists identify, assess and prepare interventions for psychological disorders (understanding psychopathology) based on analysis of theories of treatment. Current issues in clinical psychology will be explored. Drawing on the local context of psychology in Argentina, the tradition of psychoanalysis will be an additional point of focus. This course builds on basic foundational knowledge of psychology as a natural and social science gained in an introductory psychology course.

2-3 field visits to organizations associated with the research and practice of clinical psychology will be scheduled by the instructor, with details TBD. Students are required to attend all visits and to engage in associated follow-up discussions.

This course is interactive and active participation is required.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course includes the following goals for students:

- Gain facility with the core principles of clinical psychology
- Describe the manifestations of various psychological disorders, understanding psychopathology
- Describe the diagnostic features of various psychological disorders
- Describe methodologies that are used to investigate clinical psychology phenomena
- Analyze and evaluate theories and treatments for various psychological disorders
- Articulate some current issues in clinical psychology
- Identify resources available for further research of clinical psychology issues
- Communicate effectively about clinical psychology in written and oral formats
- Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA-Butler Psychology in English Program in Buenos Aires

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule indicates the weekly discussion topics, related readings, and assignments for this course. With the exception of Week 1 (when resources will be reviewed as a group during class), students are expected to read or watch resources in advance and be prepared to actively discuss them in class. In each meeting, the instructor will overview the topic and then facilitate a group discussion, drawing out relevant themes, following up on specific lines of inquiry, and prompting students' thoughtful engagement with the topic. Students are encouraged to bring their prior learning experiences into class discussions and to make connections between this course and others whenever possible. Theories of experiential learning and integrative learning therefore undergird the dynamic learning environment of this course.

In addition to activities indicated in the following course schedule, 2-3 field visits to organizations associated with the research and practice of clinical psychology will be scheduled by the instructor, with details TBD.

Note about readings: Chapter reading assignments listed below refer to the core text for the course: Trull, T. & Prinstein, M. (2013) *Clinical Psychology (8th Edition)*.

Week 1 – Introductions

- Overview of Course and Clinical Psychology
- Syllabus Review
- Instructor and Student Introductions
- Personal Student Goals for the Course
- Instructor and Student Expectations
- Establishing a Community of Learning
- Integrative Learning Exercise: Connecting this course to the IFSA-Butler Psychology in English Program in Buenos Aires, individual academic majors, and undergraduate careers

Chapter 1: "Clinical Psychology: An Introduction"

Week 2 – Significant Events in Assessment, Intervention and Research, and Events in the Profession of Clinical Psychology

Chapter 2: "Historical Overview of Clinical Overview of Clinical Psychology"

Stein-Sparvieri, E. & Maldavsky, D. *The psychotherapeutic professions in Argentina*. Instituto de Altos Estudios en Psicología y Ciencias Sociales (IAEPCIS) Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales (UCES)

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.546.8030&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Discuss profiles of famous clinical psychologists, including Judith Beck (Institute of Cognitive Therapy and Research), John Exner (Rorschach Workshops), Richard McFall (Indiana University), and Sam Turner (University of Maryland).

Week 3 – Why and How Do Clinical Psychologists Carry Out Research?

Chapter 4: "Research Methods in Clinical Psychology"

COURSE SYLLABUS

Examples of Targeted Clinical Research Designs

- Investigation of partner communication patterns through one-way mirror use
- Using single-subject designs to observe behavior in children
- Understanding the clinical psychologist as a scientist-practitioner

Reaction Paper #1 Due: What types of questions clinical psychologists ask? What kinds of research methods are utilized to answer those questions?

Week 4 – Identifying Psychological Problems and the Ethics of Psychologists

Chapter 5: “Diagnosis and Classification of Psychological Problems”

Review the American Psychological Association (APA) 2002 Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (amended in 2010): <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>

Week 5 – Psychoanalysis, the Argentine Tradition

Guest Speaker: Local Argentine Psychologist

Arbiser, S. (2003). A brief history of psychoanalysis in Argentina. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, (51), 323-335.

Reaction Paper #2 Due: What did you find most noteworthy about the guest speaker’s comments? How did the insights provided by the guest speaker increase your understanding of clinical psychology within the Argentine context?

Week 6 – Using Clinical Judgment

Chapter 6: “The Assessment Interview”

Chapter 10: “Clinical Judgment”

Week 7 – Empirically Validated Assessment Methods

Chapter 8: “Personality Assessment”

Chapter 9: “Behavioral Assessment”

Reaction Paper #3 Due: Examine the “Director Observation Form (DOF),” part of the Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA) at <http://www.aseba.org/dof.html> and the “NEO Personality Inventory-Revised (NEO PI-R)” (and the “Five-Factor Model (FFM)) at <https://www.psychpress.com.au/talent-management-solutions/identify-talent/psychometric-testing/NEO-PI-R/index.php>. Share your initial thoughts on the utility of each for the clinical psychologist.

Week 8 – Assessing Intelligence

Chapter 7: “The Assessment of Intelligence”

Mid-Term Exam

COURSE SYLLABUS

Week 9 – Empirically Validated Intervention Methods and Briefer Forms of Psychotherapy

Chapter 11: “Psychological Interventions”

Chapter 14: “Psychotherapy: Behavioral and Cognitive-Behavioral Perspectives”

Additional reading on Eating Disorders to be assigned by the instructor

Week 10 – Dynamic & Interpersonal Therapies and Humanistic & Existential Psychotherapies

Chapter 12: “Psychotherapy: The Psychodynamic Perspective”

Chapter 13: “Psychotherapy: Phenomenological and Humanistic-Existential Perspectives”

Week 11 – Varied Forms of Therapy and Child Psychology

Chapter 15: “Group Therapy, Family Therapy, and Couples Therapy”

Additional reading on Child Psychology to be assigned

Assignment: Final Paper topics due (Do not proceed with Final Paper until instructor approval is received.)

Week 12 – Specialties in Clinical Psychology (Part A)

Chapter 16: “Community Psychology”

Chapter 17: “Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine”

Additional reading on Addiction Treatment to be assigned

Additional reading on Biopsychology of Pain to be assigned

Week 13 – Specialties in Clinical Psychology (Part B)

Chapter 18: “Neuropsychology”

Chapter 19: “Forensic Psychology”

Additional reading on Brain Injury and Sports Psychology to be assigned

Additional reading on Forensic Psychologists as Expert Witnesses to be assigned

Week 14 – In-Class Workshop for Preparation of Presentations

Includes opportunities for peer review of Final Paper

Submit rough draft of Final Paper to instructor

Week 15 – Final Papers and Conclusions

- Final Papers Due
- Content Review
- Concluding Questions and Comments
- Course evaluations

COURSE SYLLABUS

EVALUATION METHODS

The course instructor will provide specific requirements and grading rubrics for individual assignments for the course. Your final grade in the course will be comprised of the following course requirements:

Participation (includes attendance, engagement in discussion, civility, and respect) – 10%

Reaction Papers (3 total, 10% each) – 30%

Mid-Term Exam – 15%

Group Presentation – 15%

Final Paper – 30%

Timely Submissions

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

ASSIGNMENTS

Reaction Papers (3)

Reaction papers should be 2-3 pages in length and may be constructed in a way that makes the most sense for you as the learner. Be sure to answer the specific prompts given in the course schedule above. Consider the class resources provided for the topic. Additional references are not expected. The response paper should demonstrate that you have given additional, reflective thought to course discussions and sources/speakers. Your voice should be heard in this paper.

Mid-Term Exam

The Mid-Term Exam will assess your knowledge of content covered during the first half of the course. Specifically, questions will relate to the overview of the field of clinical psychology and assessments used in clinical psychology. The Mid-Term Exam is a multiple-choice assessment.

Group Presentations on Specialties in Clinical Psychology

Students will be placed in small groups. Instructions: As a group, prepare and present a 10-minute verbal summary of the assigned chapter on one of the following specialty areas of clinical psychology: community psychology, health psychology and behavioral medicine, neuropsychology, and forensic psychology. Visual aids are allowed but not required. Presentations should allow for an additional 5-minutes for classmates to ask clarifying questions. All group members are expected to actively participate in the preparation and delivery of the presentation.

Final Paper

The Final Paper should demonstrate your developing understanding of clinical psychology. Select and describe one of the methods for clinical psychology research that was discussed in this course. Evaluate the method. Answer the following questions: Why is it an effective approach? What are its strengths and weaknesses? How does it compare to some of the other methods for clinical psychology research that were discussed? Briefly describe a psychology question that you are interested in researching and describe how this method might support that inquiry.

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The Final Paper is required to be 8-10 pages in length, Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, APA style. Include five peer-reviewed journals in a reference list in support of your discussion.

Paper topics must be submitted in advance (see course schedule above). Do not commence writing your Final Paper without first receiving instructor approval of your topic.

In-class time will be allocated to support preparation of the Final Paper. During this time, opportunities for peer review will be made available. Rough drafts should be submitted to the instructor at this time.

RESOURCES

The following is the core text for this course:

Trull, T. & Prinstein, M. (2013) *Clinical Psychology (8th Edition)*

This site offers Quizlet online study sets and flashcards that may support your study:

<https://quizlet.com/259345783/chapter-1-clinical-psychology-introduction-flash-cards/>

Additional readings on selected topics will be assigned by the instructor as indicated in the course schedule above.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.

Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University
6201 Corporate Dr., Suite 200 | Indianapolis, IN 46278
800-858-0229 | www.ifsa-butler.org