

**PSY606 Diagnosis and Treatment of Couples  
Winter 2010**

**GENERAL:**

Instructor: Brian R. Johnson, Ph.D.

Classroom: 5-118B

**Course website:** <http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/606/psy606.htm>

Office Hours: MW: 1:20 - 1:50    Thurs: 10:00 - 1:00

Office: 24E-1211A Office Phone 909-869-2282    (If you are calling during my office hours and I do not answer, I have probably left the office for a moment. Try again in a few minutes ***Do not leave a message on campus voice mail:*** If you need to leave a message, call the off campus number listed below and leave the message with my assistant or on the answering machine. The greeting message for my off campus office also gives information for contacting me through my answering service if you have an *real urgent* need to speak to me.)

**Off Campus Phone: 909-399-0556**

**E-Mail Address: [brjohnson@csupomona.edu](mailto:brjohnson@csupomona.edu)**

**FAX: 909-860-6908**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is the second of a three-course sequence of didactic materials in Marriage and Family Therapy. The focus is on the diagnostic assessment of couple dysfunctions and therapeutic interventions covering various approaches to working with couples. 4 lecture-problem solving. Prerequisites: Admission to the MS program PSY515 and PSY598.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To increase your understanding of:

1. The various definitions and theoretical explanations for couple dysfunction
2. The prominent theoretical models and approaches to couple therapy
3. The types of couples therapy
4. The ethical and professional standards for the treatment of couples.

In addition, the course will increase students skills in formulating treatment plans with diagnosis and interventions

**TEXT:** Gurman, Alan S. (Ed.) Clinical Handbook of Couples Therapy (Fourth Edition)  
O'Leary, K. Daniel, Heyman, Richard E., and Jongsma, Jr., Arthur E. The Couples Psychotherapy Treatment Planner

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is mandatory. It is your responsibility to be present for class meetings and to participate in the discussions. If you cannot make a class meeting, you must advise me before the class (by e-mail or phone).

**PRESENTATION:** You will be assigned to do a class presentation pertaining to the subject of that day's meeting (see class schedule). This will consist of a summary of one or more journal articles and/or primary source book chapters that you believe supplement that day's subject. This may elaborate on or present a different point of view from the chapter's author(s). After the lecture/discussion of the chapter, the class will be turned over to you, and you will have the last

half hour of the class meeting to do your presentation. (Total Points possible: 100)

**QUIZZES:** At the end of each Thursday meeting, there will be a closed book, five item multiple choice quiz on the reading assignments for the week. (Total Points possible: 100)

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** While I will lecture and lead the discussion of the subject of each day's class meeting, you are expected to participate by sharing your understanding, thoughts, and questions about the subject. (I may even direct questions to individual students.) **Participation will be calculated in when determining your final grade for the course. 50 participation points are possible to be earned.** If you attend all class meeting but do not participate (i.e., do not raise questions about or make comments concerning the materials presented in class, nor offer a point of view concerning the subject), the maximum number of points you will receive is 10. I will be attentive to and make notes of students' participation. Remember, it is not the quantity but the quality of the participation that will be considered.

This is an academic class, not group therapy nor supervision. While sharing on how a subject presented applies to you can enrich the class process, you need not share any more than you feel comfortable disclosing in class. **PRIVACY** is to be respected by both the instructor and fellow students.

**EXAM:** There is only one exam for this class worth 150 points. This will be a take home final essay exam. The assignment will be given the last day of the lectures (March 11) and must be turned in at 1:40 PM, Tuesday, March 18th. The exam will an application of the assigned reading, lecture materials, and class activities.

**COURSE WEBSITE ( [www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/606/psy606.htm](http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/606/psy606.htm).):** The website contains a number of resources and messages from the instructor to the class concerning announcements, corrections, and any changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. From the website you can also download Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of the overheads that are used in the lectures. (You will need to have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 to download these and other documents available on the website. Information is provided for downloading Acrobat if the program is not already on your computer.) I attempt to put the overheads up no later than the night before class, but sometimes that proves impossible. I recommend that you download these so you can have these in class on the days of the lectures.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS:** The attached schedule lists the readings for each lecture. To be prepared for each class meeting you will need to read the reading assignments *before* the class meeting. Failure to do so will be evident by your participation.

**FURLOUGH DAYS:** Jan 15 (Fri), Jan 22 (Fri), Feb 12 (Fri), Feb 26 (Fri), Mar 5 (Fri), and Mar 16 (Tues). I will not be on campus nor respond to e-mails on these days.

**GRADING:** To receive a passing grade for the course you must complete all requirements for this class. If you fail to do so and have not received approval for an incomplete grade contract, you will receive a grade of "F." Assuming that you do complete all requirements, grades will be

based on the following scale:

400-372	A	331-320	B-	279-268	D+
371-360	A-	319-308	C+	267-252	D
359-348	B+	307-292	C	251-240	D-
347-332	B	291-280	C-	<240	F

Grades will be posted on the class web site after the final exam.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** The school's policy will be enforced in this class. The policy reads in part, "All forms of academic dishonesty at Cal Poly are a violation of University policy and will be considered a serious offense. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: [Plagiarism, Cheating During Exams, Use of Unauthorized Study Aids, and Falsifying any University Documents]." See the University Catalog for more details. Remember, plagiarism is passing off another's work as your own. **Students often don't realize that they have committed plagiarism when they fail to (1) denote with quotation marks or some other notation the cited material and (2) do not identify the source.**

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Jan 5 Tues Introduction

**Models of Couple Therapy**

Jan 7 Thurs Comparative Study of Couple Therapy  
Chapter 1

Jan 12 Tues Object Relations Couple Therapy  
Chapter 6

Jan 14 Thurs Brief Strategic Couple Therapy  
Chapter 10

Jan 19 Tues Structural Couples Therapy  
Chapter 11

Jan 21 Thurs Affective-Reconstructive Couple Therapy  
Chapter 12

Jan 26 Tues Integrative Couple Therapy  
Chapter 13

Jan 28 Thurs Transgenerational Couple Therapy  
Chapter 7

Feb 2 Tues Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy  
Chapter 8

Feb 4 Thurs Integrative Behavioral Couple Therapy  
Chapter 3

Feb 9 Tues Narrative Couple Therapy  
Chapter 8

Feb 11 Thurs Solution-Focused Couple Therapy  
Chapter 9

Feb 16 Tues Working with Gender in Couple Therapy  
Chapter 20

## **Special Problems and Issues**

- Feb 18 Thurs Couple Therapy and the Treatment of Affairs  
Chapter 14
- Feb 23 Tues Separation and Divorce Issues in Couple Therapy  
Chapter 15
- Feb 25 Thurs Couple Therapy and Physical Aggression  
Chapter 16
- Mar 2 Tues Couple Therapy and the Treatment of Depression  
Chapter 19
- Mar 4 Thurs Couple Therapy and the Treatment of Borderline Personality and Related  
Disorders  
Chapter 20
- Mar 9 Tues Developing a Treatment Plan  
O'Leary, Heyman, & Jongsma
- Mar 11 Thurs Donna and Michael: A couple in need of couple therapy
- Mar 18 Thurs Final Exam (11:30 AM)

\*Unless otherwise noted, the reading assignments refer to the Gurman and Jacobson text.