

Course Title: Psychodiagnostic Interviewing and Case Formulation

Credit Hours: 2

Course Code: PSY-826

Course Description:

1. This course is designed to provide students with comprehensive training in two core areas of clinical practice: diagnostic interviewing and case formulation. Students will learn how to conduct clinical interviews that yield rich, clinically relevant data and how to organize this information into structured, theory-informed case conceptualizations. The course emphasizes both the technical and interpersonal dimensions of interviewing and formulation, integrating evidence-based frameworks, DSM-5-TR diagnostic structures, and biopsychosocial and cultural considerations. Students will gain the tools needed to build treatment plans, write clinical reports, and make ethically grounded, culturally responsive clinical decisions.

Course Objectives:

2. This course aims to:

- a) Develop competence in diagnostic interviewing techniques, including intake, mental status examination, and suicide risk assessment.
- b) Strengthen students' ability to assess symptoms and make differential diagnoses using DSM-5-TR.
- c) Teach multiple approaches to case formulation and treatment planning, including theoretical and cultural frameworks.
- d) Promote Integration of assessment data into biopsychosocial and culturally informed case conceptualizations.
- e) Support ethical, reflective, and culturally sensitive clinical decision-making.
- f) Foster understanding of how conceptualizations guide treatment strategies across modalities.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Conduct comprehensive diagnostic interviews including mental status exams and suicide risk assessments.
- b) Accurately identify presenting problems, symptom clusters, and employ interviewing techniques to make differential diagnoses.
- c) Formulate detailed case conceptualizations using multiple theoretical frameworks (e.g., CBT, Biopsychosocial model).
- d) Integrate clinical data, diagnosis, and theory into treatment planning.
- e) Tailor case formulations to individual, couple, and family contexts.
- f) Demonstrate sensitivity to culture, identity, and context in interviewing and formulation.
- g) Critically reflect on the role of theory and personal bias in the formulation process.

Course Content:

- a) Introduction to Diagnostic Interviewing
- b) Basic Attending, Listening, and Questioning Skills
- c) Structure of the Clinical Interview: Intake, Opening, Body, and Termination
- d) Mental Status Examination: Structure, Language, and Report Writing
- e) Suicide Risk Assessment: Warning Signs, Interviewing, and Intervention
- f) Online and Non-Face-to-Face Interviewing: Ethics and Modifications
- g) Diagnostic Summary Writing and Case Report Preparation
- h) Overview of Case Conceptualization:
 - i) From Assessment to Formulation: Organizing Clinical Data
 - j) Clinical and Cultural Formulations: Making Sense of the Client's Experience
- k) Treatment Planning and Linking Formulation to Intervention
- l) Biopsychosocial, CBT and Multicultural Case Formulations

Suggested Readings:

- a) Sommers-Flanagan, J., & Sommers-Flanagan, R. (2012). *Clinical Interviewing*. John Wiley & Sons.

- b) Segal, D. L. (Ed.). (2019). *Diagnostic Interviewing*. Springer.
- c) Sperry, L., & Sperry, J. (2020). *Case Conceptualization: Mastering This Competency with Ease and Confidence*. Routledge.
- d) Dallos, R., & Johnstone, L. (Eds.). (2006). *Formulation in psychology and psychotherapy: Making sense of people's problems*. Routledge.
- e) American Psychiatric Association. (2022). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th ed., Text Revision; DSM-5-TR)*.
- f) APA (2010). *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*.
- g) British Psychological Society (2018). *Code of Ethics and Conduct*.
- h) BPS (2017). *Professional Practice Guidelines (3rd ed.)*.