PSYCHOLOGY 792-002
School Psychology Practicum (Counseling)
Thursdays 7:15 pm to 8:45 pm
Psychology Clinic

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Office Hours: Thursdays 6:30 to 7:15 by appointment

This practicum is intended to provide support, feedback and group supervision to school psychology students participating in supervised counseling field placements in schools. Each student is expected to spend 4 to 6 hours per week in a school under the supervision of a practicing school psychologist or other mental health professional and engage in individual and group counseling. As a result of participation in this practicum, students will be prepared to conduct group and individual counseling sessions with greater confidence and competence.

Class time will be spent on:

* discussing ongoing issues and experiences generated by the field placements,
* providing additional supervision to that provided in the field placements and,
* assigned activities and presentations.

Upon completion of this course, students will have had experience in:

* organizing and facilitating group counseling,
* providing individual counseling,
* processing counseling experiences and,
* examining their role as a counselor.

Books: Any two of the following:


104 Activities that Build: Self-Esteem, Teamwork, Communication, Anger Management, Self-Discovery, Coping Skills by Alana Jones
More Team Building Activities for Every Group by Alana Jones.
Esteem Builders – A K-8 Self-Esteem Curriculum for Improving
Student Achievement, Behavior and School Climate by Dr.
Michele Borba

101 Games for Groups by Maxie Ashton and Lana Varga

Additional Readings: Handouts provided by instructor

Assignments: Weekly group activity [25% of grade]
Individual Case Presentation [25% of grade]
Rating by Field Placement Supervisor [25% of grade]
Class Participation [25% of grade]

If not already the case, please familiarize yourself with the George Mason Honor System
and Code. Adherence to it is an expectation of this class so that we can all share mutual
responsibility, respect, trust and a sense of fairness.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see
me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic
accommodations must be arranged through the DRC office.

Grading: A+ 400 points
A  384-389 “
A- 372-383 “
B+ 360-382 “
B  348-359 “
B- 332-358 “
C  300-331 “
D  260-299 “
F  < 299 “

Week 1 (Jan. 26) Introductions
Review course assignments and expectations
Supervision Issues
Finalizing field placements

Week 2 (Feb. 9) Group activity demonstration by instructor
Review of Handouts/Discussion:
Setting up individual and group counseling (rules,
permission, etc…)
Confidentiality issues with school students in counseling
Do’s and dont’s of group counseling
Week 3 (Feb. 16)  Group activity
Individual case presentation
Group supervision/consultation for field placements
Discussion/Handout: Process vs content in counseling

Week 4 (Feb. 23)  Group activity
Individual case presentation
Group supervision/consultation for field placements
Discussion/Handout: Difficult clients

Week 5 (Mar. 9)  Group activity
Individual case presentation
Group supervision/consultation for field placements
Discussion/Handout: Referrals for additional support

Week 6 (Mar. 16)  **No class - Spring Break**

Week 7 (Mar. 23)  Group activity
Individual case presentation
Group supervision/consultation for field placements

Week 8 (Apr. 6)  Group activity
Individual case presentation
Group supervision/consultation for field placements
Discussion/Handout: Termination issues

Week 9 (Apr. 20)  Group activity
Individual case presentation
Group supervision/consultation for field placements

Week 10 (May 4)  Group activity
Individual case presentation
Group supervision/consultation for field placements
Guest speaker: Current issues in school counseling

May 9  Due date for Field Placement Supervisors’ Ratings form to be turned in to the instructor.