Course Number and Title: PSYC 2050, Introduction to Counseling and Clinical Theories
Semester/Year: Fall 2006
Lecture Hours: 3     Lab Hours: 0     Credit Hours: 3
Class Time: 2-5 p.m     Days: M     Rm: AD 174
Instructor's Name: Lesley Travers, PhD, NCC, LPC, LAT, LMFT
Instructor's Office #: Administration Building Room 175D  
Phone #: (307) 268-2448; email address: ltravers@caspercollege.edu
Office Hours: M 1-2 pm; T 11am -12 pm and 3-4 pm; W 11am -12 pm; TH 11 am -12 pm; F 11 am -12 pm; and other times available by appointment

Course Description: This course provides students with an opportunity to explore human behavior from a theoretical perspective. This is an introductory course that features an opportunity to explore psychological concepts basic to the therapeutic process and understanding of the major models and principles of psychotherapy.

Extended Course Description: This course is intended as an introduction to an introduction to the development of psychotherapy. This IS NOT intended to teach basic counseling skills or specific therapeutic techniques, and students will not be qualified to engage in counseling after completing this course. Students interested in learning counseling skills should take CNSL 2300.

Specific Objectives (Outcomes): Through active participation in this course, each student will:

1. Identify and become familiar with the basic principles of the therapeutic process.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with application of theoretical models of the counseling process and begin to apply and articulate your own personal model of the psychotherapeutic process.
4. Understand how to apply theoretical models to specific cases.

Methodology: The instructional procedures are a combination of lectures, interactive classroom experiences, simulated activities that include role plays, and class discussions.

Underlying Philosophy: The education and training of social service personnel involves self awareness and personal issues as they relate to self. This course will introduce the beginning student to the basic principles of the therapeutic process, be exposed to various ethical and professional issues in counseling and develop a position on these issues and identify one’s own personal model of counseling.
ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT STUDENTS’ ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS

This is a basic course in which students will demonstrate competencies and skills learned from the knowledge and application taught in this course. It is the belief that students will have basic life skills that they can apply to the field of addictions and in particular, drug use and behaviors. The student’s competencies and skills will include:

1) A basic knowledge of life and its trials and tribulations;
2) Ability to grasp the complexity of individuals’ lives;
3) Basic concept and understanding of life issues;
4) Reading and writing skills;
5) Willingness to contribute and participate in classroom discussions;

COURSE POLICIES

1. Academic honesty: The honesty policy of Casper College will be fully adhered to in this course. Grades and degrees earned through dishonest means devalue those earned by all students. Academic dishonesty involves acts that may subvert or compromise the integrity of the academic process.

2. Attendance and participation are expected.

3. All papers and assignments are to be turned in on time. There will be a loss of points equal to one letter grade for late submissions.

4. All work must be carefully edited and completed. Work that is below a college level standard of writing and thought will be returned. You will have the opportunity to rewrite a paper and it may automatically lose a letter grade or more depending on the quality and timeliness of the revisions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student will be encouraged to attend and participate in all class meetings. Active class participation and attendance is expected. Attendance means being in class, arriving on time, and engaging in class discussions demonstrations and other exercises as directed. This course requires honest and open dialogue to accomplish its goals and students are expected to respect rules of confidentiality so that this class can have open and honest communication and sharing.

2. Theory Paper: Each student will prepare a term paper. This paper will be a minimum of 5 pages and have a minimum of five current references regarding their chosen subject matter. This paper will incorporate a theory that the student may identify with or believe they might identify with and connect it to their own self awareness. All papers will consist of a title page and be double-spaced. Papers will be worth 100 points. Papers not meeting these criteria will be returned for revision.

3. Reaction Papers: Students will prepare 2 reaction papers over the course of the semester. These will consist of a title page and a minimum of 2 pages of text. They are to be double-spaced. Reaction papers will receive 10 points maximum and will be graded on writing style and integration of cognitive and affective reactions to class discussion, lecture, videos, or speakers. Papers not meeting these criteria will be returned for revision.

4. Exams: Two exams will be given; one midterm and one comprehensive final exam.
EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

Theoretical Paper: 100 points
Reaction Papers (2): 10 points each
Midterm Exam: 100 points
Final Exam: 100 points

Grading Scale:
A= 90-100%
B= 80-89%
C= 70-79%
D= 60-69%
F= 59 and below


Additional readings as assigned.

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade: November 3, 2006

ADA Statement: It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please call or email me at your earliest convenience.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president of academic affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

Disclaimer: Information contained in this syllabus was, to the best knowledge of this instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed to the student. This syllabus cannot be considered a contract between Casper College and any student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within policies and procedures of Casper College to make necessary changes in course content or instructional techniques without notice or an obligation to the student.

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Tentative Agenda for the Semester

August:  
- August 28: Chapter 1 and 2

September:  
- September 4: Labor Day: No class
- September 11: Chapter 3 and 4
- September 18: Chapter 5
- September 25: Chapter 6

October:  
- October 2: Chapter 7
- October 9: Chapter 8
- October 16: Midterm Examination
- October 23: Fall Vacation
- October 30: Chapter 9

November:  
- November 6: Chapter 10
- November 13: Chapter 11
- November 20: Chapter 12
- November 27: Chapter 13

December:  
- December 4: Chapter 14
- December 11: Chapter 15 and 16
- Week of December 18: Final Exams