



Advanced Psychological Practice (PSY 791-M70)
Western Kentucky University
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Psychology
Course Syllabus - Summer 2022



This syllabus is subject to change, but you will be notified of such changes as early as possible

Instructor: Tim Thornberry, Ph.D.
Class days/times: Tuesday 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Classroom: TBA (Zoom due to COVID)
Email: timothy.thornberry@wku.edu
Phone: 270-745-2698
Office: 3020 Gary Ransdell Hall
Office hours: Available by appointment; please email to schedule a meeting.

Course Website:

This course website is on WKU's Blackboard system. I will post lecture slides, additional assigned readings, and other resources to Blackboard. In addition, should there be a change in the course assignments or schedule, I will post announcements to Blackboard and send emails whenever feasible.

Course Description:

Prerequisite: Admission to the Applied Psychology Psy.D. program or by permission of instructor. Advanced field experience for doctoral students. Applied Students are responsible for their own transportation to practicum sites.

This course is designed to allow doctoral students to accrue applied/intervention hours for internship applications. The advanced practicum allows students to hone their therapy and assessment skills, and develop skills in new areas. Additionally, the practicum provides students and supervisors with the opportunity to evaluate student skills and knowledge within a controlled supervised setting.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. integrate knowledge and skills in psychology to provide direct services to clients and their families including psychotherapy, behavioral interventions, assessment, and treatment planning;
2. demonstrate the ability to use appropriate therapeutic/behavioral interventions based on client needs;
3. demonstrate the ability to complete an appropriate assessment for a referral question, including selecting assessment measures appropriate for the evaluation; administering, scoring, and interpreting the measures; writing a final report for the evaluation; and providing feedback to the client;
4. demonstrate the ability to document services provided, provide accurate case formulation, make appropriate diagnoses/disability identifications, and create useful treatment/education plans;
5. demonstrate adherence to the professional ethics and practice guidelines as set forth by the American Psychological Association;
6. demonstrate an advanced understanding of individual differences and cultural diversity in the provision of psychological services;

7. demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively on intra- and inter-agency staff teams, including consultation with other mental health providers;
8. demonstrate the ability to be an active participant in the supervision process and set effective goals for supervision; and
9. if applicable, work as an effective supervisor/mentor with supervisees/trainees.

Program Learning Objectives:

This course meets the following learning objectives for the Doctor of Psychology in Applied Psychology Program:

- 1.1. Synthesize principles from the science of psychology and apply them to behavioral health problems in a variety of settings, adapting to issues of cultural and individual diversity, including socioeconomic status and the rural environment.
- 1.2. Describe the theories, methods, measurement tools, data analysis, results and development of scientific psychology by studying the subfields that explore human behavior, affect, and cognition and the influences of biology and society.
- 1.3. Apply to evidence-based practice their knowledge derived from the study of human development, individual differences, maladaptive behavior, and pathology.
- 1.4. Apply legislative, ethical and professional standards to legal and ethical issues of practice such as those involving insurance, technology, and privacy.
- 1.5. Apply evidence-based practice to assess and define problems and to develop and implement interventions relying on their knowledge of theories and methods.
- 1.6. Effectively communicate their assessment and conceptualization to consumers and other professionals.
- 1.7. Evaluate the outcomes of treatments and practices and modify their practice based on that evaluation.

Evaluation:

Grades for the class will be determined by a joint effort between the University Supervisor and the On-Site Supervisor/Licensed Supervising Psychologist. Each supervisor will provide a grade and the final grade will be determined by the higher of the two grades.

Teaching Philosophy:

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

-Albert Einstein

It is my belief that a teacher’s primary task is to awaken a passion for learning within the student. Not only should this passion be for the content of the course, but for all learning endeavors. It is my primary responsibility to present content in such a way as to make it meaningful to each student’s individual life. Also, it is my responsibility to present content and create assignments in multiple modalities to cater to the strengths and challenge the weaknesses of each student. I will give students opportunities to take an active role in their education through discussion, collaborative tasks with fellow students, creative thinking, and expressive writing. I believe it is your responsibility to be prepared for every class (i.e., complete assigned readings, prepare questions for class, carefully consider what the content means to you). Also, you should be responsible for completing work on time, attending every class, and accepting the consequences of failing to do with maturity. I believe that our mutual experiences and thoughts will result in an exciting semester that will broaden not only your views of testing but mine as well. Furthermore, I hope this course challenges yours and my perceptions of mental health so that we may perpetually re-evaluate our perceptions in the pursuit of tolerance, ethics, wisdom, and understanding.

Classroom Environment:

Please do your best to be on time for class. If you do arrive late, please enter quietly. If you know you will have to leave class early or arrive late on a regular basis, please take a seat somewhere near the exit so that you will not disturb others when you are entering or leaving. Please inform me ahead of time (by email or in-person) that you will be late or will need to leave early. While in class, I expect you to be courteous to me as the instructor as well as other students seated around you. This entails not carrying on conversations with other students while in class, turning off all cell phones before class starts, and being attentive (i.e., not texting or working on assignments for other classes during lecture). If you are unable to meet these expectations, I would prefer you to miss class rather than disturb myself and others. If you become disruptive during class you will be asked to leave.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Attendance is highly recommended as studies show a high, positive correlation between class attendance and final grades. Also, you will need to attend class in order to receive updates on assignment due dates, information regarding assignment topics and questions, and in order to earn credit for your participation grade.

Checking Your WKU Email Account:

I will from time to time send course announcements by email. Please be sure to check your WKU email account at least twice per day. I will do the same for you – if you have any questions about the class, feel free to email me or stop by my office during office hours, and I'd be happy to answer them.

Getting Help:

If you are having difficulties with any aspect of this course, **please come to my office hours**, and I will do my best to help you. If you are unable to come to my office hours, you can contact me to make an appointment for a different time. If you have just a short question, feel free to ask me after class or send it via e-mail. I can't help you improve your performance in class if you do not ask for it! Also, be sure to ask for help earlier rather than later – research shows that earlier intervention leads to the best outcomes.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to complete their own work. As stated in the university catalog, “students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal.” In other words, do your own work and do not cheat. The psychology faculty consider academic dishonesty an ethical matter. As a reminder, you should know that students can be dismissed from the program for unethical behavior.

Student Accommodations:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Statement:

“Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf>. Under this policy, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you

experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex-gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, **WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.** If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.”

*****Additional information about Title IX, academic dishonesty, and campus safety can be found at: <https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>**

Your Grade:

Your grade will be determined by your participation in class, participation in practicum activities (e.g., therapy, assessment, intervention, case conferences, didactics, other duties as assigned), completion of required internship paperwork, and completion of program evaluation for your internship site and experience.

Practicum Weekly Hour Requirements:

Each student will be expected to perform a minimum of 5 face-to-face hours of therapy/assessment per week of practicum. These hours need to be supervised by a doctoral level practitioner as per licensing requirements.

Expectations:

As a student in this course, you are expected to:

1. Complete the Letter of Agreement between the Practicum Site and Western Kentucky University and file it with the University Supervisor;
2. Complete the Doctoral Psychology Practicum Goals form and file it with the University Supervisor;
3. Complete logs of practicum activity to appropriately document your participation. Such logs can be through MyPsychTrack, TimeToTrack, other online tracking programs, or via the log sheets provided upon request;
4. Complete at least one assessment through the Psychology Training Clinic;
5. Participate in clinical supervision with the Licensed Supervising Psychologist for a time period consistent with licensure;
6. Participate in University supervision with the University Supervisor for the specified times;
7. Inform the University Supervisor of any problems that develop while completing the practicum experience;
8. Participate in didactic case presentations and provide good feedback to other presenters; and
9. Demonstrate appropriate professional conduct by adhering to conduct codes and personnel regulations and procedures of the agency where you complete the practicum experience. As a representative of Western Kentucky University, the practicum student has an obligation to perform at the highest level of functioning at all times. This includes adhering to the professional codes of conduct and ethics of psychologists as outlined in the American Psychological Association (APA) and National Association of School Psychologist (NASP) guidelines and the appropriate federal and state laws governing their practice. Practicum students should additionally exhibit good professional skills, professional conduct, and appropriate interpersonal skills.

Required Activities for Classwork Grades:

The following table will be used to calculate student grades in the class. Grades will be determined by calculating the average grade for a student's activities.

| Grade | Intervention Hours | Therapy Clients | Assessment Clients | Case Presentations | Paperwork | Class Attendance |
|----------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete at least 150 intervention hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document seeing at least 10 different clients; at least 3 of these clients must be diverse from the student | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in 2 assessment batteries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 2 clients at internship supervision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn in the Agreement Form Turn in the Doctoral Psychology Practicum Goals Form Turn in the Supervisor rated Competency Evaluation Complete a reflection paper that details how the student met (or not) the goals set for the practicum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 10 classes |
| B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete at least 125 intervention hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document seeing at least 8 different clients; at least 3 of these clients must be diverse from the student | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in 1 assessment battery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present 1 client at internship supervision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn in the Agreement Form Turn in the Doctoral Psychology Practicum Goals Form Turn in the Supervisor rated Competency Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 8 classes |
| C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete at least 100 intervention hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document seeing at least 5 different clients; at least 1 of these clients must be diverse from the student | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn in the Agreement Form Turn in the Doctoral Psychology Practicum Goals Form Turn in the Supervisor rated Competency Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 6 classes |
| D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete at least 75 intervention hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document seeing at least 5 different clients; at least 1 of these clients must be diverse from the student | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn in the Agreement Form Turn in the Doctoral Psychology Practicum Goals Form Turn in the Supervisor rated Competency Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend 4 classes |