**CLINICAL SOCIOLOGY**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Clinical sociology is a humanistic, multidisciplinary approach that seeks to improve the quality of people’s lives though assessing situations and reducing problems using analysis and intervention. The field is based on the assumption that many human needs are social and therefore are not amenable to the traditional psychological models designed to remedy human problems. Clinical sociologists have different areas of expertise—such as health promotion, sustainable communities, social conflict, or cultural competence—and work in many capacities. They are, for example, community organizers, socio-therapists, mediators, focus group facilitators, social policy implementers, action researchers, and administrators. It prepares students to effective Constructive Change Within individuals, groups and families. The course draws its analysis, diagnosis and methods from the foundations of Sociological theory at the level of intervention with clients.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Develop self awareness that contributes to identifying personal strengths and challenges you bring to the role of helping professionals.
2. Interpret different theoretical approaches to creating effective helping relationships.
3. Demonstrate communication and listening skills, assessment and interviewing skills.
4. Differentiate between models for, and type of, human service interventions.
5. Recognize the stages of helping process.
6. Explore basic mental health/human service terminology, ethical standards of practice and resources.
7. Practice intervention and helping techniques.
8. Examine facets of the planning, implementation and evaluation of services.
9. Evaluate issues and approaches to working across differences (such as gender, age, ethnicity, race etc.).

**Grade breakup:**

Class participation and attendance 10%

Quizzes 20%

Mid-term exam 30%

Final Exam 40%

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Required Textbook:**

Kathleen Korgen & Jonathan M. White (2007). The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the   
Classroom to the Community.  Thousand Oaks, CA; Pine Forge Press,.

**Week 1:** Definition of Clinical Sociology, Comparison of Clinical and Applied Sociology

Roger A. Straus, "Introduction: The Reemergence of Clinical Sociology," *American Behavioral Scientist*, 23, 3 (Mar/Apr, 1979): 477-485 (477-482 incl).

Alfred McClung Lee, "Overcoming Barriers to Clinical Sociology," *Clinical Sociology Revie*w 2 (1984): 42-50.

**Week 2:** The Role of The Professional Counselor: Comparison of Formal and Informal Counselors

Talcott Parsons, "Social Structure and Dynamic Process: The Case of Modern Medical Practice," Chap. X, pp. 428-479, in *The Social System*. New York, NY: The Free Press of Glencoe, 1951.

**Week 3:** Issues of Knowledge, Objectivity, and Involvement: Comparison of Sociological Counseling and Psychological Therapy

Talcott Parsons, "Social Structure and Dynamic Process: The Case of Modern Medical Practice," Chap. X, pp. 428-479, in *The Social System*. New York, NY: The Free Press of Glencoe, 1951.

**Week 4:** Settings and Techniques for Clinical Sociologists

Interviewing: Carol A. B. Warren, "Clinical and Research Interviewing in Sociology," *Clinical Sociology Review* 3 ( 1985): 72-84.

Crisis Intervention: Bryan D. Byers, "Uses of Clinical Sociology in Crisis Intervention Practice," *Clinical Sociology Review* 5 (1987): 102-118.

**Week 5:** Historical Background of Theory in Applied Sociology

William Foote Whyte, "Social Inventions for Solving Human Problems," *Clinical Sociology* *Review* 5 (1987): 45-63.

Roger A. Straus, "The Theoretical Base of Clinical Sociology: Root Metaphors and Key   
Principles," *Clinical Sociology Review* 5 (1987): 65-82.

**Week 6:** Organizations/Community and Theories of Change

Ray Kirshak, "Developing Organization Consulting Skills in Clinical Sociology," *Clinical Sociology   
Review* 3 (1985): 150 -164.

Robert C. Anderson, "An Inter-organizational Approach to the Explanation of Community Development Activities," *Clinical Sociology Review* 4 (1986): 71-90.

**Week 7:** Diversity of Populations and Clinical Services

Monica McGoldrick, "Ethnicity and Family Therapy: An Overview," in Monica McGoldrick, John K. Pearce, & Joseph Giordano, eds. *Ethnicity and Family Therapy*. NY: Guilford Press, 1982.

Mary C. Sengstock, 2009.  *Voices of Diversity*.  New York: Springer.  (Esp. Chaps. 1,2, 8-11).

**Week 8: Mid-Term**

**Week 9:** Using Theory to Develop Clinical Techniques

Saul D. Alinsky, "A Sociological Technique in Clinical Criminology," *Clinical Sociology   
Review* 2 (1984): 12-34.

Roger A. Straus, "Changing a Definition of the Situation: Toward a Theory of Sociological   
Intervention," *Clinical Sociology Review* 2 (1984): 51-63.

**Week 10 –Week 13:** Field Work: Identifying, Developing and Monitoring Service Plan with client

###### **Week 14: Group Presentations**

**Week 15:** FINAL EXAM