Course Goal:
Students will demonstrate, in performance and writing, the developing competencies (knowledge, skills, attitudes, and self-awareness) necessary to conduct effective initial therapeutic interviews.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will demonstrate competent performance in the following areas:
   A. Therapeutic interviewing, including use of strategies to establish engagement, how/when to utilize various types of questions, use of specific strategies in specific situations with specific disorders, basic and advanced empathy, confrontation, immediacy and specificity.
   B. Generic psychotherapeutic/helping strategies, including establishing rapport, engagement, identifying central concerns, identifying core conflicts, maintaining focus, exploration of affect, exploration of attachment styles, exploration of coping attempts and client strengths, exploration of alternatives and establishing specific goals and/or foci as appropriate.

2. Students will develop an awareness of their specific strengths as well as areas in need of improvement as therapeutic interviewers through in class role-plays, feedback, discussions, and self-assessment.

3. Students will demonstrate acquired skills in initial interviewing through an out-of-class videotaped roleplay of an initial interview.

Course Text and Materials:
Text: Morrison, J. (2007) The First Interview (3rd ed.) (I suggest you purchase through amazon.com or a similar vendor for the best deal)
Additional readings: provided by instructor

Instructors:
Additional phone contacts: H: 973-762-6138; Cell: 973-223-5903
Email: mjindart@aol.com
Teaching assistant: Rebecca Greif, rebecca.greif@gmail.com, 201-394-8769

Evaluations will be based on:
1. Class participation
2. Demonstration of effort in in-class role-plays
3. Demonstration of learned skills and quality of written critique of out-of-class role-play (final assignment)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) (9/2)</td>
<td>Class will not meet; makeup tbd</td>
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| 1 (9/9) | Beginnings  
Course overview  
The art and science of interviewing  
Common elements of helpful interviews  
Initial interview demonstrations | Handouts: The Helping Process;  
Establishing a Relationship;  
Effective Feedback Guidelines;  
Sample Adult Interview Protocol |
| 2 (9/16) | Dynamic structure of the interview:  
Content and process  
Establishing engagement  
Videotape: Hill  
Role-plays | *Text: Intro, Ch. 1, 3, 4  
| 3 (9/23) | Defining the problem(s)  
Paraverbal communication  
Obtaining the history  
Culture, communication and psychotherapy  
Full length (approx. 60 minute) initial interview demonstration | *Text: Ch. 2, 5, 6, 8  
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| 4 (9/30) | Exploring feelings/using affect in the initial interview | *Text: Ch. 7  
**First assignment due** |
| 5 (10/7) | Roleplays | *Cozolino, L. (2004). Ch. 7: The therapist’s feelings: Anticipated and unanticipated, and Ch. 9: In the eye of the storm: The therapist’s challenge  
**First assignment due** |
| 6 (10/14) | Interviewing strategies for specific disorders: psychosis  
Mental status examination demonstration  
Role-plays | *Text, Ch. 9, 11, 12, 13  
*Handouts: Disabiliies Interview Protocol; MSE sample guide |
| 7 (10/21) | Interviewing strategies for specific disorders: personality disorders  
Confrontation and reframing  
Dealing with resistance and “difficult” clients  
Role-plays  
Video: Wachtel | *Text: Ch. 16, 17, 18  
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| 8 (10/28) | Crisis intervention  
Interviewing strategies for suicidal ideation  
Risk assessment interviewing  
*Text Ch. 14, 19, 20  
| 9 (11/4) | Endings  
Building motivation for understanding and change  
Closing the interview  
Clinical documentation and report-writing  
Case formulation  
Summary | *Text Ch. 14, 19, 20  
| 10 (TBD) | | |
ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

First assignment:  Self-assessment, September 30th

Final assignment:  Videotape roleplay and paper:  November 4th