Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce first year graduate students to the therapeutic interview and to basic attending and communication skills that are essential to both the initial visit and the ongoing therapeutic process.

Course Goal:
Students will demonstrate, in performance and writing, the 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, structuring the interview and dealing with different types of clients.
   B. Generic psychotherapeutic/helping strategies, including establishing rapport, engagement, identifying central concerns, maintaining focus, exploration of affect, exploration of client strengths and establishing specific goals for treatment.

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-critique.

Course Text and Materials:

Additional readings provided by the instructor

Evaluations will be based on:
1. Class participation
2. Demonstration of effort in dyadic practice and in class role plays
3. Demonstration of effort and skill in out of class role plays
4. Write-up of out of class role plays
**Week** | **Class Topic** | **Assignment**
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**Conduct an out of class role play of the first 20 minutes of an intake with one of your classmates. You will need to video the role play and write a 2 page commentary on how you did (due 10/7)**

### Observations and Interview

#### Fall 2009

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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| 6 (10/7) | Assessing suicidal and homicidal ideation        | 1. Text: Chapters 11-15  
|          | Dyadic practice assessing SI/HI                  |                                                                             |
|          | Mental status exam                               |                                                                             |
| 7 (10/14)| Setting goals                                    | 1. Text: Chapters 18-19  
|          | Building motivation for change                   |                                                                             |
|          | Handout on goal setting                          |                                                                             |
|          | Closing the interview                            |                                                                             |
|          | Role plays                                       |                                                                             |
|          | Video                                            |                                                                             |
| 8 (10/21)| Dealing with difficult clients                   | 1. Text: Chapters 16-17  
|          | Confrontation, feedback and reframing            |                                                                             |
|          | Role plays                                       |                                                                             |

**Conduct a 50 minute mock initial interview with a more advanced graduate student and videotape it. You will need to transcribe the session and write a commentary on it (due 11/4)**
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<tr>
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| 9 (10/28) | Conducting child interviews  
Video of child interview  
| 10 (11/4) | Clinical documentation and report writing  
Summary of class topics | 1. Text: Chapters 20-21, Appendix C  

**Out of class role play transcription and write up due**