COURSE SYLLABUS

Theoretical Foundations of Intervention – Systems
(18:820:502)

Meeting Times:  Section 1: Wednesday, 9:15 – noon
                Section 2: Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:45 pm
(Classes start February 25)

Instructors:    Cary Cherniss, Ph.D.
                Kaja Stevenson

Course Objectives

1. Introduce students to the systems perspective in psychology.

2. Explore how psychologists have used the systems perspective in family
   therapy and community interventions.

3. Help students develop a better understanding of how systemic forces
   influence the helping process.

4. Help students become familiar with the organizational dynamics of schools
   and human service organizations

5. Help students use organizational theories to better understand and cope with
   the organizational conflicts that affect them and their clients.

Expectations and Assignments

1. Students are required to attend and participate actively in all class sessions
   and do all assigned reading before the class date for which it is assigned.

2. There will be three short papers (3-5 pages – double space, please!) The first
   is due at the beginning of the fourth class session. The next is due session 7,
   and the final paper is due session 10. Specific instructions for each paper will
   be distributed through Sakai.

   Note: Extensions and incompletes are strongly discouraged and will be granted
   only after a conference with the instructor or TA.
Readings

The schedule of reading assignments and topics follows. There is one text book, *Beyond Burnout: Helping Teachers, Nurses, Therapists, and Lawyers Recover from Stress and Disillusionment* by Cary Cherniss (Routledge, 1995). It should be available at the Rutgers Book Store. The other readings will be available online through Sakai. (Note that in some cases only certain pages of a chapter or article are assigned to be read for class. If specific pages are not indicated, please read the entire article or chapter.)

Session 1 (2/25): Introduction to the Course

No readings assigned.

Session 2 (3/4): Structural Family Therapy and Systems Theory (1)


Session 3 (3/11): Structural Family Therapy and Systems Theory (2)

Boyd-Franklin, N. (2003). *Black families in therapy.* (2nd ed.). New York: Guilford. (Read pp. 60-62; 82-84; 236-240; 243.)


**Session 4 (3/25): Systemic Influences on the Helping Process**


**Session 5 (4/1): Work and Organizational Factors That Help Professionals Recover from Burnout**


**Session 6 (4/8): The Larger Social Context of Human Service Organizations**


Cherniss, *Beyond burnout.* (**Read pp. 28-36**)

**Session 7 (4/15): Organizational Theory (1)**


McIntyre, D. (1969). Two schools, one psychologist. In F. Kaplan & S. B. Sarason (Eds.), *The Psycho-Educational Clinic: Papers and research studies.* (pp. 21-90). Boston: Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. (**Read pp. 22-32; 40-43.**)

“Deinstitutionalization” case
Session 8 (4/22): Organizational Theory (2)


Session 9 (4/29): Organizational Theory (3)


“Sunnyvale” case

Session 10 (5/6): Community Psychology and the Ecological Perspective
