This course builds upon your experience in Systematic Observation and Interviewing, and CB Assessment, and will provide you with another Clinic patient. Using a theoretical framework that comes from a broad and contemporary psychoanalytic orientation, you will conduct an initial interview, develop an understanding of the patient’s problems in living and, using the DSM IV/ICD-9, present a diagnosis, formulation, and treatment plan in a written report. You will be part of a supervision group at GSAPP and will continue working with this patient in ongoing psychotherapy.

Each clinician will present the video recording of the initial interview for the class to study the interviewer’s manner, the client and the process. We create an atmosphere of safety and trust to allow for feedback to the interviewer and for all to contribute to arriving at a diagnosis and formulation.

Course Requirements

1. We will watch a video of an initial interview and use it as the source of a first ungraded “practice” report. This will be due before the winter break. I will provide feedback on the writing and conceptualization.

2. You will conduct one initial interview, video record it, and present it in class. After meeting with your supervisor, formulating the case and developing a treatment plan, you will then write a report that will be due by the last class [or shortly after if you are one of the last to present your video].

3. Readings and class discussion of them and the video interviews will comprise the remaining important parts of the course. Your attendance and participation are very valuable and are expected.

Grading

Grades are based upon satisfying the course requirements. You are not graded on how well you were able to empathize with your clients, or how much of their history you elicited, so relax! Clients are all different and you are learning to do this work, so it is expected that there will be variability in this dimension. If you bring yourself to the clinical encounter and engage with the client as best you can while finding out what is important, you receive full credit for this.

The reports are expected to be well written and to communicate the essentials of the client’s problems as well as their history and context. The quality of your psychodynamic formulation is a large part of your grade. It is expected that you will refer to and use the theories covered in the readings below, as well as those you studied in Foundations. The remainder of the grade comes from your command of the readings that you will communicate in class discussions. If you remain mostly silent in class, you can count on getting one grade lower.

Required Books:


[All the following readings, guides and samples are available on the course’s SAKAI website – go to www.sakai.rutgers.edu. You should have an invitation to go to Psychodynamic Interview course. If you click on “Resources” on the left side list, you’ll get the folder with the pdf files of readings. If you click on the hyperlink and nothing happens, click on the little up/down arrow to the left and it will allow all contents of folder to be displayed]

Perry, Cooper, and Michaels. (1987) "Psychoanalytic Formulation"

Interview and Report Writing Guide
2 Mental Status Exam guides
Samples of formulations; Samples of reports
**Schedule of classes and readings**

Class 1: The listening process and the conceptual process: Understanding and Explaining  
Read: Rowe and MacIsaac, Peebles, Chap 2, 8, Bocknek, Chap. 3  
Discussion of interviewing patients who are different from us; View interview tape; schedule presentations

Class 2: The structure of the psychodynamic interview: Technique and formulation I  
Read: McWilliams, Chap. 2; Messer and Wolitzky p. 1-36; Perry, Cooper and Michaels

Class 3: The structure of the psychodynamic interview: Technique and formulation, II  
Read: Peebles Chaps. 4, 5, 6; McWilliams, Chap. 1

Class 4: The structure of the psychodynamic interview: Technique and formulation, III  
Read: Morgan - Mental Status Exam; Wachtel, Chaps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Class 5: Diagnosis  
Read: McWilliams, (PD - in Psychoanalytic Diagnosis book) Chaps. 1, 2, 3; Peebles, Chap. 1

Class 6: Descriptive developmental diagnosis  
Read: Bocknek, Chap. 7; McWilliams, Chap. 4

Class 7: Assessing ego, self and object relations  
Read: McWilliams, Chaps. 7, 8; Bocknek, Chap. 6

Class 8: Assessing defenses and pathogenic beliefs  
Read: McWilliams, Chap. 5, 10; McWilliams (PD) Chaps. 5, 6

Class 9: Assessing borderline and narcissistic conditions  
Read: Kernberg, Yeomans, et al, 2002 “Psychotherapy with Borderline Patients”  
Kernberg [1975] Borderline Conditions and Pathological Narcissism [recommended for historical theory development, but not required]

Class 10: TBA