



COURSE TITLE/SECTION: SOCW 7397
TRANSTHEORETICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE: Brief Targeted Interventions
(A required course in Clinical Practice Track)

Section 22843 Tuesday 6-9pm

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Please check your email address registered under your PeopleSoft account. Your instructor will communicate with you via that email address.

I. Course

A. Catalog Description

Cr. 3(3-0). Prerequisite: Foundation: Prerequisite or Concurrent with SOCW 7324.

Provides theoretical content to gain knowledge and develop advanced clinical skills in the application of Crisis Intervention, Brief Psychodynamic Theory and Solution-Focused Therapy.

B. Purpose

This course is designed to expose advanced students to evidence-based clinical social work theories and interventions. Emphasis is on the development of clinical social work practice skills in Crisis Intervention, Brief Psychodynamic Theory and Solution-Focused Therapy.

II. Course Objectives

Selected Theories for this course are:

- Crisis Intervention: Theories & Practice
- Brief Psychodynamic Theory & Practice
- Solution-Focused Therapy: Theory & Practice

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the role of clinical social workers in the development and utilization of theoretical, conceptual and empirical knowledge base of selected practice theories. (Professional Identity, HBSE)
2. Develop an understanding of the key constructs, concepts, themes, and techniques that characterize the selected theories for transtheoretical applications. (HBSE, Practice)
3. Explore the common factors across the selected theories for practice, including techniques and characteristics for achieving therapeutic outcomes. (Critical Thinking, Practice, Research)

4. Analyze the strengths and limitations associated with selected theories for practice with diverse clients, issues and settings. (Diversity, Practice, Professional Context)
5. Utilize a strengths perspective to select and apply the selected theories with skills and techniques that are used in a culturally competent manner across individual, group, community and societal settings (Diversity, Professional Context, Practice)
6. Demonstrate through hands-on practice the selection and application of various skills and techniques from the selected models for clinical practice. (Critical Thinking, Practice)
7. Identify the potential challenges inherent in the application of selected theories and apply professional and ethical guidelines to address them. (Values & Ethics, Justice, Practice)

Crisis Intervention: Theories and Practice

Module Description: Crisis intervention is an integral approach in any social work practice setting. Social work students and practitioners need working knowledge of the crisis model since many clients do not seek help until a crisis exists. This course will provide theoretical and practical content that will enable students to gain knowledge, understanding, and skill in relation to crisis intervention in social work practice. Students will have an opportunity to practically apply the six-step crisis intervention model through a variety of case vignettes.

Module Objectives: Upon completion of the 4-week module students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of crisis intervention.
2. Define crisis and differentiate between the four domains of crises.
3. Delineate the goals of the six-step crisis intervention model and psychological first aid model.
4. Explore the process of assessment and develop appropriate crisis intervention strategies for a range of crises.
5. Demonstrate a multicultural approach to crisis intervention.

Brief Psychodynamic Theory & Practice

Module Description: Brief psychodynamic theory relies on the guiding knowledge of clinical practice approaches such as the presence of resistance, the understanding of transference and counter transference, the value of interpretation, and the importance of a strong working therapeutic alliance. Brief psychodynamic therapy allows for a more active and directive role as therapist and engages clients in the therapeutic process in an empathic and collaborative manner. This module will explore the critical themes and techniques, which characterize brief psychodynamic therapy. Students will have an opportunity to explore the practical application of specific techniques of brief psychodynamic therapy.

Module Objectives: Upon completion of the 4-week module students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of brief psychodynamic theory.
2. Develop an understanding of the key characteristics, themes, and techniques, which characterize brief psychodynamic treatments.
3. Explore case formulation and treatment planning in brief work with clients.
4. Identify the strengths and limitations of brief psychodynamic therapy with diverse clients and issues.

Solution-Focused Therapy: Theory and Practice

Module Description: An in-depth examination of solution-focused therapy including history, philosophy, theory, and techniques. Stresses application of learning through experiential methods.

Module Objectives: Upon completion of this 4-week module, students will be about to:

1. Define constructivist theory and analyze its relationship to solution-focused therapy.
2. Describe the stages of solution building.
3. Use research-based evidence to design solution-focused intervention strategies that are built on the client's context, strengths, and successes.
4. Formulate solution-focused feedback with clients.
5. Identify and measure therapeutic solution-focused, strengths-based and contextualized relevant outcomes.

III. Course Content

This course will include the following topical (content) areas: Theories for clinical practice, integrating assessment to intervention, utilization of transtheoretical approaches in multicultural situations, processes of change, five-way clinical learning.

IV. Course Structure

Classes will be a hybrid course in combination of lecture, discussion, role-play, case interviews, and audiovisual media. Lecture content will serve primarily to highlight the key concepts/techniques, clarify questions or issues from assigned readings and assignments, and provide time for practice and presentations. Students are expected to integrate theories into practice through role-play, live interviews, clinical exercises, and practice evaluation. Quizzes are posted on Blackboard (Bb) to encourage reading preparation prior to class.

V. Textbook and Required Readings

May order texts through UH Bookstore: <http://uh.bncollege.com>; a copy of these required books and other recommended books have been placed on Reserve at the UH main library.

(C&L) Cheung, M., & Leung, P. (2008). *Multicultural practice and evaluation: A case approach to evidence-based practice*. Denver, CO: Love Publishing Co.

(P&N) Prochaska, J.O., & Norcross, J.C. (2010). *Systems of psychotherapy: A transtheoretical analysis*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. Reviewed the first chapter free at <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9780495601876>

Required/Recommended Book: (Students who have learned about genogram construction in the past do not need to buy this book)

(MGP) McGoldrick, M., Gerson, R., & Petry, S. (2008). *Genograms: Assessment and intervention*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company. (ISBN 0-393-70509-9)

Required Readings on Transtheoretical Concepts:

Cancer Prevention Research Center. (2007). Summary overview of the transtheoretical model. (Also click at the detailed overview for more information) <http://www.uri.edu/research/cprc/transtheoretical.htm>

Change Assessment Measure. (2007). University of Rhode Island Change Assessment. <http://www.uri.edu/research/cprc/Measures/urica.htm>

Other Required Readings and Videos will be posted on Blackboard.

VI. Course Requirements

Please check all due dates on Blackboard Learn.

A. Class Participation (10%)

1. If you miss any classes due to unusual circumstances, you must get approval from the instructor and submit make-up assignments within an assigned timeframe, or an automatic Withdraw/Fail (W/F) will be assigned two weeks after the missed day.
2. If you cannot come to a class, an email must be sent to the instructor who will decide upon a make-up assignment for you. If the make-up assignment is not submitted by its due date, one grade (per absence) will be reduced from the final grade.
3. If you miss any part of the final in-class meeting(s) to practice your "Transtheoretical Interviews" and 5-way learning, you cannot pass this course and must re-take it when this course is offered again.
4. You must be actively engaged in all practice activities and participate in class discussions. All students must verbally reflect on their transtheoretical practice and 5-way learning on the last day of class.

B. Quizzes (15%)

Purpose: To prepare content of theories for practice and assess knowledge of key concepts.

Answer to all questions posted on Blackboard before the posted due dates. The highest score between two attempts will be graded. Since the purpose of these quizzes is to encourage you to read and think critically about theory application, answers of the quizzes will not be reviewed in class; if you have any questions about the answers, please consult with the instructor individually. A pretest (not-graded) will be posted for you to learn about the format and content of these quizzes and assess your knowledge about transtheoretical clinical practice.

C. Role Play Dialogue and Practice (30%)

Purpose: To practice transtheoretical approaches in class in order to gain insight for planning your own case practice.

Three students will form a group. Based on Joe and Mary's case or its variation (see Cheung & Leung, 2008), each group will write 3 scripts, one for each modality covered in this course (Crisis Intervention, Brief Psychodynamic, Solution-Focused). Each script will be based on the approaches and techniques specified from each of these three practice modalities. Each group will prepare three 15-minute role-plays using their scripts. During the concurrent modality the group will bring a hard copy of the script to class to practice. (You may invite additional students to help if needed). After practice, we will discuss the application of the skills. Your group will submit the appropriate script via Blackboard (Bb) Learn for a grade before the due date for that modality. One submission per group that focuses on the assigned modality; please include names of all group members.

D. Transtheoretical Case Interviews (45%)

Purpose: To practice transtheoretical skills in a spontaneous session and experience a **five-way learning process** to enhance effectiveness in clinical practice (learning as client, worker, observer, case-owner, and MSW student).

***Please note that the two individual meetings with the instructor are required. These individual meetings can be flexibly arranged based on the instructor's availability. You are encouraged to schedule these individual meetings with the instructor at the beginning of the semester to avoid any scheduling conflict.

#1: Case Summary: (10 points)

Purpose: To learn skills in a clinical interview and address how personal issues may impact professional development.

1. *Individual Meeting with the Instructor:* The instructor will schedule a consultation meeting with each student individually during the first three weeks. You are required to bring a professionally prepared three-

generation [genogram](#) of your family to your assigned meeting and think about a family/personal issue or two for case determination.

Confidentiality is strictly enforced; your genogram is solely used to enhance case determination in this 20-minute meeting and should not be included in your case summary for this assignment.

2. *Case Summary Preparation:* After the individual consultation meeting, you will prepare a case summary using the same format as the case example posted on Bb (one page single spacing with the same sub-headings for uniformity to protect confidentiality). Please use [fictitious names](#) in your summary. The case should represent your personal issues so that you will learn how your personal issue (based on your own situation or that of someone close to you) can affect the use of self in clinical practice.
3. *Case Summary Feedback* (optional but highly recommended): If you want to obtain feedback before your final submission to Bb, please submit it to your instructor at least five working days before the due date.
4. *Case Summary Submission:* Submit your final case summary by the due date through Bb to receive proper credits. After grading on your Bb version, the instructor will revise the content to protect confidentiality and distribute a copy to the case owner and to each of the two role-play students with strict confidence. **Do not share case information with each other!**

Grading Criteria: A well-written and professionally prepared case summary (see Rubrics).

#2: Practice Interviews (35 Points)

Purpose: To connect theories to practice from a transtheoretical lens.

Each case will be assigned to two students, one as the client and the other as the social worker. The pair will use the case to practice in an [8-minute unrehearsed mock therapy session](#). The session will be conducted in an assigned close-circuit TV interview room so that the case owner and other students can observe the interaction directly.

1. *Individual Meeting with the Instructor:* You will meet with the instructor to plan your live interview. You may discuss or rehearse your techniques with the instructor **but not with the assigned “client”** so that you can appreciate the use of transtheoretical approaches in a spontaneous clinical session.
2. *Worker’s Role:* When acting the role as a worker, you must start the case interview as if it is in the middle of a session so that skills can be demonstrated within the allotted time. You may bring the case summary and other therapeutic materials to the session.

3. *Client's Role*: It is optional to discuss the "client" case with the instructor in order to decide what additional information may be needed. Allow the worker to start the conversation and role-play accordingly. You may bring the case summary to the session.
4. *Supervisor's Role*: Each of the other observing students in class is expected to play the role of **an observer or supervisor** who watches the interview and provides brief written feedback to the interviewer with at least one strength and one suggestion. Format of feedback is posted on Bb.

Grading Criteria: Appropriate therapeutic skills in your worker's case (30 points, see Rubrics); Three therapeutic techniques from at least two theories are the minimum expectations. Please note that two individual consultation meetings with the instructor are required to get your complete grade for this course. You must prepare a three-generation family genogram and bring it to the first required meeting where you will discuss your selected issue. The second meeting will be to discuss your approach in the practice interview as mentioned above. You must also perform your professional roles when acting as a client and as a supervisor (5 points each, see Rubrics)

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Because of the practice nature of this course, no incomplete will be given and students must attend all in-class meetings. If you miss any class, you will get an automatic F. Please see a note posted after the class schedule for additional conditions. Late assignments will suffer a one-point deduction per day (including weekends and holidays, if any), unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor. A point system will be used to evaluate your performance. All assignments are graded using a set of rubrics for that specific assignment. Assignment rubrics are posted on Blackboard under each assignment. If you encounter any technical difficulties with Blackboard, please find solutions by calling the UH Help Desk at 713-743-1411 and inform the instructor immediately by an email.

Grading System:

A =	96-100% of the points	C+ =	76-79.9%
A- =	92-95.9%	C =	72-75.9%
B+ =	88-91.9%	C- =	68-71.9%
B =	84-87.9%	D =	64-67.9%
B- =	80-83.9%	F =	Below 64%

VIII. Policy Addendum:

A. **ADA Policy:** Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713-743-5400 for more assistance.

B. Policy on grades of I (Incomplete)

1. **Due to the practice nature of this course, an "I" will be assigned if the student misses the case practice as a worker or client.** The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when students are either **(a)** passing a course or **(b)** still have a reasonable chance of passing in the judgment of the instructor but, for non-academic reasons beyond their control have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. Students are responsible for informing the instructor immediately of the reasons for not submitting an assignment on time or not taking an examination. Students must contact the instructor of the course in which they receive an "I" grade to make arrangements to complete the course requirements. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete the incomplete requirements.

The grade of "I" must be changed by fulfillment of course requirements within one year of the date awarded or it will be changed automatically to an "F" (or to a "U" [Unsatisfactory] in S/U graded courses). The instructor may require a time period of less than one year to fulfill course requirements, and the instructor may change the grade at any time to reflect work completed in the course. The grade of "I" may not be changed to a grade of **W**.

2. **POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM**

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one's own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an "I" for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes

from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number(s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.

Academic dishonesty includes using any other person's work and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) using graded papers from students who have previously taken this course as the basis for your work. It also includes, but is not limited to submitting the same paper to more than one class. If you have any specific questions about plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please raise these questions in class or make an appointment to see instructor. This statement is consistent with the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty that can be found in your UH Student Handbook.

Course Schedule (Additional readings will be posted on Bb Learn under “Learning Modules”; Check Bb Learn for all due dates)

*Week/Date	Format	Topic/Activity	*Reading Preparation & Assignment Due
Before the first day of class	Emails	Revised Syllabus will be posted before the first day of class; please check your email registered under PeopleSoft and print it out for our first meeting.	Course Syllabus
8/27/13	In-Class Meeting	**Orientation & Introduction **A “Case Approach” with Multicultural Expectations **Genogram Interviews **Transtheoretical Framework & Practice **Ethics and Principles	C&L Ch3 MGP Chs1-2 P&N Chs1, 14, 16-18 Bb Readings Pre-test (TRAN test, due Oct 1)
9/3/19	***Individual Meeting	Decide on the Owner’s Case	Prepare Dialogues for Module 1
9/10/13 9/17/13	Lecture and Practice	Module 1: Crisis Intervention **Application of the Crisis Intervention Model through Case Vignettes	Bb Readings Quiz 1
9/24/13	Practice with Dialogues	Practice Crisis Intervention Strategies	Practice Dialogues for Module 1
10/1/13 10/8/13	Lecture and Practice	Module 2: Brief Psychodynamic Practice **Application of Brief Psychodynamic Modality	C&L Ch4; P&N Ch3 MGP Entire Book Bb Readings Due: Dialogues for Module 1 Prepare Dialogues for Module 2 Quiz 2
10/15/13	Practice with Dialogues	Practice Psychodynamic Techniques	Practice Dialogues for Module 2 Due: Case summary (10/13 by midnight via Bb Learn)
10/22/13 10/29/13	Lecture and Practice	Module 3: Solution-Focused Therapy (SFT) **Application of Contextualized Strength-Based Practice	C&L Ch14; P&N Ch15 Bb Readings Due: Dialogues for Module 2 Prepare Dialogues for Module 3 Quiz 3
11/5/13	Practice with Dialogues	Practice SFT [Cases for the Transtheoretical Interview will be distributed in class.]	Practice Dialogues for Module 3 Presentations
11/12/13	***Individual Meeting	Meet with the instructor individually to rehearse the skills to be used in your transtheoretical interview	Meeting with the instructor to prepare for the final transtheoretical interview Due: Dialogues for Module 3
11/19/13 11/26/13	Final Practice	**Transtheoretical Interviews (MUST attend in full): Integrating Three Practice Modalities **Evaluating Five-Way Learning **Discussing Diversity Issues: Multicultural Practice Derived From a “Case Approach” **Applying Micro Skills in Macro Practice **Analyzing Strengths and Limitations	Live Practice Practice Evaluation Discussions and Learning Reflections
12/3/13	Individual Meeting	Optional individual meeting with the instructor for owner’s case debriefing	Debrief own case learning

*Must attend all classes to pass this course; Textbook abbreviations can be found under Required Books.

**Topics are tentative depending on progress

***Two individual meetings are required

Grading Rubrics: Case Summary

Grading Criteria (10 total points)	Criteria not demonstrated	Basic Level	Proficient Level	Excellent Level
Scholarly writing skills (3 points max)	0: Poorly written; illogical; contain errors and do not flow well	1: Show minimal writing skills for presenting assessment information	2: Present content that demonstrates assessment skills; provide relevant information; structurally need improvement	3: Demonstrate through writing assessment skills; logically organize content; present the case clearly and concisely; provide relevant information
Format (2 points max)	0: Do not meet with the instructor for case selection; Or: No genogram presented at the meeting; Or: Do not follow the format given	1: Discuss the case selection with a scratchy family genogram; Follow the one-page format to prepare the case summary provided in the example; but make a few errors	NA	2: Discuss the case with a detailed family genogram (not to be included in the case summary); Follow the format to prepare the case summary with personal information sealed
Comprehensive intake information (5 points max)	2: Do not include a theme; miss important intake information	3: Include a theme but not focus on clinical practice; Partially include intake information without getting into the problem	4: Adequately address the clinical practice theme; include intake information with sufficient information to work with the client	5: Comprehensively address the intake information with at least two questions (direct quotes) from the client; demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the problem by offering a meaningful and systematic description with a direction for the worker to work from

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Grading Rubrics: Dialogues

Grading Criteria (10 points each module for three modules)	Criteria not demonstrated	Basic Level	Proficient Level	Excellent Level
Practice-theory integration	0: Do not connect the client-worker dialogues with the assigned module	7: Demonstrate acceptable skills through classroom practice with the assigned module; submit a dialogue script that can be improved	9: Practice the dialogue with the assigned module in a professional manner; submit a dialogue script with few suggested changes	10: Prepare the dialogues in writing in advance and practice it in class in a professional manner; submit a well-written dialogue script with specified techniques that are well-integrated for practice use

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Grading Rubrics: **Transtheoretical Interview (As Worker)**

Grading Criteria (30 total pts.)	Criteria not demonstrated	Basic Level	Proficient Level	Excellent Level
Presentation Style (5 points max)	0: Do not meet with the instructor for case planning or rehearsal 1: Demonstrate some skills but do not use all three theories within the allotted time; Weak posture; Not able to connect with client or supervisors; Not confident	3: Use the allotted time to demonstrate the use of three theories with a good connection with the client; Do not have a good flow between skill applications; Not confident	4: Use the allotted time to demonstrate the use of three theories; Connect with client but not confident at times	5: Use the allotted time to demonstrate the use of three theories; Apply at least three techniques or skills effectively to assess and provide social work interventions; Connect with client and feels with confidence
Assessment from a Professional Standard (15 points max)	0: Have no observable strengths and many weaknesses indicated in the assessment areas	8: Have strengths but also many weaknesses indicated in the assessment areas	10: Satisfactorily pass all assessment areas with more strengths than weaknesses	15: Satisfactorily pass all assessment areas with observable and commendable strengths
Integration of skills in practice (10 points max)	0: Demonstrate the case but do not integrate theories, concepts and techniques in practice	5: Use theories, concepts and at least two techniques to deal with client's issues; Do not effectively demonstrate practice integration	8: Appropriately integrate theories, concepts and techniques to work with client; need more confidence to show skill integration	10: Integrate theories, concepts and techniques to effectively work with the client; Demonstrate critical thinking in flexibly and fluidly applying transtheoretical skills in practice

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Grading Rubrics: **Transtheoretical Interview (As Supervisors and Client)**

Grading Criteria (5 total points)	Criteria not demonstrated	Basic Level	Proficient Level	Excellent Level
As Client	0: Not able to connect with the case; not cooperate in the process for learning purposes	1	1	2: Be respectful of the case owner and genuinely present the case as written; follow the worker's lead and respond to questions for achieving the therapeutic goal; use discretion appropriately
As Supervisors	0: Not paying attention to the cases	1	2	3: Use supervisory guidelines to provide feedback to the WORKER of each case (except in the case where you are the worker or client); Be efficient and use strength-based language when providing comments and feedback

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