

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Course Number:** SW360K393R/SW360K/WGS 340/393  
**Unique Number:** 94070, 94065, 88587  
**Semester:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Session—2014  
**Meeting Time:** MTWTH 8:30-10:30 am

**Instructor:** Dr. Dorie Gilbert  
**Office:** SSW 3.130H  
**Office Phone:** 512-471-8229  
**Office Hours:** M/W 10:30-11:30

---

**Counseling African American Individuals, Couples, and Families:  
Africentric Interventions**

**I. Course Description**

From individual counseling to community practice settings, many helping professionals find themselves lacking the appropriate knowledge and techniques to assist and empower African American individuals and families. This course fills a void in traditional theories and counseling approaches by incorporating American Psychological Association (APA) multicultural psychotherapy and African-centered intervention training. The course will prepare students to apply knowledge about historical trauma and current psychosocial factors impacting African –descent people in designing assessment procedures, psycho-education and intervention modules, community-based prevention programs, and individual, couples, and family counseling models.

**II. Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how the legacy of slavery, economic and socio-political forces have impacted the contemporary challenges facing African American men, women, children, older adults, families, and communities.
2. Demonstrate self-awareness regarding our existence in a multicultural society with particular attention to conflicting values, ethical dilemmas, empowerment and social justice.
3. Demonstrate an ability to identify similarities and differences between traditional, Eurocentric approaches to theory and practice and Africentric approaches.
4. Demonstrate skill in identifying diverse value orientations, life experiences, and worldviews of African Americans and African descent people (intergroup and intragroup differences/similarities with regard to culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion/spirituality, physical or mental ability, age/generation, and national origin) which affect the type and nature of psychological intervention and/or prevention models needed.
5. Demonstrate skill in critically evaluating the appropriateness of assessments, standardized measures, intervention and prevention strategies, and research designs related to characteristics of African American populations.
6. Demonstrate skill in designing and presenting a workshop or proposal for a culturally consistent and theory-driven Africentric-based psychological intervention and/or prevention model.

**III. Teaching Methods**

The teaching methods for this course include lectures, discussions, informal student presentations, guest speakers, video and audio materials, and community collaborations in designing final projects.

**IV. Required Readings**

SELECTED CHAPTERS. Parham, Thomas A. (Ed.). (2002). Counseling Persons of African Descent: Raising the Bar of Practitioner Competence. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Richardson, B. (2000). What mama couldn't teach us about love: Healing the emotional legacy of slavery, celebrating our light. LaPort, IN: Harper Collins.

**Required Course packet:** ON-LINE via CANVAS (or available at UT Copy Center)

**Reference Texts (on reserve at LRC)**

Jones, R. L. (1996). Handbook of tests and measurements for Black populations (Vols. 1 & 2). Hampton, VA: Cobb & Henry.

Logan, S. (2008). Social Work with People of African Descent. CSWE Press.

Dana, R. (2000). (Ed.). Handbook of cross-cultural and multicultural personality assessment. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum

Bibliography (available online)

## V. CLASS POLICIES

**Class Meetings:** Class will be conducted as a seminar with students having responsibility to review case studies, discuss concepts from readings, and show evidence of critical thinking. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and actively participate by raising questions and fostering discussions.

**Electronic Devices in Classroom:** Use of laptops/ipads/tablets for class use only. No cell phones allowed.

**Confidentiality:** Students are expected to adhere to the standards of professional confidentiality.

**Attendance & Late Assignments:** Attendance is mandatory. Beyond one absence, each absence will result in 5 points being subtracted from the final grade points. A three-point penalty per day will be applied to late assignments. An individual exception will be made only in the event of documented, unavoidable circumstances.

### **OTHER POLICIES:**

#### **The University of Texas Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

#### **Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

#### **Documented Disability Statement**

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

#### **Religious Holidays**

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

#### **Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

#### **Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)**

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

## Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

## Use of Blackboard in Class

The professor uses Blackboard—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>—to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online quizzes and surveys. Students can find support in using Blackboard at the ITS Help Desk by calling 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please plan accordingly.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Preparation, Contribution, & Critical Thinking Papers (15% of grade)

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and actively participate by raising questions and issues in class discussions and exercises. Students should be prepared to respond to the instructor's discussion questions. To foster contributions, students will be asked to respond in writing to key questions about the readings. These written critical thinking assignments will be assigned as homework and will focus on the main themes of the selected week's class readings.

### 2. Weekly Quizzes (30% of grade)

There will be four quizzes (Monday, Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5) containing objective (70%) and essay questions (30%).

### 3. Undergraduate Students:

Final Exam (Objective and Essay format)

Graduate Students--Research & Project Implementation Paper and Presentation

## Grading and Weighting of Assignments

	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students
Attendance, Contribution & Critical Thinking Exercises	15%	15%
Quizzes	30%	30%
Research Paper		45%
Paper Presentation		10%
Final exam	55%	
*Research Paper		
Total	100%	100%

- See CANVAS for Guidelines to Writing the Research Paper

## GRADING SCALE (Graduate & Undergraduate)

100 - 94 = A	93 - 90 = A-	89 - 87 = B+
86 - 84 = B	83 - 80 = B-	79 - 77 = C+
76 - 74 = C	73 - 70 = C-	69 - 67 = D+
66 - 64 = D	63 - 60 = D-	59 and below = F