



Psychology 454 – Clinical Psychology
Spring Semester 2009
Lecture: SH380 MF 200pm – 315pm
California State University – Northridge

Instructor: Dr. Gary S. Katz (*rhymes with “Gates”*)
Assistant Professor

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Office Hours:

Office hours are not for the lost and wayward! Clinical psychology is a “person-oriented” field -- I look forward to meeting and talking with you about the concepts and practical applications involved in Clinical Psychology this semester. Please make it a point to drop by some time during the semester to help me better match names and faces.

Monday 12noon – 12:50pm
Friday 12noon – 12:50pm

Additional hours are available by appointment. Please call or EMAIL!

Grades:

Your grade will be based upon your performance on two preliminary examinations, one final examination, 12 homework/classwork assignments, a research paper and a fieldwork journal.

The homework assignments are designed to ensure that you are current with the extensive reading demands this course contains. Unless you keep pace with the reading assignments in the course, you will be ill-prepared for the class discussions covering the readings. By completing the homework assignments, you will have enough basic material to participate in classroom discussions. The weighting of these is as follows:

Homework Assignments	20%
Prelim #1	15%
Prelim #2	15%
Final Exam	20%
On-line Fieldwork Journal	10%
Research Paper	20%

The goal of this class is to provide you with an introduction to the science and practice of Clinical Psychology. Many people have several misconceptions about Clinical Psychology, the skills needed to become a clinical psychologist, and the role of scientific research in becoming an effective clinical psychologist. This course is designed to orient you to the many demands placed upon clinical psychologists in the area of clinical practice, research, and professional development. My job is to make every effort to teach every student in a manner in which they can best grasp the material. If you do not understand a particular concept as it is presented in lecture or discussion, please ask questions! It is **your responsibility** to let me know if you do not understand a particular analysis or concept. As such, I **do not** grade students based upon the performance of **other** students in the class. I do not “curve” tests or final grades. I do not **give** grades. Students **earn** them. Grades are assigned as follows:

A	94 to 100%	C	73 to 76%
A-	90 to 93%	C-	70 to 72%
B+	87 to 89%	D+	67 to 69%
B	83 to 86%	D	61 to 66%
B-	80 to 82%	D-	55 to 60%
C+	77 to 79%	F	below 55%

These grades are general guidelines and can be used to chart your progress throughout the semester. I reserve the right to change grades at the end of the term. Be advised that I will **not** lower a grade that you have rightfully earned. Rather, I will consider your class participation and performance over the course of the term in adjusting grades upward.

Exams:

Preliminary examinations are scheduled for **Friday, February 20th** and **Friday, March 27th**. Each preliminary examination will be given during regular class time and will consist of approximately 30 multiple-choice questions and a few short essay questions. Content for each preliminary examination will be drawn from both the assigned readings and the lecture material. Please remember to bring a Scantron form and #2 pencil to class on these days!

The final exam is scheduled for **Friday, May 11th, from 3:00pm until 5:00pm**. The final will be approximately 50 multiple-choice questions and a few short essay questions. The final will be primarily non-cumulative. However, successful mastery of previous will help you earn a better score on the final exam. Again, don't forget your Scantron form and #2 pencil!

If any of these dates present a particular problem for you, please see me as soon as possible. Make-up exams are extremely difficult to arrange unless

they are scheduled in advance. If you miss an exam without prior notice, please ensure that you have appropriate documentation to support your absence. I will deal with these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Absences:

The pace at which we will be covering the complicated field of clinical psychology over the course of the semester will appear both rapid and comprehensive. As such, missing even one class will put you at a disadvantage in mastering the material. I plan on making each lecture as interesting, challenging, and as interactive as possible. Your absence impedes my ability to meet these goals.

If you miss a class, I will encourage you to obtain missing notes from one of your classmates. You should also arrange to have someone turn in your homework assignment and find out if the next homework set has been assigned.

Fieldwork:

As part of your course requirements, you are expected to participate in 20 hours of clinically-relevant volunteer service and maintain an online “fieldwork journal” that describes and documents your activities. Possible agencies that you may find volunteer opportunities include (but are not limited to): Big Brothers/Big Sisters of LA (213-258-3333), The Volunteer Center of Los Angeles -- San Fernando (818-908-5066). The Volunteer Center is an excellent source of referrals for volunteer opportunities in the San Fernando Valley. On campus, there are numerous opportunities at the Counseling Center in Bayramian Hall (e.g., the Blues Project, JADE) and the CSUN HelpLine.

Research:

Clinical psychology is not only helping people with their psychological difficulties. Most students are surprised to hear that to become a clinical psychologist often requires many hours spent conducting research. As such, you will be expected to complete a hypothetical research paper in an area circumscribed by clinical psychology. Periodic deadlines will be required throughout the semester in order to ensure that you complete the project on time. A grading rubric for this paper is posted on the course website.

Texts:

Plante, T. G., (2005). Contemporary Clinical Psychology, 2nd Edition.
New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

This is a very readable, overview of the field of clinical psychology including a history of the field, overview of major theoretical perspectives, and a "roadmap" of what it takes to be a clinical psychologist.

Prochaska, J. O., & Norcross, J.C. (2007). Systems of Psychotherapy: A Transtheoretical Analysis, 6th Edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

This is a more advanced textbook on the concepts and empirical research regarding most of the common "schools" of clinical psychology today.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a services agreement each semester. Staff within the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approve accommodations. Students who are approved for test-taking accommodations must provide an Alternative Testing Form to their faculty member signed by a counselor in the Center on Disabilities prior to making testing arrangements. The Center on Disabilities is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at 818-677-2684.

I endeavor to make my class lectures and ancillary materials accessible to all of my students in a manner consistent with each student's strengths. If you feel that I am not meeting this goal, feel free to drop me an EMAIL or stop by my office and I will do my best to rectify the concern.

Schedule

Date		Lecture Topic	Reading Assignment	Lecture Homework
M	1/19	<i>No Class!</i> <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>		
F	1/23	Introduction & Orientation: What is Clinical Psychology and What Isn't?	Plante: Chap. 1 Prochaska Chap. 1	None!
M	1/26	History and Foundations	Plante: Chap. 2 Prochaska: pp26-36 (concentrate on Freud sketch)	Download HW#1
F	1/30	Recent History	Plante: Chap. 3 Prochaska: (pp133-138, 275-276, 322-323, 339, 371-372; sketches)	HW#1 Due Download HW#2
M	2/2	Major Theoretical Models: Psychoanalysis, Behaviorism, Humanism, Systemic	Plante: Chapt. 5 Prochaska: Chap. 2, 5, 9, 10, 11	HW#2 Due Download HW #3
F	2/6			HW#3 Due Initial Research Topics Due

M	2/9	Major Theoretical Models: Psychoanalysis, Behaviorism, Humanism, Systemic	Plante: Chapt. 5 Prochaska: Chap. 2, 5, 9, 10, 11	
F	2/13			Fieldwork Review #1 Finalize Research Topics
M	2/16	Review for Prelim #1		
F	2/20	Prelim #1		
M	2/23	Research! Research!	Plante: Chap. 4	Download HW#4
F	2/27			HW#4 Due
M	3/2	Interviewing & Assessment	Plante: Chap. 7 Plante: Chap. 8	Download HW#5
F	3/6			HW#5 Due Download HW#6
M	3/9	Cognitive & Personality Assessment	Plante: Chap. 8	HW#6 Due Download HW#7
F	3/13			HW#7 Due
M	3/16	Psychotherapy	Plante: Chap. 9	Download HW#8
F	3/20			HW#8 Due
M	3/23	Review for Prelim #2		
F	3/27	Prelim #2		
M	3/30	Psychotherapy & Research	Plante: Chap. 10	Download HW#9
F	4/3			HW#9 Due
M	4/6	<i>Spring Break. Be Safe. Be Relaxed.</i>		
F	4/10	<i>Spring Break. Be Safe. Be Relaxed.</i>		
M	4/13	Specialization	Plante: Chap. 11 Plante: Chap. 12	Download HW#10
F	4/17	Consultation		HW#10 Due
M	4/20	Teaching		Download HW#11
F	4/24	<i>No Class WPA Conference</i>		HW#11 Due
M	4/27	Teaching / Administration		Download HW#12
F	5/1	Ethical Standards	Plante: Chap. 13, Appendix	HW#12 Due
M	5/4	The Future	Plante: Chap. 14	Research Paper Due
F	5/8	Review Day		

M	5/11	Final Exam 3:00pm – 5:00pm		
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