

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
Division of Counseling Psychology and Education
CPSY 311 Psychology of Marital Counseling
Fall 2002

Instructor: Jerrold Lee Shapiro, Ph.D., ABMP

Office: 218 Bannan Hall

Tel: (408) 554-4012; (650) 948-7292

e-mail: jshapiro@scu.edu or JLSHAP@PACBELL.net

Office Hours: Tues: 1:30 - 4:00

Class Meetings: Wed 5:00 - 8:00

Bannan 236

TEXTS: Gurman & Jacobson, *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy* 3rd ed.
Firestone & Catlett, *Fear of Intimacy*
Shapiro, J.L. *The Measure of a Man* (Available in Class)
Selected Handouts, tapes, films and Reserve reading

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to present an overview of couples therapy, a variety of schema for diagnosing couples problems, and a beginning knowledge of therapeutic approaches to couples experiencing difficulties in their primary relationship.

Courtship, marriage, divorce, separation and sexual difficulties are explored. A pragmatic model of basic couples therapy is proposed, with which counselors can come to grips with the strengths and weaknesses in a couple system. Several couples are viewed on tape, role played or described and their relationships analyzed from diagnostic and treatment perspectives. The process of marital cycles and divorce is examined in depth and the type of treatment coordinated to different stages of the cycle.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

● **Class Project:** Integration/synthesis of course constructs around a relevant theme in marital therapy. The project has two linked components. 1) Class presentation 2) Final paper

Class Presentation

- a) Begin with an example of a couple shown in popular media (Film, TV show, internet, print).
- b) Make a presentation of your couple in class; share the media and demonstrate how the "couple" exemplifies class and text constructs (i.e. Relationship Cycles, Myths Analysis, Divorce Sequence).
- c) Describe how you may understand this couple from a theoretical perspective (Jacobson & Gurman Part I).
- d) Briefly indicate therapeutic interventions you propose to use with them (consistent with b & c above)

Please note: Each class member will have to choose a different couple - and clear it with me

Final Paper (20 pages maximum)

- 1) Do scholarly research (think approximately 10 pages) on the problem this couple is facing (i.e. infertility, child related issues, racial or religious concerns, in-laws, finances, substance abuse, violence, etc)
- 2) Integrate the literature with the class presentation material and write it in APA style.

PLEASE HAND IN TWO COPIES OF THE PAPER TO ME IF YOU WISH ANY FEEDBACK. I WILL KEEP ONE FOR MY FILES AND COMMENT ON THE OTHER.

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

Due By:

- 9/25 POTLUCK, NO READING ASSIGNMENT
- 10/2 MYTHS OF INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIP
Gurman: preface, Chapters 13,14,15; Firestone: chapter 1 - 3
- 10/9 DEVELOPMENT AND DISSOLUTION OF A RELATIONSHIP
Gurman: chapters 1,2,3,4; Firestone: chapter 4,5
- 10/16 DEVELOPMENT AND DISSOLUTION OF A RELATIONSHIP (CONT.)
Gurman: Chapters 5, 6, 18, 19; Firestone: chapter 6, 7
- 10/23 COUPLES THERAPY BASIC INTERVIEWING
Gurman: Chapters 8, 9, 16, 17 Firestone 8, 9
- 10/30 VIDEOTAPE OF COUPLES THERAPY OR DEMO
Gurman: Chapters, 7, 10, 11, 12
- 11/6 INDIVIDUAL THEORY/DEMO
Gurman: Chapters 23, 24 Firestone: Chapter 12, 13, 14 Shapiro First half of book
- 11/13 TRANSITIONS; MALE AND FEMALE ROLES AND GENDER ISSUES
IN RELATIONSHIPS
Gurman: Chapters 20, 25, 26; Firestone: Chapter 10; Shapiro (finish
- 11/20 Class Members present their chosen media and explain briefly the relationship of media to couples therapy Gurman: Chapters 21, 22, 27; Firestone: Chapter 11;)
- 11/27 NO CLASS meeting *erev Thanksgiving*
- 12/4 Class Members present their chosen media and explain briefly the relationship of media to couples therapy. **PAPER DUE**
Firestone: Chapter 15
POT LUCK PARTY

Happy Holidays

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COURSE HAS A GREATER THAN AVERAGE AMOUNT OF COURSEWORK. THERE IS MORE WORK ASSIGNED THAN IN OTHER COURSES

	Grading	
Classwork		10%
Media presentation		40%
Scholarly Paper		40%