I. Course

A. Catalog Description. Cr. 3(3-0). Prerequisite: Foundation; Prerequisite or Concurrent with SOCW 7324 (Clinical Applications of DSM in Social Work). Provides theoretical content to gain knowledge and develop advanced clinical skills in the application of Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive-Behavioral Theory, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy.

B. Purpose. 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 Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive-Behavioral Theory, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy.

II. Course Objectives

Selected Theories for this course are:
- Motivational Interviewing Theory & Practice
- Cognitive-Behavioral Theory & Practice
- Dialectical Behavior 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 bases 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)

**Motivational Interviewing Theory and Practice**

**Module Description:** Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a person-centered, directional, evidence-based counseling method utilized to elicit and strengthen intrinsic motivation for positive change. Researchers have demonstrated the effectiveness of MI with behaviors such as substance abuse, smoking cessation, diet and exercise, and high risk sexual behaviors. Much of the evidence for MI and adaptations of MI (AMI) comes from randomized control trials. This course will introduce students to the basic underlying spirit, person-centered counseling style, language of change, and processes of MI. Theory, evidence base, and skills of MI will be taught synergistically in an effort to provide an experiential process of learning. Students will be given opportunities to practice skills and will receive continual coaching on their use of skills and embodiment of MI spirit. Because of the brevity of the course, this four week module will focus primarily on evidence based skills used in MI across various settings and populations that are familiar to professional social workers.

**Module Objectives:** Upon completion of the 4 week module the student will be able to:

1. Understand and demonstrate the basic concepts, spirit and core strategies of MI.
2. Apply basic skills of open ended questions, reflective listening, affirming and summarizing statements.
3. Understand the Transtheoretical Model of Change and how it relates to MI.
4. Understand how MI aligns with social work values and how MI can be applied in social work settings.
5. Critically evaluate the empirical literature on MI.
6. Understand ethical dilemmas of discussing motivation for change in restricted settings or other limiting scenarios.
7. Apply MI in a culturally competent manner.
8. Appreciate the methods and theory of application of Motivational Interviewing in diverse populations and settings.

**Cognitive-Behavioral Theory and Practice**

**Module Description:** The Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Module in this advanced clinical practice course will focus on the acquisition and practice of behavioral and cognitive-behavioral skills and techniques as applied to disorders commonly seen by social workers in family clinics, group health clinics, community mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals and
other settings where social and emotional problems are treated. Students will gain knowledge of behavioral terminology and principles, and will acquire and practice clinical skills and techniques that form the basis of CBT treatment protocols for mood and anxiety disorders, which have broader applicability to other disorders and conditions. The emphasis is on skill-building, and students will spend the bulk of their time learning and practicing skills and techniques through observation and dyadic role-playing. Students will also learn to evaluate their use-of-self as therapists in these exercises.

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

1. Articulate the theoretical foundations of behavioral and cognitive-behavioral change strategies.
2. Implement a variety of behavioral and cognitive-behavioral techniques, with a focus on selecting and applying techniques from evidence-based protocols for mood and anxiety disorders; individualizing clinical approach and methods for specific clients; and evaluating the therapist’s own use of self in exercises.
3. Discuss issues related to the use of behavioral and cognitive-behavioral therapy techniques with individuals of different races, ethnicities, cultures, classes, genders, sexual orientations, religions, physical and mental abilities, ages and national origins, as well as values and ethics within the context of legal and NASW code guidelines.
4. Recognize and articulate the strengths and limitations of various behavioral and cognitive-behavioral techniques.

Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Theory and Practice

Module Description: The Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Module in this advanced clinical practice course will focus on the acquisition and practice of DBT skills and techniques as applied to the treatment of chronic suicidality and self-injurious behaviors in clients with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and other related psychiatric diagnoses (e.g., Eating Disorders, Mood and Anxiety Disorders, and Substance Abuse Disorders). Students will learn about the biological, social and psychological characteristics of individuals with BPD and other psychiatric disorders that involve problems related to behavior and mood regulation. Students will gain knowledge of the theoretical perspectives, empirical foundations, and treatment strategies of DBT, including mindfulness and acceptance strategies, and will be able to select and use appropriate techniques in their practice. The emphasis is on skill-building, and students will spend the bulk of their time learning and practicing skills and techniques through observation and dyadic role-playing.

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

1. Articulate the biological, social and psychological characteristics of individuals with BPD and other psychiatric disorders that involve problems related to behavior and mood regulation.
2. Describe the theoretical perspectives, empirical foundations, and treatment strategies of DBT, including mindfulness and acceptance strategies.
3. Assess clients within a DBT framework, identify targets for change, and evaluate the impact of the skills and strategies used.
4. Discuss and critically review the empirical evidence for DBT.
5. Describe the professional and ethical guidelines relevant to working with clients with chronic mental health issues.
III. Course Structure.

A. This 15-week course will follow the following structure:

a. Week 1: First Class: Orientation to the course, overview of Evidence-Based Practices in Social Work, and discussion of the Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change and Common Factors Approaches to clinical social work practice.

b. Weeks 2 through 5: Motivational Interviewing Module.


d. Weeks 10 through 14: Dialectical Behavior Therapy Module.

e. Week 15: Final Class: Wrap-Up, discussion of integrated practice, next steps.

B. The main focus of the course is skill acquisition. As such, there will be limited lecturing and students must read assigned materials and view assigned videos prior to class. The initial class of each module will be devoted to an overview of that particular change orientation (i.e., MI, CBT, and DBT), a discussion of its theoretical underpinnings and empirical evidence, and a synopsis of the different techniques and specific skills drawn from that change orientation. The bulk of time in each module will be devoted to learning and practicing the skills with the help of unscripted case vignettes/role plays.

IV. Textbooks.

A. Required Textbooks. Because this course is in essence three courses in one, there are four required textbooks: one per module (MI, CBT, and DBT) and a fourth book that is organized by techniques (each chapter is a specific technique). While we are mindful of the cost of textbooks, be assured that these four titles will make valuable additions to your personal library and as a practicing clinical social worker you will get much mileage out of them. The four required textbooks are:


B. Recommended Textbooks. In addition to the four required textbooks, there are several texts specific to MI, CBT and DBT that are also worth your consideration.


C. Journal Articles. Peer-reviewed journal articles will be assigned as well. The UH library has full text articles online through the electronic resources section. Students are also encouraged to register for remote access to the HAM-TMC Medical Library at the M. D. Anderson Library Service Desk, which allows students to access other mental health journal resources. Assigned journal articles will be listed in the syllabus and if possible will be in your Blackboard Page.

D. The Practice Planner Series at www.practiceplanners.wiley.com is highly recommended. The Treatment Planners “contain over 1,000 pre-written treatment goals, objectives, and interventions organized around main presenting problems for quick reference and easy adaptation,” while the Progress Notes Planners “cover a comprehensive array of treatment approaches and provide pre-written progress notes for the behavioral problems and DSM categories found in each corresponding Treatment Planner.” They also have Homework Planners, Complete Planners, and Client Education Handout Planners. Especially useful for beginning clinicians.

E. Videos. In addition to the streamed video-recorded lectures and clinical videos, students can access a variety of clinical videos at the following link http://ctiv.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.uh.edu/

F. Additional texts/supplemental references. Section X: Bibliography.
V. Course Requirements.

A. **Attendance.** Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive to class on time. If you miss more than 2 classes, whether excused or unexcused, your grade will be dropped one letter grade.

B. **Reading Assignments.** Students must complete all assigned readings from required and supplemental texts and view all assigned clinical videos prior to class, be prepared to engage in class discussion and role play activities, and will receive credit for participation (25% of grade).

C. **In-class demonstrations of specific skills and techniques (one per module).** Each student will be paired with a classmate, and the dyad will be demonstrating a skill/technique to the class. The student dyad will work from the scenario given in class that day. Therefore everyone must be prepared from the assignments due in order to practice and then perform the skill/technique from the scenario given. Each of the two presentations will represent 20% of the students’ grade (40% of grade).

D. **Presentation.** Each student will be assigned a topic/technique to research and present the empirical evidence to the class (25% of grade).

E. **Integrated Clinical Exam.** A comprehensive multiple choice exam over the readings and the presentations. You will have one (1) hour for the exam. This represents 10% of your grade.

VI. Evaluation and Grading.

A. **Grade Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96 to 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92 to 95.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88 to 91.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 to 87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 to 83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 to 79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72 to 75.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>68 to 71.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64 to 67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 64 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. **Policy on Incomplete grades**

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 grade may be changed by the
instructor at any time to reflect work complete in the course. The grade of "I" may not be
changed to a grade of W.

VIII. Course Schedule and Assignments

A. Assignments: As per section V above.

B. Course Schedule. The Spring 2015 session runs for 15 weeks, from January 19th
through April 27th, 2015. Class will meet on Mondays from 9 AM until 12 PM.

C. A note on technology. As clinical social workers, you would not answer your cell
phone or pager, check your email, or surf the web while meeting with your client.
Since this class is part of your professional preparation, the same level of
professionalism is expected of all students. Students are encouraged to turn off cell
phones, smart phones, I-phones, I-pads, pagers, laptops, and any other technology
that might interfere with focusing on the class. The expectation is that students will
monitor themselves on this point, but Prof. Amtsberg reserves the right to ask a
student to put away or disengage from their technology.

D. Consultation. By appointment. Prof. Amtsberg may be reached at 713-743-1491
or dkamtsberg@uh.edu

E. Policy on Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism.

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of
writing in all courses, do their 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 material or 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. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.
Prof. Amtsberg reserves the right to require students to work with the campus
Writing Center to enhance his/her writing skills if deemed necessary.

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.
F. Statement on changes to syllabus. Professor Amtsberg reserves the right to revise the syllabus content and/or schedule for time management or topical reasons.

G. Week-by-Week Schedule. See below.

Week 1 – MLK Day – No Class

These readings should be completed prior to the beginning of Week 2.

Textbook Readings: (Blackboard)

- Prochaska & Norcross (2010), Ch. 1 (Defining and Comparing the Psychotherapies)
- Sprenkle, Davis, & Lebow (2009), Ch. 2 (A Brief History of Common Factors)
- Prochaska & DiClemente (2003), Ch. 9 (The Transtheoretical Approach)

Journal Articles: (Blackboard)


Week 2

Topics: Orientation to the course; Overview of evidence-based practices in social work; Transtheoretical model of behavior change; Common factors approaches to clinical social work practice.

Topics: Motivational Interviewing (Introduction to MI; Spirit of MI; Engagement; Listening; OARS)

Textbook Readings:

- Miller & Rollnick (2013), Chapters 1 - 13

Video:

- Motivational Interviewing, William Miller (Blackboard or this link below http://ctiv.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.uh.edu/view/1778832/play/true/)

Week 3

Topics: Motivational Interviewing (Focusing; Exchanging information; Evoking – Change talk and Sustain talk) and Motivational Interviewing (Planning; Commitment; Supporting; Applying and integrating MI in practice.)

Textbook Readings:

- Miller & Rollnick (2013), Chapters 14-26

Presentations:

- O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 5, 15, 49, 53
• Role Plays in Class

Week 4

Topics: Motivational Interviewing - Skills integration with Stages of Change

Textbook Readings:
• Miller & Rollnick (2002), Chapters 1-Why Do People Change? (Blackboard)

Presentations:
• O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 6, 10, 54, 68
• Role Plays in Class

Week 5

Topics: Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Introduction Part 1

Textbook Readings:
• Beck (2011), Chapters 1-2
• Video: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Blackboard)

Presentations:
• O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 9, 12, 13, 37, 38
• Role Plays in Class

Week 6

Topics: Cognitive Behavior Therapy (Introduction to CBT, Part 2; Overview of treatment; Cognitive conceptualization; Evaluation session; First therapy session; Behavioral activation)

Textbook Readings:
• Beck (2011), Chapters 3-6

Videos:

Week 7

Topics: Cognitive Behavior Therapy (Second session and beyond; Problems with structuring the therapy session; Identifying, evaluating and responding to automatic thoughts; Identifying emotions)

Textbook Readings:
• Beck (2011), Chapters 7-12

Presentations:
• O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 14, 18, 24, 40
• Role Plays in Class (CBT with MI)
Videos:

**Week 8**

Topics: Cognitive Behavior Therapy (Identifying and modifying beliefs; Additional techniques; Imagery; Homework; Termination and relapse prevention; Treatment planning)

Textbook Readings:
- Beck (2011), Chapters 13-21

Presentations:
- O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 4, 57, 62, 69
- Role Plays in Class (CBT with MI)

**Week 9 – No Class – Week of Spring Break**

**Week 10**

Topics: Cognitive Behavior Therapy (Problems in therapy; Progressing as a CB therapist)

Textbook Readings:
- Beck (2011), Chapters 20, 21

Presentations:
- O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 17, 19, 23, 73, 74
- Role Plays in Class (CBT with MI)

Case Demonstrations

**Week 11**

Topics: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (BPD: Concepts, Controversies, and Definitions; Dialectical and Biosocial Underpinnings of DBT; Dialectical Dilemmas; Overview of Treatment: Targets, Strategies, and Assumptions; Behavioral Targets; Structuring Treatment)

Textbook Readings:
- Linehan (1993), Chapters 1-6

Videos (in Library):
Week 12
Topics: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (Dialectical Strategies; Validation; Problem Solving; Contingency Management; Skills Training)

Textbook Readings:
- Linehan (1993), Chapters 7-11

Presentations:
- O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 50, 60, 63, 75
- Role Plays in Class (DBT with MI)

Week 13
Topics: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (Stylistic, case management, structural and special treatment strategies)

Textbook Readings:
- Linehan (1993), Chapters 12-15

Presentations:
- O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 10, 15, 50, 73
- Role Plays in Class (DBT with MI)

Week 14
Topics: Dialectical Behavior Therapy

Presentations:
- O’Donohue & Fisher (2008), Chapters 56, 61, 74, 75
- Role Plays in Class (DBT with MI)

Week 15
Topics: Putting it all together—wrap-up/Integrated Clinical Practice; Next Steps

Textbook Readings:
- Prochaska & Norcross (2010), Chapter 16 (Comparative Conclusions)

Video:
- Integrative Therapy (Blackboard)

Exam:
- Integrated Clinical Exam (1 Hour) (Blackboard)
IX. **Americans with Disabilities Statement.**

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. Instructors may not provide accommodations without supporting documentation from the UH Center for Students with DisAbilities.

X. **Bibliography.** These are additional recommended texts. Students planning to pursue a clinical practice career will want to add some of these their personal library (or start building one). These texts will also be useful resources for class assignments. Copies of most are available in the library. The list is sorted by assessment, diagnosis and treatment; evidence-based practice; practice with diverse populations; mental illness and the media; and recommended websites. This bibliography is a work in progress, so if you identify additional resources that you find useful please inform me so Dr. Ada can add them.

**Assessment, Diagnosis & Treatment:**


**Evidence-Based Practice:**

England: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.


**Practice with Diverse Populations:**


**Mental Illness and the Media:**


**Recommended Websites.**

Evidence-Based Intervention Network: [http://ebi.missouri.edu/](http://ebi.missouri.edu/)
Houston Psychological Association: [www.hpaonline.org/](http://www.hpaonline.org/)
Jung Center of Houston: [http://www.junghouston.org/](http://www.junghouston.org/)
Mental Health America: [http://www.nmha.org/](http://www.nmha.org/)
Mental Health America of Greater Houston: [http://www.mhahouston.org/](http://www.mhahouston.org/)
Motivational Interviewing: [http://www.motivationalinterview.org/](http://www.motivationalinterview.org/)
Pew Hispanic Center: [http://pewhispanic.org/](http://pewhispanic.org/)