EDCD 654: COMMUNITY & AGENCY COUNSELING  
INSTRUCTOR:  
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11870 Sunrise Valley Drive, #200  
Reston, VA 20191-3303  
Office Phone: 703-860-8703

Course Description: This class will provide an overview of community agency counseling, the role of the counselor in communities, service delivery programs, prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary), outreach, systemic issues, multicultural issues in community agency counseling, advocacy and social change.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain an understanding of counseling within community systems.
2. To understand the role of the community agency counselor, i.e., state licensed (LPC's) or nationally certified mental health counselors (NCC’s, CCMCH's).
3. To create an awareness of critical responsibilities and requirements for mental health counselors, particularly in the area of client safety, risk reduction, and ethics.
4. To understand the role of supervision and management in community agency counseling programs.
5. To gain an awareness of both opportunities and special problems you may run into in your role as a counselor.
6. To understand the critical role of client advocacy in the various community and agency counseling settings.

Readings: As assigned.

Course Assignments:

(1) Agency visits. You are required to visit one community agency and provide a two-page report submitted to the instructor. You are required to call additional agencies and gather formatted information based on the requirements set out by the students in charge of task #2 below. This represents 20% of your grade and includes contributions you make to assignment 2.

(2) Agency web site. Three of you will be assigned the task of creating a database on the GMU.EDU site. This work will involve coming up with a format for standardized information gathering by you and other students and translating that information to the GMU site. This effort will take the place of all other assignments and represent 100% of your grade.

(3) Ethics paper. You are responsible for a three to four page paper addressing an ethical issue in counseling. You are required to review at least two articles in professional journals for this assignment, copy the articles and provide them for a class archive. This represents 20% of your grade.

(4) Final paper. You will write a seven to eight page paper on an important issue in community and agency counseling. The paper will require some research, at least four citations from professional journals. It will also require you to describe an existing trend or policy in mental health, take a position on that issue, and make appropriate arguments to support your position. This represents 60% of your grade.

Class Guidelines:

• Students are urged to seek additional sources of information on major theories or research, review them, and share that information with the class as a whole.
• Students are encouraged to voice their own supported opinions regarding positions taken by the text, theorists and researchers in the text or assigned articles, and/or the instructor.
• Students are encouraged to be supportive of fellow classmates through offering any assistance they may determine is helpful to the classmate.
• Any disagreement or conflict between a student and the instructor should be voiced by the student to the instructor. If the conflict is not satisfactorily resolved (particularly in the case of a disagreement over a grade), the student should then contact the head of the counseling program.
• Students will notify the instructor by phone or in person prior to or shortly after missed classes.
• Students will follow the GMU honor code. A copy is available on the GMU Web site.

**Grading Scale**

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A = 93-100 \quad A- = 90-92 \quad B+ = 86-89 \quad B = 80-85 \quad C = 70-79 \quad F = <70
\]

**Important**

**Meetings with the instructor:** I am available before/after class by appointment, by phone, and at other times when arrangements can be made. Please use the contact information provided to reach me.

**Attendance:** Absent illness, students should make every effort to attend all classes.

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week of Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 8/27          | Introductions, course overview, prevention strategies.  
**Agency Series:** Group Practice  
Andrew S. Mahoney, M.S., LPC  
Andrew S. Mahoney & Associates, Herndon, VA |
| 9/10          | Professional Identity: By license, by education level, by theoretical orientation, by practice setting.  
**Agency Series:** Individual Private Practice  
Dr. Greelis (GMU graduate) |
| 9/17          | Professional Practice: Practice settings - solo, government agency, private nonprofit agency, private group, individual practice; hospital/institution based  
**Agency Series:** Community Mental Health Centers, Community residential centers.  
Everett Howard, M.Ed. (GMU graduate)  
Assistant Director, Fairfax House, Fairfax, VA  
Formerly, therapist at Northwest Center |
| 9/24          | Professional Practice: General or specialized practice, specific disorder focus (e.g., anxiety disorders, addictions, etc.), specific population focus (partner abuse, etc.)  
**Agency Series:** Community Agency for Substance Abuse Counseling & Home Based Services  
Sean Blair, LPC  
Northern Virginia Counseling Group, Annandale, VA |
| 10/1          | Professional Practice: Postgraduate training, clinical supervision.  
Professional ethics.  
**Agency Series:** Multi-purpose community mental health center—evaluation, treatment, day program.  
Rick Leichtweis, Ph.D. (GMU graduate)  
Director, Kellar Center (INOVA Fairfax Hospital), Fairfax, VA |
10/10 | NOTE: this is a **Wednesday** class  
Ethics Seminar: Gerald Corey (by tape)

10/15 | Professional Practice: Special Populations: serious mental illness  
(schizophrenia, bipolar disorder); trauma victims; personality disorders  
**Agency Series:** Employee Assistance Programs (EAP’s)  
Phyllis Martin, M.Ed., LPC (GMU graduate)  
U.S. Dept. of Justice EAP, Washington, DC

10/22 | Professional Practice: Legal issues, liability  
**Agency Series:** Child Abuse Programs/Reporting Requirements  
Pam Carter, M.S.  
Fairfax County Child Protection Services, Fairfax, VA

10/29 | Professional Practice: Third Party Payers and Their Impact on Mental Health--Managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare (formerly Champus).  
**Agency Series:** Mental Health Counselor Identity & Representation  
Mark Hamilton, Ph.D., Executive Director  
American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA)  
Alexandria, VA

11/5 | Professional Identity & Practice: Working with other disciplines, crisis management.  
**Agency Series:** Interface and Collaboration with Psychiatrists  
John Ogram, M.D., Psychiatrist, Director  
Difficult Run Treatment Center, Herndon, VA

11/12 | Professional Practice: Avoiding Problems (at least those we cover in this course): Common traps and errors for new and experienced counselors.

11/19 | The Politics of Mental Health: Rationing care, who gets what and why,  
racism and class discrimination, the multicultural approach to counseling,  
feminist psychology and its ongoing impact.

11/26 | Course Overview and Information on Licensure, Testing, Certification

12/3 | Presentation of Class Project: GMU.EDU Web Page of  
Community Agency Resources.

There are two additional presentations to be scheduled. One concerns psychiatric hospitals and the other residential addiction programs.