

SS4707: COUNSELING AND THERAPEUTIC PSYCHOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Counseling and Therapeutic Psychology

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4707

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

SS2028 Basic Psychology II and SS3708 Design and Analysis for Psychological Research II and SS3721 Abnormal Psychology

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to help students to explore the field of clinical psychology. Goals for the course are to help students acquire an understanding of the subject matter of the field, of career options, and of current controversial issues for clinical psychology. Students will be guided to identify core services provided by clinical psychologists, analyse the current needs of clinical psychology services among the public, and apply the course knowledge to create solutions to meet the needs. Individual and group work will be arranged to achieve the above aims. Due to professional requirements and ethical concerns, this course will not cover practical skills in clinical psychology.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the ethical issues around the professional helping relationship;	10	x		
2	Describe the concepts and domains of some of the major assessment tools and models used by clinical psychologists ;	15	x		
3	Apply the major theories and models of clinical intervention for creation of effective applications in intervention;	25	x	x	
4	Discuss the status of research in the field of clinical psychology; and	20	x	x	
5	Appraise critically the current development of the profession of clinical psychology and services in Hong Kong.	30	x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Student will engage with the historical development, training and development, major service scopes, ethical and professional standards and current issues around clinical psychologists and stakeholders	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

2	Case studies	Students will critically engage with specific case studies to develop critical thinking skills.	2, 3, 5	
3	Group Discussion	Students will participate in group discussion to consolidate understanding on the materials covered, and collaboratively reflect on how clinical psychologist's work is related to the wellbeing of the community	2, 3, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Reflection Paper on Individual/Small Group project(s)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No
2	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No
3	Term Paper	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	40	For this written summative assessment task, students could use GenAI to conduct proof-reading and editing of the language and the use of GenAI for this purpose should be declared in the student's assignment.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Term Paper

Criterion

Evaluate the status of research in the field of clinical psychology; and Appraise Critically the current development of the profession of clinical psychology and services in Hong Kong.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Critically compare different theoretical models when attempting to analyse and apply. When analyse and apply, there is strong evidence of original and reflective thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Showing a good ability to distinguish the different theoretical models when attempting to analyse and apply. Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Students are profiting from learning the course; understanding of the subject; developing solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal (D)

Ability to spell out the theoretical concepts and models in clinical psychology for assessment and intervention of mental health problems. Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with clinical psychology as a profession. Weak in distinguishing the concepts and models that could be used for assessment and intervention in clinical psychology; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

2. Reflection Paper on Individual/Small Group project(s)

Criterion

Apply the major theories and models of clinical intervention for creation of effective applications in intervention;

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrate an excellent ability in applying clinical psychology theories and knowledge in assessment and intervention on mental health problems. When analyse and apply, there is strong evidence of original and reflective thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Reasonable understanding on how to apply clinical psychology theories and knowledge in assessment and intervention on mental health problems. Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

General ability in applying clinical psychology theories and knowledge in assessment and intervention on mental health problems.

Marginal (D)

Ability to spell out the theoretical concepts and models in clinical psychology for assessment and intervention of mental health problems. Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with clinical psychology as a profession. Weak in distinguishing the concepts and models that could be used for assessment and intervention in clinical psychology; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

3. Quiz

Criterion

Identify and Understand the ethical issues and theories of clinical psychologists ;

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge on materials covered in the course

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge on materials covered in the course

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate knowledge on materials covered in the course

Marginal (D)

Marginal knowledge on materials covered in the course

Failure (F)

In adequate knowledge on materials covered in the course

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Scientist-Practitioner Model, Diagnosis in Clinical Psychology, Psychological Assessment; Psychological Intervention; Evidence-based Practice; Cognitive-Behavioural Perspective, Psychodynamic Perspective; Humanistic-Existential Perspective; Empirically Supported Treatment; Ethical Issues in Clinical Psychology.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Lee, C. M. & Hunsley, J. (2018). Introduction to clinical psychology : an evidence-based approach (Fourth edition.). Wiley.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Barlow, D. H., Harris, B. A., Eustis, E. H., & Farchione, T. J. (2020). The unified protocol for transdiagnostic treatment of emotional disorders. <i>World Psychiatry</i> , 19(2), 245.
2	Routledge, C. H. (2015). Ethical standards in clinical psychology: maintaining integrity, record keeping and confidentiality. <i>Journal of Applied Psychology and Social Science</i> , 1(1), 15-27.
3	American Journal of Psychotherapy
4	Behaviour Research and Therapy
5	Clinical Psychological Science
6	Clinical Psychology Review
7	Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice
8	Cognitive Therapy and Research
9	Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology
10	Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science