



Chaminade University OF HONOLULU

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Masters of Science in Counseling Psychology

PSY-756 Foundations of Marriage and Family Therapy

Virtual Asynchronous

Credits: 3 Section: 03 Term: Spring, 2025

Class Meeting Dates (OPTIONAL):

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10
	Class Meeting 4/17/25 5:30-8:00pm (Optional)			Class Meeting 5/8/25 5:30-8:00pm (Optional)					Class Meeting 6/12/25 5:30-8:00pm (Optional)

Instructor Information



Instructor: Colin Moore, MS, LMFT
Email: colin.moore@chaminade.edu
Phone: (808) 650-7474
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00 am to 12:00 pm or by appointment

Communication

Primary communication method is email and I will respond between 24 to 48 hours.

School & Department Information

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Office Location: Behavioral Science, 118

Phone: (808) 739-4652

If you have questions regarding the MSCP program, reach out to your Instructor or the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Course Description & Materials

Catalog Course Description

A basic introduction to the history, development and theories of the field of family therapy. Focus is on the major theoretical models of family therapy, their similarities and differences, and conceptual foundations. Students will develop a basic understanding of family therapy concepts as applied in clinical practice, and begin to formulate their own personal framework through integration across theoretical models. Coursework will also review current issues and sample recent developments in family therapy. Prerequisites: PSY 521, 601

Time Allocation

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in a minimum of 45 hours of engagement, regardless of varying credits, duration, modality, or degree level. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester. Terms that have alternative lengths, such as 10-week terms, should have an equivalent amount of faculty instruction and out-of-class student work to meet each credit hour. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in a total student engagement time of 45 hours for one credit. The number of engagement hours may be higher, as needed to meet specific learning outcomes.

Masters students are expected to perform work of higher quality and quantity, however typically a minimum of forty-five hours of student engagement for each student credit hour is required, although instructors may require roughly a third more work than this minimum undergraduate credit hour requirement. Therefore, a 3-credit masters+ course would typically require engagement of approximately 135 hours for the average student for whom the course is designed. The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

Number of hours per class activity:

Educational activity	Expected hours of Student Engagement:	Details (if any):
Course attendance/Lecture	5	Synchronous class meetings
Assigned readings	55	

Discussions	20	
Written assignments	30	
Preparing for Final Paper & Presentation	25	
Total	135	

Required Materials

Nichols, M.P. and Davis, S.D. (2020). Family Therapy Concepts and Methods. (12th Edition). Hoboken, NJ: Pearson (ISBN: 978-0135843062).

It is imperative that students keep all syllabi from all courses taken while in the MSCP program to facilitate the application process for licensing, certification, doctorate school application, etc.

Canvas (<https://chaminade.instructure.com>)

Canvas will be used as the primary learning management system for this course. The course content will be posted on Canvas, where students will be able to access the syllabus, any additional readings, assignments, quizzes, and announcements.

Hardware Requirements: Canvas is accessible from both PC and Mac computers with a reliable internet connection. You will also need to be able to access audio and video files.

Subsequently, you should have access to speakers or headphones that allow you to hear the audio.

Software Requirements: You will need to have some ability to listen to audio in an mp3 format, watch videos in mp4 format, stream online videos, and read .pdf files. There are a number of free software online that can be downloaded for free. If you need assistance with locating software please feel free to contact me or Chaminade Help Desk at helpdesk@chaminade.edu or (808) 735-4855.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Upon completion this MSCP, the student will be able to:

1. Identify core counseling theories, principles, concepts, techniques and facts.
2. Identify counseling theories, principles, concepts, techniques and facts in (Mental Health, Marriage/Family or School) counseling. (the specific emphasis would be stated for each of the emphasis areas)
3. Facilitate the counseling process with clients.
4. Identify the relationship between adaptation and change and the counseling process.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Student who successful complete this course will:

1. Identify the historical development of family therapy and foundational models and be able to apply them conceptually and clinically (PLO1) The various models that will be covered in this class are:
 - General Systems
 - Communication
 - Cybernetics
 - Transgenerational
 - Satir
 - Structural
 - Experiential
 - Solution Focused
 - Narrative
2. Develop a beginning understanding of family process, family development, and lifecycle perspectives that contribute to family functioning (PLO2)
3. Assess the impact that social context has on families and individuals and the impact of family systems on individuals that makes family intervention pertinent and applicable (PLO3)
4. Apply selected theoretical principles and intervention strategies related to several family therapy models (including foundational and postmodern approaches) (PLO1)
5. Explore and gain an understanding of family-of-origin and self of the therapist issues pertinent to one's development as a counselor or therapist (PLO2)

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation.
5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Olelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 364) May I live by God.
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na‘auao) Lawe i ka ma‘alea a kū‘ono‘ono (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep.
3. Educate in Family Spirit (‘Ohana) ‘Ike aku, ‘ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana ‘ohana (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no‘eau (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) ‘A‘ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho‘okahi (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4	CLO 5
Marianist Values	2	3	4	1	5
PLOs	1	2	3	1	2
Native Hawaiian Values	2	3	4	1	5

Course Activities

Course Learning Outcomes(CLO)	Assessment & Description	Contribution (%) to Final Grade
1. Identify core counseling theories, principles, concepts, techniques and facts. (PLO1)	Attendance & Participation Attendance and participation in class is optional, though can offer opportunity to gain insight through discussion into the material as well as opportunities for questions. If you would like to attend, please login to class on-time and having completed the assigned readings prior to arrival. For each class, we will focus on engaging with the course content (which is observed by discussing the theory, asking and answering questions, taking notes, not being distracted or distracting others).	0%
	Online Class Discussions There will be online discussions on material related to the theories covered in this course. Please log in each week and make sure to engage in meaningful discussion with your peers to deepen your understanding and application of the theories. Your initial post is due Thursday and your response to your peers are due on Sunday.	20%

2. Identify core counseling theories, principles, concepts, techniques and facts. (PLO1)	<i>Assumptions & Applications Assignments</i> Students will write 8 A&A papers. The A&A paper is a 2+ page paper (double-spaced, 12pt font) answering specific questions about the assumptions and applications of the 8 advanced models covered in this class. The length of this assignment is specific to ensure that each of the facets of the theory is discussed sufficiently.	40%
3. Identify counseling theories, principles, concepts, techniques and facts in (Mental Health, Marriage/Family or School) counseling. (the specific emphasis would be stated for each of the emphasis areas) (PLO2)	<i>Assumptions & Applications Assignments (See above)</i>	-
4. Identify core counseling theories, principles, concepts, techniques and facts. (PLO1)	<i>Final Integrative Model Paper</i> Students will write a 8 page paper examining the application of one theory covered over the course of the term. The model you choose to write about should be because you feel aligned with those models core assumptions about change. This paper is aimed at exploring your emerging therapeutic style and how you envision change in therapy. You may choose among one of the 8 theories that you wrote about in the A&A papers (e.g. Structural Family Therapy, Bowen/Intergenerational Theory, Experiential-Satir/Whitaker, Strategic Family Therapy, Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy, SFBT, Narrative Family Therapy). You will identify ways the theories 1) resonate with you personally, with a review of the philosophical underpinnings, 2) what evidence or literature exists attending to the theories, and 3) how you conceptualize your work with clients (with a focus on diversity and inclusion) utilizing your selected model/theory. Students will need to cite (in APA format) a minimum 10 original academic sources for the model chosen (must be academic articles and/or books—online web and wiki pages will not count toward this total). Rubric will be provided on Canvas. Papers will need to be in APA-format, which includes 12-pt serif font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, using appropriate level headings, correct in-text citations and corresponding reference on Reference page, and the paper should be written in a formal academic tone which means a focused and well-structured paper, no baseless claims and assumptions, correct credit provided to originators of ideas, theories, or findings, no use of hyperbole, and avoiding first-person language.	40%

Course Policies

Attendance

Since this is a graduate course requiring students to engage fully, it is important to attend every class. You are responsible to inform the instructor prior to the start of class should an emergency prevent you from attending.

Please note that regardless of reason, more than one (1) missed class will result in a failing grade.

If you miss more than one class, you will be given a "C" and you must retake the class.

(Graduate programs policy) In addition, instructors have the option to penalize for tardiness or leaving early.

Late Work

Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized 10% of the grade earned per day late. Unexcused absences on exam days and in-class assignments cannot be made up and will result in a score of zero (0) for the exam or assignment. Students must provide documented evidence of an approved excused absence.

Changes to the Syllabus

While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, your instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein at any time. Every effort will be made to keep you advised of such changes, and information about such changes will be available from your instructor.

Grades of Incomplete

Incomplete grades are not automatically issued without prior correspondence with the instructor. An Incomplete grade may be provided to a student when most of the course requirements have been completed and the remaining assignments was not able to be submitted due to extenuating circumstances. With early correspondence, a valid reason, and submitted documentation, the instructor may grant an incomplete.

Final Grades

Final grades are submitted to [Self-Service](#):

A = 90% and above

B = 80-89%

C = Fail and will need to retake the course

MSCP Program Information

ACA 2014 Code of Ethics

Section C: Professional Responsibility Introduction ... counselors engage in self-care activities to maintain and promote their own emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being to best meet their professional responsibilities.

C.2.g: Impairment

Counselors monitor themselves for signs of impairment from their own physical, mental, or emotional problems and refrain from offering or providing professional services when impaired. They seek assistance for problems that reach the level of professional impairment, and, if necessary, they limit, suspend, or terminate their professional responsibilities until it is determined that they may safely resume their work. Counselors assist colleagues or supervisors in recognizing their own professional impairment and provide consultation and assistance when warranted with colleagues or supervisors showing signs of impairment and intervene as appropriate to prevent imminent harm to clients.

<https://www.counseling.org/Resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf>

Expectations for online classes

If any or all of your class meetings are held online, these are the expectations:

1. Please find a space to log in on your video conferencing enables device, that is quiet and private, preferably within a room with the door closed. Often classroom discussions involve private or confidential information such as when discussing examples of client cases or consulting on real clients, and thus the need for privacy.
2. While in class, you should have your video turned on and be muted to minimize background noise unless you are speaking, asking or answering questions. At different times during the class such as during discussions (before or after the lecture), role-plays, presentations, and when you are engaging with peers and the instructor, the instructor and your classmates should be able to see and hear you.

Writing Policy

All papers should be written in APA format unless stated otherwise. APA format includes 1-inch margins, double-spaced, 12-point serif font, in-text citations, and a reference page. Please refer to the syllabus for paper submissions, over Canvas or hard copy/printed in class.

Plagiarism

Any submitted assignments containing a portion of someone else's work i.e. full sentences, sections, or paragraphs that are copied verbatim AND is not cited and referenced correctly, is plagiarism. Students will automatically receive a grade of 0 for that assignment and possible department and college-level consequences.

Any assignment content composed by any resource other than you, regardless of whether that resource is human or digital, must be attributed to the source through proper citation.

Unattributed use of online learning support platforms and unauthorized sharing of instructional property are forms of scholastic dishonesty and will be treated as such.

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, and online assignment help tools, such as Chegg®, are examples of online learning support platforms: they can not be used for course assignments except as explicitly authorized by the instructor. The following actions are prohibited in this course:

- Incorporating any part of an AI generated response in an assignment or online discussion
- Using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for assignments
- Using AI to summarize or contextualize source materials
- Submitting your own work for this class to an online learning support platform for iteration or improvement
- Using AI programs to input quiz/exam questions to retrieve answers to be submitted
- If you are in doubt as to whether you are using an online learning support platform appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me. You are prohibited from using generative AI to write any part of the Final Theory paper in this course. The consequences may be and are not limited to a zero grade for the Final paper, possible failing grade for the course, and notification to the program/university.

General expectations and requirements

Students are expected to:

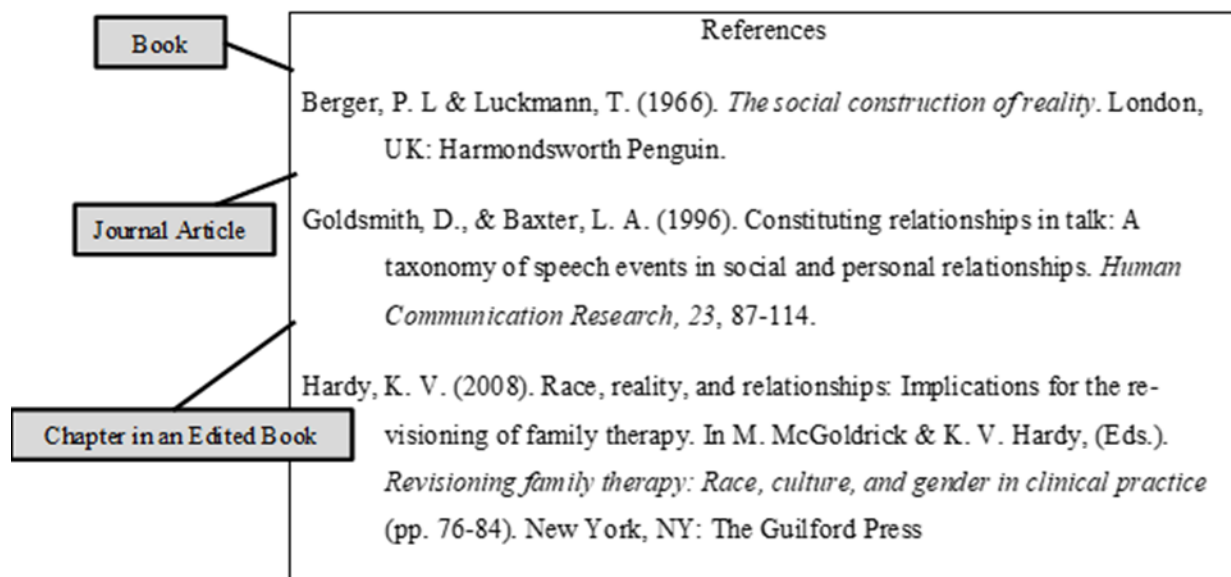
1. Attend class consistently and punctually. If you know you are going to be absent, please inform the instructor at your earliest opportunity. You are responsible for obtaining all material when you miss a class. Missing class time will have a negative effect on your learning and likely your grade.
2. Complete assigned readings prior to the date of discussion in class and be prepared to participate respectfully in class discussions with questions and comments from the readings, the information presented in class, and your own ideas.
3. Complete assignments by the beginning of class on the date they are due. All assignments must follow the writing policy.
4. At the graduate level, learning is primarily student-generated and is supplemented by course instruction. Therefore, the responsibility rests upon the student to master the material.

Readings

The readings have been intentionally selected to contribute substantive material to the course. That is, the readings are not supplemental to the course, they are central. Therefore, prior to each class, significant preparation and reading is necessary. Please be able to access the readings when you are in class.

Citations and References

- Please cite a source every time you copy a phrase, quote, or paraphrase someone else's words. If you use someone's words verbatim, you will have to use quotation marks and in parenthesis note the author's last name, year of publication, and the page from which you took the quote.
- Example of how to cite a direct quote:
- Past research has indicated that "becoming parents heightens couples' awareness of their identity intersections and they turn towards mutually supporting each other" (Hawkins, 2016, p. 121).
- If you paraphrase or just report on what you've read of someone's publication, use the parentheses but omit the page number.
- Example of how to cite a direct quote:
- There is evidence that couples become more aware of their identity, such as race and religion after becoming parents (Hawkins, 2016).
- Always use the (Author, Year) format. Please refer to APA formatting requirements in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition.
- The Purdue website can also be helpful:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- Your last page will be the Reference page, listing your full source/references.
- Examples of references in APA format:



Important Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an “F” grade for the work in question, an “F” grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website](#). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).

The University’s Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at:

<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua 'Ike's](#) website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply

click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings & Tasks	Assignments DUE
Week 1	Cybernetics and General Systems	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 2, pg 24-38	Discussion 1 Due 4/10
Week 2	Bowenian Family Systems Theory	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 4, pg 59-78	Assumptions & Applications Assignment 1
Week 3	Strategic family therapy MRI and Milan systemic family	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 5, pg 79-98	Assumptions & Applications Assignment 2 Discussion 2 Due 4/24
Week 4	Structural family therapy	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 6, pg 100-116	Assumptions & Applications Assignment 3
Week 5	Experiential models: • Human validation process model • Symbolic experiential therapy	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 7, pg 117-132	Assumptions & Applications Assignment 4 Discussion 3 Due 5/8
Week 6	Cognitive behavioral family therapy • Functional family therapy • Rational emotive family therapy	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 9, pg 149-168	Assumptions & Applications Assignment 5
Week 7	Solution-focused therapy	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 12, pg 199-216	Assumptions & Applications Assignment 6 Discussion 4 Due 5/22
Week 8	Narrative therapy	Nichols & Davis (2020) Ch. 13, pg 217-232	Assumptions & Applications Assignment 7
Week 9	Review and Discuss Final Paper & Presentations		Assumptions & Applications Assignment 8 Discussion 5 Due 6/5
Week 10			Final Paper & Presentations

Instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule based on class needs and dynamics of current events.