Instructor:  
David L. Foster, DMin, LMFT, LPC, NCC  
Office: 662-328-5704 ext. 147  
Email: dfoster@palmerhome.org  
Mailing address: Dr. David Foster  
Palmer Home for Children  
P.O. Box 746  
Columbus, MS 39703

Course Description:  
This course presents a theoretical and practical study of crisis situations in individual, family, and community life. [STD 102.01] Basic theoretical models will be introduced and compared. Additional emphases include assessment, intervention, and an introduction to community resources. [STD 10.02, 102.01, 102.02] A variety of specific crisis topics will also be examined from a macro-systemic perspective including: divorce, child abuse, chemical dependency, mental illness, death, rape, disaster, unemployment, war and others. [STD 102.02]

Objectives:  
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should:

- Be equipped with theories and models of crisis intervention to be applied in a broad spectrum of clinical settings
- Be knowledgeable of major issues of specialized crisis situations both developmental and situational [STD 102.02]
- Develop a theological framework for intervening in and understanding crisis situations
- Know how to assess the severity of various crisis situations and intervene according to need [STD 102.03]

Topics that may be addressed include but are not limited to:

- Crisis definition & examples [STD 102.03]
- Models of crises
- Developmental crisis vs. situational crisis
- Current controversies in crisis intervention theory and research
- Phases of crises
- Crisis intervention vs psychotherapy
- Psychological First Aid
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Acute Stress Disorder
- Dangers for therapists: ethical issues, secondary PTSD, vicarious trauma, etc. [STD 104.02]
Texts:

**Required**  

**Recommended**  
These volumes provide excellent systemic analyses of developmental and catastrophic crisis events as they intersect family life

**Supplemental References**  
Supplemental readings will be provided by the instructor in the class.

Requirements:  
- Due to the concentrated nature of this course class attendance and active participation is mandatory. Please be on time.

- Pre-course assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on January 13. The pre-course assignment consists of a 5 page reflective paper based on interviews with: (1) a therapist who works in a community mental health center, (2) a therapist who works in a private practice setting, and (3) a pastor. The MFT Department will schedule the interviews in a group setting. Notification of time and place will be given to all students.  
The interviews should include these questions: (1) What have been the most common crisis counseling situations you have encountered? (2) To what extent did your graduate school training equip you to deal with those cases? (3) In what specific areas do you wish you had received more training? (4) To whom do you refer crisis cases you believe are beyond the scope of your training and competency? (5) What have you done to manage the stress associated with crisis counseling?   
Conclude the paper with any comparisons or contrasts you observed among the respondents. Be prepared to share your findings with the class. . [1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.2.3, 1.3.3, 2.2.5, 2.3.5, 2.3.8, 2.4.1, 3.1.1, 3.4.3, 4.1.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.4, 5.3.4]

- Post-course assignments are to be mailed to the instructor by January 31. The post-course assignment is a 10 page paper on a crisis intervention topic of your choice but should include both texts as references. It should include at least 5 references from professional literature (books, journal articles, etc.). The paper should include these elements: (1) the prevalence of the problem, (2) how to assess for the problem, (3) standards of practice/treatment protocols for the problem, (4) helpful resources and referral agencies related to this issue.

- Grades will be determined as follows: class attendance and participation mandatory in order to pass course, pre-course assignment (50%), post-course assignment (50%). [COMP 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.2.3, 2.2.5, 2.3.5, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 3.1.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.6, 3.4.3, 4.1.1]
Grading Scale:

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