

**FRAN 6080 Special Topics in Couple and Family Therapy:
Power Relations and Diversity in Therapy**

Course Outline (Fall 2012-Winter 2013)*

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Office Hours	By appointment
Class Times	8:30 – 11: 20 am October 1, October 29, November 19 (times for Winter term TBA)

Course Description

This course provides a foundational review of how selected perspectives within the current couple and family therapy (CFT) literature address relationships between culture, privilege and oppression. Culture is defined broadly to include socially constructed dimensions of human diversity (race, social class, ethnicity, gender, disability, etc). The intersection of these various social locations is a major analytic focus for understanding power relations in any particular context. The complexities and contradictions of related discourses in the literature are addressed. Throughout the course participants will engage in critical reflection on their personal experience, values and positioning with respect to diversity and power relations. Attention is given to the translation of knowledge about power relations and about diversity discourses into practice when working as a therapist with clients, and as a colleague with other professionals.

This foundational course which highlights issues of power and diversity more generally is designed to complement others in the CFT area curriculum that provide more detail regarding how specific socially constructed dimensions of diversity (e.g., race, social class, gender, sexual orientation, disability) relate to structural inequalities, family dynamics and the therapy process.

***Format**

FRAN 6080 is offered in a unique format that requires ongoing student participation over a two-year period. There are a total of 12 seminars. These include three seminars in fall term and three in the winter term of the student's first academic year in the CFT Program, followed by the same pattern in the second year.

The rationale for this two-year, four-term format is to maintain a focus on issues of power relations and diversity throughout each person's training in the CFT Program. Different topics are covered over this two-year period. At the same time some on-going themes related to the course objectives will be pursued. As the course unfolds participants will expand their initial understanding of these themes through dialogue enriched by the new voices of the entering cohort of students.

Registration

Students register for the course at the beginning of the winter term in the second year: January 2013 for students entering Fall 2011 and January 2014 for students entering in Fall 2012.

Relationship of FRAN*6080 to CFT Program Expected Student Learning Outcomes [ESLO] and AAMFT Competencies

This course is designed to promote students' learning with respect to ESLO and AAMFT Competencies selected from a longer CFT Program list. The ESLO and AAMFT Competencies specific to FRAN*6080 are provided below. For a complete listing of Educational Goals [EG], Expected Student Learning Outcomes, and AAMFT Competencies, see the *CFT Program Student Orientation Manual*. The

relationship of the particular ESLO that have been designated for FRAN*6080 to Course Objectives and to Required Activities/Projects is indicated in those sections of this outline (see below). The learning outcomes and competencies designated for FRAN*6080 will also be evaluated in other CFT Program courses.

Course Objectives

(See next section for description of each ESLO)

1. To expand knowledge of foundational perspectives on power relations and diversity in therapy. These will include liberal-humanist, structural, and critical post-structural perspectives. [ESLO 4a, ESLO 4b, ESLO 4c]
2. To increase understanding of the construction of multiple and fluid identities and the implications for therapy practice [ESLO 4c].
3. To be attuned, as far as possible, to people’s experience of subjugation and recognize the impact of structural inequalities, marginalization and oppression on family interaction and on the process of therapy. [ESLO 4b, ESLO 4c]
4. To develop ability to reflexively and critically analyze power relations in interactions at the micro-level, including those interactions in which one is a participant. [ESLO 4b]
5. To practice engaging in generative dialogues with others regarding power relations and diversity, including exploring and addressing these topics with those seeking therapy and those providing therapy services. [ESLO 4d]
6. To critically review one’s preferred professional identity (values, intentions, personal ethics) with respect to how this identity reflects one’s understandings about power relations and diversity, including those understandings that relate to the legacy of one’s personal history and those that are related to more recent experiences. [ESLO 4a]
7. To translate all of the above knowledge and understanding into professional practice that promotes social justice and accountability.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes [ESLO] and AAMFT Competencies

The CFT Program Educational Goal that is most thoroughly addressed in this course is:

Educational Goal 4: Social Context and Power Relations. Students will integrate a sophisticated sensitivity to diversity into their professional identity as a couple and family therapist, privileging attention to social location/socio-cultural context and including an understanding of social justice issues and awareness of how direct and systemic marginalization, discrimination, and abuse may impact people’s everyday lives.

What follows are a listing of the four specific ESLO that relate to Educational Goal 4, an indication of how they are incorporated into this course, and the four projects that will be used for their assessment. See section on Projects in this Outline for brief descriptions. For each of the four projects guidelines will be provided that indicate how ESLO will be assessed.

Expected Student Learning Outcome [ESLO]	Incorporation and Assessment
4a. Students will critically analyze how their social location, values and beliefs shape their professional identity.	Incorporated through course readings and in-class participation. Assessment: Projects #1, #2, #4

4b. Students will develop abilities to critically and reflexively analyze power relations of a given situation and/or embedded in the construction of knowledge, including attention to one's own participation in these processes.	Incorporated through course readings and in-class participation. Assessment: Projects #1, #2, #3, #4
4c. Students will demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to multi-dimensional aspects of diversity in the everyday lives of clients, including an ability to explore and articulate with clients the pertinence of potential social location issues on their experience of current concerns for therapy.	Incorporated through course readings and in-class participation. Assessment: Projects #1, #2, #3
4d. Students will learn strategies to explore and address issues of diversity, marginalization, discrimination, and abuse in therapy with clients.	Incorporated through course readings and in-class participation. Assessment: Projects #1, #2, #3, #4

What follows is a listing of the AAMFT Core Competencies (CC) that have been designated for FRAN*6080. Knowledge related to each designated AAMFT competency will be demonstrated by participation in seminar discussions. Where relevant the graded Project that relates to the competency is indicated.

AAMFT CC #	Sub-domain	Competency	Demonstration of Knowledge (beyond participation in seminar discussions)
1.1.3	Conceptual	Understand the behavioral health care delivery system, its impact on the services provided and the barriers and disparities in the system.	Project #3
1.2.1	Perceptual	Recognize contextual and systemic dynamics (e.g., gender, age, socioeconomic status, culture/race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, spirituality, religion, larger systems, social context).	Project #1, #2, #3, #4
1.3.1	Executive	Gather and review intake information, giving balanced attention to individual, family, community, cultural, and contextual factors.	
1.3.6	Executive	Establish and maintain appropriate and productive therapeutic alliances with the clients.	
1.3.7	Executive	Solicit and use client feedback throughout the therapeutic process.	
2.1.6	Conceptual	Assess family history and dynamics using a genogram or other assessment instruments.	Project #2
3.4.5	Professional	Monitor personal reactions to clients and treatment process, especially in terms of therapeutic behavior, relationship with clients, process for explaining procedures, and outcomes.	
4.3.2	Executive	Deliver interventions in a way that is sensitive to special needs of clients (e.g., gender, age, socioeconomic status, culture/race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, personal history, larger systems issues of the client).	Project #2, #4
5.2.2	Perceptual	Recognize ethical dilemmas in practice setting.	
5.3.5	Executive	Take appropriate action when ethical and legal dilemmas emerge.	
5.4.1	Evaluative	Evaluate activities related to ethics, legal issues, and practice standards.	

5.4.2	Evaluative	Monitor attitudes, personal well being, personal issues, and personal problems to insure they do not impact the therapy process adversely or create vulnerability for misconduct.	Project #1, #2
6.1.1	Conceptual	Know the extant MFT literature, research, and evidence-based practice.	
6.3.1	Executive	Read current MFT and other professional literature.	
6.3.3	Executive	Critique professional research and assess the quality of research studies and program evaluation in the literature.	
6.4.1	Evaluative	Evaluate knowledge of current clinical literature and its application.	

Pedagogical Approach

My intention as course instructor is to promote and support a *learning community* in which class members (instructor and course participants) contribute positively to each other's development. A core assumption is that generative dialogue among community members is an important avenue for learning that is related to diversity and power relations. Such a dialogue requires attention to creating an environment that supports ongoing trust and willingness to repair any breaches of trust. In the first seminar of each academic year the class members will jointly create a vision of what constitutes this learning community, and the guidelines for practice that are relevant to that vision. At any other point during the course the instructor or a course participant can request a review of the vision and practices. Everyone will share responsibility for creating the learning community; as instructor I will have added responsibility to promote learning for each student in the course while taking into consideration the needs of the entire group.

The design of this course is based on the idea that understanding the experience of others with respect to marginalization, privilege and culture and working with them therapeutically is enhanced by exploring one's own experiences. The nature and extent of this exploration will be discussed in the first seminar of each academic year and re-visited at other points in time. Grades for the course will not be contingent on students disclosing specific personal information. Rather the focus is on the ability to reflect upon and analyze one's own experiences and relate these to therapy practice.

Required Activities (throughout the two years of the course)

Reading of Written Texts and Viewing of Audio-visual Texts.

Participants are expected to actively engage with the texts that have been selected for this course. Active engagement involves reading and viewing from the perspective of both head and heart; i.e., taking a "heartfelt thinking" point of view. Participants are also expected to take a "critical" perspective when reading and viewing texts. *Guidelines for Critical Reading* will be provided. The intentions of this activity are: (a) to expand knowledge of foundational discourses in CFT that address power relations/diversity; (b) to increase knowledge of research literature; and (c) to have conceptual frameworks that can be transformed into actual practice, and then reflected upon.

In-class Participation.

Participants are expected to come to seminar meetings well prepared and ready to bring the results of their active engagement with the written and audio-visual texts into the seminar dialogue. Some comments that reflect a critical reading of the texts are expected. The intentions of the in-class dialogue are: (a) to practice voicing one's knowledge and perspective regarding power relations and diversity with colleagues in a way that supports generative dialogue for everyone involved; and (b) to practice responding to others with generosity, respect for difference and accountability for the effects.

Participants are also expected to actively engage in structured seminar activities that may include: role-playing, interview practice, reflecting teamwork, etc. The intention of these activities is to provide opportunities to put into action the ideas that emerge from the reading and discussion of texts.

Course Projects (Fall 2011 – Winter 2012)

NOTE: The second year students have already completed the Fall 2011-Winter 2012 Course Projects. They are included below for information only. First year students will be completing these or similar projects in the Fall 2013 and Winter 2014 terms.

Project #1: “E-dialogues” (Fall 2011).

Groups of two or more students will engage in two separate email exchanges, one early on and one closer to the end of the term. Each student will provide at least 3 posts for each of the two dialogues. The instructor will provide specific topics for each of these dialogues. Reading, viewing videos, or engaging in an experiential activity may be required prior to beginning the dialogue. *Guidelines for the “E-dialogues” Project* will be provided.

Project #2: “Genogram and Professional Identity” (Winter 2012).

This project will involve both in-class interaction with colleagues and time outside of the class. It has four components: (1) Creating one’s own cultural genogram; a process that involves exploration and analysis of power relations/diversity across generations in one’s family. There will be opportunities in class to discuss this process with colleagues. (2) Connecting one’s genogram exploration to three different perspectives in the CFT field regarding power relations and diversity. (3) Developing a written document outlines a Statement of Intentions for incorporating analysis of power relations and diversity into one’s professional identity and practice with clients and colleagues. (4) Providing reflections on the intentions and some relevant practice examples using either videotaped interview or written format. The course instructor will evaluate only the work related to components (3) and (4). *Guidelines for the “Genogram and Professional Identity” Project* will be provided.

Course Projects (Fall 2012 – Winter 2013)

Project #3: “Dialogue with Practicing CFT” (Fall 2012).

This project involves two or three students (mix of first and second year) meeting together with a couple and family therapist who is practicing in the community to dialogue about power relations and diversity issues in their professional work. The instructor will provide connections between students and the practicing therapist. The project has three components: (1) Creating a set of questions, prior to the meeting, that will help to initiate and focus the dialogue with the practicing CFT. (2) Actively participating in the dialogue. (3) Dialogue with course instructor regarding the meeting with the practicing CFT. (4) Brief paper regarding analysis of power relations. *Guidelines for the “Dialogue with Practicing CFT” Project* will be provided.

NOTE: Students may propose an alternative project that meets the same intentions as those indicated in the project Guidelines. If pursuing this option the student is required to meet with the instructor prior to October 15th to discuss the alternative project and come to an agreement about what it will entail.

Project #4: “Presentation of Initiatives” Project (Winter 2013). SECOND YEAR STUDENTS ONLY.

This project has three components: (1) Revising and updating the Statement of Intentions document that was developed in Winter 2012 as part of Project #2 noted above. (2) Selecting two instances where, in the student’s judgment, s/he has taken initiative to practice congruently with her/his professional identity intentions. (3) Presenting a verbal account of these two instances in a course seminar. One week prior to their seminar presentation each student will meet with the instructor to review the accounts they plan to provide. Students will submit their updated Statement of Intentions and brief reflective comments to the instructor after the in-seminar presentation. *Guidelines for the “Presentation of Initiatives” Project* will be provided.

NOTE: Students may propose an alternative project that meets the same intentions as indicated in the Guidelines for Project #4. They could make a different kind of presentation or they could engage in a project that does not involve a presentation. If pursuing this option the student is required to meet with

the instructor prior to January 15th to discuss the alternative project and come to an agreement about what it will entail.

Project #4. FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY: Project to be developed. (Winter 2013).

Required Activities, Graded Course Projects, ESLO, Distribution of Grade, and Due Dates

Activity/Project	Links to ESLOs	% of Grade	Due Date
ON-GOING ENGAGEMENT OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD OF COURSE			
Critical reading of written texts and viewing of audio-visual texts	4a, 4b, 4c, 4d	N.A.	Ongoing
In-class dialogue and activities	4a, 4b, 4c, 4d	N.A.	Ongoing
FALL 2011- WINTER 2012 PROJECTS			
1. "E-dialogues" (Participation in two email dialogues by providing 3 posts for each)	4a, 4b, 4c, 4d	20 % (10 % each one)	Before last week of Fall term 2011
2. "Genogram and Professional Identity" (One page of Identity Intentions and either an interview or approx. 8 pages typed, double-spaced analysis & reflection)	4a, 4b, 4c, 4d	30 %	Before last week of Winter term 2012
FALL 2012-WINTER 2013 PROJECTS			
3. "Dialogue with Practicing CFT" (Development of questions; 60-90 minute meeting with practicing CFT; meeting with instructor; 3-5 page analysis of power)	4b, 4c, 4d	30 %	Before December 5, 2012
4. SECOND YEAR STUDENTS: "Presentation of Initiatives" (15 minute seminar presentation; 1-2 pages of revised Professional Identity Intentions; 1-2 pages of reflections) FIRST YEAR STUDENTS: [Project to be developed.]	4a, 4b, 4d	20 %	Sign up for one of three seminars in Winter term 2013 TBA

Evaluation of Student's Work

The Instructor will grade work on each of the four projects based on criteria that relate to the Course Objectives and the relevant ESLO. These criteria will be provided in the "guidelines" document for each of the projects.

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY: The instructor will evaluate how well the student's project work demonstrates the ESLO related to each project (grade for each ESLO = satisfactory or unsatisfactory).

Course/Instructor Feedback on and Evaluation of Instructor's Work

Students are invited to question the instructor and to provide evaluative comments at any point by arranging a time to meet or a phone conversation. They will have an opportunity to provide written informal and anonymous course/instructor evaluation at the end of each or the two fall terms. Formal evaluation of the course and the instructor's work will take place at the end of the winter term of the

second academic year the student has participated in the course. The formal evaluation includes both FRAN Department evaluations and CFT Program evaluations that relate to Expected Student Learning Outcomes and AAMFT Core Competencies designated for this course.

Submission of Written Components for Projects

Students are asked to submit written components of projects as attachments using email. The instructor will confirm receipt of the emailed document. Students are expected to keep a copy of each written document they submit.

Late Project Submissions

The instructor will not accept late project submissions unless the student requests special consideration and this is negotiated in advance of the project due date. Appropriate documentation of the reason for inability to meet specific course requirements may be required.

Absences and Seminar Participation

The course design emphasizes collaborative learning among participants. The involvement of each person in the learning community is highly valued. In the unlikely event that a class member is unable to participate, or knows in advance that they will be late, they are expected to leave a message on the instructor’s phone mail (1-519-546-5315) prior to the class. Do not leave a message using email. If a class member has to leave early, s/he is expected to let the instructor know in advance of the seminar meeting.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Graduate Calendar: www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies/calendar/genreg.

Fall 2012 Schedule of Course Topics and Texts (Written and Audio-visual)

Date	In-Class Topics and Activities	Required Texts
Oct. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visioning a learning community and creating guidelines for practice • Review of Course Outline • Stereotypes, identities, and intersectionality • Interviewing about family identities 	<p>A set of three linked journal articles to be read in sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone, E., et al (2005). Transnationalism as a motif in family stories. <i>Family Process</i>, 44(4), 381-398. • Falicov, C. J. (2005). Emotional transnationalism and family identities. <i>Family Process</i>, 44(4) 399-406. • Roberts, J. Migrating across literature, stories, and family therapy. <i>Family Process</i>, 44(4), 407-412

Oct. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining oppression, privilege and marginalization, subjugated identities • Identifying dominant discourses • The effects of oppression on couple/family relationships • Therapist engaging in attunement to difference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardy, K. V., & Laszloffy, T. A. (2002). Couple therapy using a multicultural perspective. In A. Gurman & N. S. Jacobson (eds.), <i>Clinical handbook of couple therapy</i> (3rd ed., pp. 569-596). • Killian, K. (2002). Dominant and marginalized discourses in interracial couple's narratives. Implications for family therapists. <i>Family Process</i>, 41(4), 603-616.
Nov. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resistance in the Post colonial system of relationships • Reclaiming "lost" identities • Therapist: locating self and disclosing positionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short documentaries available on web • Wade, A. (1997). Small acts of living: Everyday resistance to violence and other forms of oppression. <i>Journal of Contemporary Family Therapy</i>, 19, 23-39. • Watt-Jones, t. D. (2010). Location of self: Opening the door to dialogue on intersectionality in the therapy process. <i>Family Process</i>, 49(3), 405-420.

Winter 2013 Schedule of Course Topics and Texts (Written and Audio-visual)

To be provided prior to beginning of Winter term