

**PSYCHOLOGY 381: Psychology of Interviewing  
Fall 2016 – 3 credit hours (CRN: 29069)**

**Class Meetings:** Tues & Thurs 2:00-3:15pm in BSB 2019

**Instructor:** Julia Kim-Cohen, PhD

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\*Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00-1:00pm (by appointment)

**Teaching Assistant:** Rachel Ranney

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Office: XXXXXXX

\*Office hours: XXXXXXX

\*Office Hours are by appointment only. We are happy to meet with you during the times listed above, but you must email us first to schedule an appointment.

**Prerequisites:** To be enrolled in and receive credit for PSCH381, you must be a Psychology major who has earned a C or better in PSCH242 (Research Methods) and either PSCH210 (Personality), PSCH231 (Community), or PSCH312 (Social).

**Course objectives:** This course has two related goals. The first is for students to develop a knowledge base about major theories and research that inform clinical interviewing. The second is for students to develop interview skills through practice interviews with each other and with community volunteers.

**Class Format:** Lectures, discussion, role-plays, and video. In order to have plenty of time in class for role plays, several lectures will be recorded in animated Powerpoint format and uploaded on the course Blackboard. You are required to watch the videos before class and will be quizzed on the lecture material. In the second half of the semester, we will spend the bulk of our time preparing for practice interviews, conducting interviews, and supervision.

**Textbook (Required):** *Clinical Interviewing, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* by John & Rita Sommers-Flanagan (Wiley). Available at the UIC bookstore and elsewhere. (4<sup>th</sup> Edition is fine; the accompanying DVD is not required.)

**Course Requirements & Grading:**

Final grades in this course will be given based on a **maximum total of 540 points:**

1. **PARTICIPATION (100 points):** This grade will be comprised of different scores – classroom attendance (3 points deducted per missed class, up to 30); Culture Presentation and role-play participation (20); showing up on time for ALL your practice interviews (15), your volunteers showing up on time to be interviewed for ALL interviews (15), and in-class quizzes based on assigned readings & pre-recorded lectures (20).
2. **JOURNAL ENTRIES (30 points):** Your journey toward becoming a clinician or professional often involves personal growth. You will be submit 6 brief (1-page) journal entries (each worth 5 points) reflecting on various topics discussed in class.

Journal entries may be submitted at any time, but 3 must be submitted before and 3 after the midterm exam. Handwritten journal entries are preferred, but typed entries will be accepted. Please bring hardcopies to class. We ask that you be open and reflective, **focusing on the learning process** you are experiencing.

3. **EXAMS (200 points):** The Midterm and Final exams are each worth 100 points. Details regarding the format of the exams will be provided in class.
4. **PRACTICE INTERVIEWS (60 points; 3 interviews, 20 points each):** Each student will interview 2 volunteer interviewees. The first volunteer will be interviewed once for a 45-minute session. The second volunteer will be interviewed over two 45-minute sessions, one week apart. The instructor and teaching assistant will observe interviews. Performance on each interview will be rated on a 20-point scale.
5. **WRITTEN INTERVIEW REPORT 1 (50 points):** You will write an abbreviated intake report on the first practice interview you conduct over one 45-minute session. This report will not include the mini-mental status exam.
6. **FINAL WRITTEN INTERVIEW REPORT (100 points):** You will write an intake report on the complete practice interview you conduct over two 45-minute sessions. This report will include results the mini-mental status exam.

Final grades will be determined by total points as follows:

- A: 486– 540
- B: 432 – 485
- C: 378 – 431
- D: 324 – 377
- F: less than 324

In the event of partial points, I will round up final grades if the decimal point is .5 or higher. If the decimal is anything lower than .5, I will round the final grade down (e.g., .499 is rounded down). Absolutely no exceptions will be made to these policies.

### **Policies & Procedures:**

- **Attendance policy:** Attendance in class is essential. Not only will attendance directly impact your participation grade, it will impact how much you learn and get out of the class. Your absence will also affect the experience of your classmates with whom you will do role plays, so please make every effort to attend. Attendance will be taken each day. Anyone who arrives more than 10 minutes late to class will be marked absent.
- **Class participation:** This course will consist of active discussion and multiple role plays. Students must read assigned material before class in order to be prepared. Students will also be expected to participate in the role plays, alternating as mock interviewer, interviewee, and observer.
- **Lecture slides:** PDF copies of lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard after each class. However, please keep in mind that lecture slides will not be an adequate substitute for attending class, paying attention, and taking notes.
- **Correspondence:** Students often ask how they should address me; you may address me as “Dr. Kim-Cohen” or “Professor Kim-Cohen.” I typically respond to student emails within 12 hours (a bit longer over weekends).

- **Electronic devices:** Laptops, tablets, smart phones, etc. are **not allowed in class**. Any violation of this policy will be considered unprofessional and will affect your grade & evaluation. Please come to class prepared to take notes by hand. A recent experiment showed that taking notes by hand resulted in better long-term learning compared to taking notes on a laptop (see: <http://bit.ly/1f7K7SY>)
- **Cheating & plagiarism: Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else's text or ideas in your writing without citing that person as a reference.** If a student is caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing on a paper, that student will automatically receive an F for the course and the appropriate authorities within the university will be notified. Please be sure to review the UIC Department of Student Judicial Affairs (<http://www.uic.edu/depts/sja/integrit.htm>) for more information about the violation of Academic Integrity and its consequences.
- **Writing support:** I encourage you to schedule an appointment for individual writing tutoring at the UIC Writing Center: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/>. It's free and anonymous; you will rarely have such an opportunity to get help with your writing after you graduate so take advantage of this great resource while you can.
- **Students with disabilities:** I would be happy to work with any student to make reasonable accommodations. Please contact the instructor during the first week of class to discuss arrangements. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the UIC Disability Resource Center (<http://drc.uic.edu/students/> (312) 413-2103 or [drc@uic.edu](mailto:drc@uic.edu)).

**Course Schedule**

**(Please note: changes to the schedule will be announced in class & on BB)**

Week	Date		Topic	Reading
1	AUG 23	Tues	Introduction, overview, syllabus	
	AGU 25	Thurs	Introduction to Clinical Interviewing; Foundations & Preparations	Ch. 1 & 2
2	AUG 30	Tues	Basic Attending, Listening, & Action Skills: Attending Behavior, Silence	Ch. 3
	SEPT 1	Thurs	Basic Attending, Listening, & Action Skills: Paraphrasing	Ch. 3
3	SEPT 6	Tues	Basic Attending, Listening, & Action Skills: Reflection of Feeling	Ch. 3
	SEPT 8	Thurs	Basic Attending, Listening, & Action Skills: Validation, Interpretation, Immediacy	Ch. 3
4	SEPT 13	Tues	Directives: Questions	Ch. 4
	SEPT 15	Thurs	Culture Presentations 1	TBA
5	SEPT 20	Tues	Culture Presentations 2	
	SEPT 22	Thurs	Directives: Giving Advice, Approval-Disapproval, & Self-disclosure	Ch. 4

6	SEPT 27	Tues	Culture Presentations 3	
	SEPT 29	Thurs	Evidence-based Relationships (Empathy)	Ch. 5
7	OCT 4	Tues	<b>Practice Practice Interview Day</b>	
	OCT 6	Thurs	Midterm Exam Review	
8	OCT 11	Tues	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
	OCT 13	Thurs	Intake Interview; prep for practice interviews	Ch. 7
9	OCT 18	Tues	<b>Practice Interviews 1 (no class)</b>	
	OCT 20	Thurs	<b>Practice Interviews 1 (no class)</b>	
10	OCT 25	Tues	Review first Practice Interviews; Report Writing	Ch. 7; Bring DVDs to class
	OCT 27	Thurs	Mental Status Exam 1	Ch. 8
	OCT 30	SUN	<b>Interview Report 1 DUE by 10PM</b>	
11	NOV 1	Tues	Mental Status Exam 2	Ch. 8
	NOV 3	Thurs	Suicide Assessment	Ch. 9
12	NOV 8	Tues	<b>Practice Interviews 2a (no class)</b>	
	NOV 10	Thurs	Lessons Learned from Practice Interviews	
13	NOV 15	Tues	<b>Practice Interviews 2b (no class)</b>	Bring DVDs to class
	NOV 17	Thurs	Review of Interviews & Group Supervision	
14	NOV 22	Tues	Young Clients & Challenging Clients	Ch. 12 & 13
	NOV 24	Thurs	<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS</b>	
15	NOV 29	Tues	Final Exam Review	
	DEC 1	Thurs	<b>Final Exam</b>	
	DEC 6	Tues	<b>FINAL INTERVIEW REPORT DUE BY 5PM</b>	

**Reminder:** There is no final exam during exam week for this course.