

PSYCHOLOGY 381: Psychology of Interviewing
Spring 2017 – 3 credit hours (CRN: 33463)
Tues & Thurs 11:00am-12:15pm in ETMSW 2219

Instructor: Julia Kim-Cohen, PhD

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*Office hours: Thursdays 9:30-10:30am (by appointment)

Teaching Assistants:

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*Office hours: Weeks 9-16

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*Office hours: Weeks 1-8

*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 let us know that you're coming. Email **Erika** to attend her office hours in **Weeks 1-8**. Email **Huiting** to attend her office hours in **Weeks 9-16**.

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 may be quizzed on the 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, 5th Edition* by John & Rita Sommers-Flanagan (Wiley). Available at the UIC bookstore and elsewhere. (4th 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 550 points:**

1. **PARTICIPATION (100 points):** This grade will be comprised of different scores: *Culture Presentation* (20); *role-play participation* (20); *showing up on time for ALL your practice interviews* (30), *your volunteers showing up on time to be interviewed for ALL interviews* (30). The participation points you receive above will be **deducted for absences from class**. No points will be deducted for your first 2 absences. After that, you will lose 5 points for each absence (up to 50 points deducted).
2. **JOURNAL ENTRIES (60 points):** Your path toward becoming a clinician or professional

often involves personal growth. You will submit 6 brief (1-page) journal entries (each worth 10 points) reflecting on various topics discussed in class. Please be open and reflective, **focusing on the learning process** you are experiencing. Handwritten journal entries are preferred, but typed entries will be accepted. Please bring hardcopies to class (no email submissions). Journal entries may be submitted on any day, but 3 must be submitted before and 3 after the midterm exam. You may submit only one entry per day. **The last day to submit a journal entry is April 25th**; journal entries will not be accepted after this date.

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 conduct three interviews with two interviewees. The first interview will be conducted with a classmate for a 45-minute session. The second interview will be conducted with a volunteer interviewee over two 45-minute sessions, one week apart. The instructor or a teaching assistant will observe your interview live through webcam. 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 with a classmate. This report will not include the mini-mental status exam.
6. **FINAL WRITTEN INTERVIEW REPORT (80 points):** You will write an intake report on the complete practice interview you conduct over two 45-minute sessions. This report will include results of the mini-mental status exam.

Final grades will be determined by total points as follows:

- A: 495 – 570
- B: 440 – 494
- C: 385 – 439
- D: 330 – 384
- F: less than 330

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 required. 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 and your participation grade will be significantly affected by absences (see above). Because being punctual is an important aspect of professionalism, 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, participating in discussions, 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 24 hours (a bit longer over weekends). For **tips** on how to write effective & professional emails to your professor, please see: <http://bit.ly/2hSAjla>.
- **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>). In addition, research has shown that simply the presence of a cell phone significantly reduces the quality of interactions when two people are discussing something meaningful (see: <http://bit.ly/2hSAjla>). In order to increase closeness, connection, and empathy in role plays and in interviews, please **silence your cell phones & put them out of sight**.
- **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. I encourage all students to take a look at this **excellent infographic** on what plagiarism is and how to avoid it: <http://bit.ly/1Ksb2pv>.
- **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.
- **Accommodations for disabilities:** I would be happy to make accommodations for disabilities as indicated by the Disability Resource Center. Please inform me of your needs within the first two weeks of the semester. In keeping with the university policy: “Students with disabilities must provide the instructor in writing the need for accommodations and what they are. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).” Email: drc@uic.edu.
- **Holidays and Religious Days of Special Observance:** Please inform me via email if you miss class or need to reschedule an exam due to observance of a religious holiday. See the following website for the University’s list of holidays/religious days: <http://oae.uic.edu/docs/ReligiousHolidaysAY20162018.pdf>

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

Week	Date		Topic	Reading
1	JAN 10	Tues	Introduction, overview, syllabus	Ch. 1
	JAN 12	Thurs	Introduction to Clinical Interviewing & Foundations & Preparations	Ch. 2
2	JAN 17	Tues	Basic Attending, Listening, & Action Skills: Attending Behavior & Silence	Ch. 3
	JAN 19	Thurs	Basic Attending, Listening, & Action Skills: Paraphrasing 1	Ch. 3
3	JAN 24	Tues	Basic Attending, Listening, & Action Skills: Paraphrasing 2	Ch. 3
	JAN 26	Thurs	Culture Presentations 1	
4	Jan 31	Tues	Culture Presentations 2	
	Feb 2	Thurs	Basic Attending, Listening & Action Skills: Reflection of Feeling	Ch. 3
5	FEB 7	Tues	Basic Attending, Listening & Action Skills: Validation, Interpretation, Immediacy	Ch. 3
	FEB 9	Thurs	Directives: Questions	Ch. 4
6	FEB 14	Tues	Directives: Giving Advice, Psychoeducation, Approval-Disapproval & Self-Disclosure	Ch. 4
	FEB 16	Thurs	Evidence-based Relationships 1	Ch. 5
7	FEB 21	Tues	Evidence-based Relationships 2	Ch. 5
	FEB 23	Thurs	Exam Review	
8	Feb 28	Tues	Midterm Exam	
	MAR 2	Thurs	Intake Interviewing & Report Writing; Prep for 1 st Interview	Ch. 7
9	MAR 7	Tues	Practice Interview 1 (no class meeting)	
	MAR 9	Thurs	Practice Interview 1 (no class meeting)	
10	MAR 14	Tues	Review of 1 st Interviews & Group Supervision	
	MAR 16	Thurs	Mental Status Exam 1	Ch. 8
	MAR 19	SUN	Intake Report 1 DUE by 10PM	
	MAR 21	Tues	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS MEETINGS	
	MAR 23	Thurs		
11	MAR 28	Tues	Mental Status Exam 2	Ch. 8
	MAR 30	Thurs	Suicide Assessment	Ch. 9

12	APR 4	Tues	Practice Interviews 2a (no class meeting)	
	APR 6	Thurs	Lessons learned from Practice Interviews	
13	APR 11	Tues	Practice Interviews 2b (no class meeting)	
	APR 13	Thurs	Review of Interviews & Group Supervision	
14	APR 18	Tues	TBD	
	APR 20	Thurs	Young Clients	Ch. 13
15	APR 25	Tues	Final Exam Review	
	APR 27	Thurs	Final Exam	
16	May 2	Tues	Final Intake Report DUE by 5PM	

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