Adler Graduate School

Richfield, Minnesota

AGS Course 511

Introduction to Adlerian Psychology
And Child Guidance

January – February 2015

1. **Course Designation and Identifier**

   1.1 Adler Graduate School
   1.2 Course number 511
   1.3 Introduction to Adlerian Psychology and Child Guidance
   1.4 Three (3) credits
   1.5 Prerequisites: None

2. **Course Description**

   This course introduces students to the history, philosophy, and essential concepts of Adlerian psychology and child guidance. Students read and discuss Alfred Adler’s original works as well as study modern interpretations and uses of Adlerian ideas. Special emphasis is placed on the application of Adlerian concepts in the practice of individual psychotherapy, family therapy, parent effectiveness training, and teaching in the schools. Adler’s attention to child guidance and parent education are areas of special focus.

3. **Texts, Materials and Resources**

   3.1 Required texts for course. Contact Earl Heinrich, Media Center Coordinator, for assistance with book orders:


4. Competencies and Learning Outcomes

Students in this course learn:

(Numbers and letters, i.e. 1a., identify learning competencies as outlined in the Adler Graduate School’s accreditation guidelines with the North Central Association)

1a. History and philosophy of Adlerian psychology including significant factors and events
1c. Adlerian-based professional organizations including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and current emphasis
1d. Professional credentialing processes, including certification, licensure, and accreditation practices and standards and the effects of public policy on these issues
2a. Multicultural and pluralistic trends from and Adlerian perspective including characteristics and concerns between and within diverse groups nationally and internationally
2b. The Adlerian perspective on attitudes, beliefs, understandings, and acculturative experiences including specific experiential learning activities
3c. The Adlerian view of human behavior including an understanding of developmental crises, disability, exceptional behavior, addictive behavior, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.
3d. An overview of Adlerian strategies for facilitating optimum development during the life span
4d. Interrelationships among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors including the role of diversity and gender in career development
5a. The Adlerian perspective on counselor and consultant characteristics and verbal and non-verbal behaviors and personal characteristics, orientations, and skills
7a. The Adlerian-based historical perspective about the purpose, nature, and meaning of assessment, particularly lifestyle analysis.
7h. A general understanding of Adlerian principles and methods of case conceptualization, assessment, and/or diagnosis of mental and emotional status.

5. Course Outline

5.1 Unit 1.
- Introduction and learning teams
- Adler and history and philosophy
- Begin work on Adlerian concepts
- Exercise in Reflective Writing

5.2 Unit 2.
- Begin work on Adlerian System
- Tying Adlerian concepts together
- Reflective Writing continues
- 5.1 Reflective Writing handed in

5.3 Unit 3.
- Adler, Dreikurs, and Child Guidance
- Problem Child and Mistaken Goals
- Family Systems Work
- Reflective Writing continues
- 5.2 handed in

5.4 Unit 4.
- Work on Adlerian System
- Team Presenting on Family
- Reflective Writing
- Reflective Writing 5.3 handed in (20 points)

5.5 Unit 5.
- Introduction of Case
- Adlerian System Work Continues
- Reflective Writing and Integration
- Reflective Writing and Integration 5.4 Handed In

5.6 Unit 6.
- Using case for assessment
- Introduction of consultation re: case
- Reflective writing continues
- Reflective writing 5.5 handed in
5.7 Unit 7.
- Intro: Final Team Presentation
- Coupling Assessment and Intervention
- Adlerian System Continues
- Reflective writing continues and 5.6 is handed in

5.8 Unit 8.
- Adlerian System and Case Application continues
- Reflective Writing continues and 5.7 is handed in.

5.9 Unit 9.
- Team Presentation – Neurosis as Core – tying at least 6 concepts
  10 minute present
  10 minute dialogue

6. Special Project Time (SPT)

Special Project Time (SPT) allows students the opportunity to integrate course materials. SPT is meant to be a self-contained, 30-hour experience, requiring no more than 30 hours to complete. SPT generally focuses on either (a) an experiential exercise paired with an integrative writing component or (b) a research exercise and a short integrative writing component.

An integrative, SPT experience can be based on an individual project or group project. Once again, the individual or group completes an experiential or a research-oriented exercise, followed by a short integrative writing assignment. This should all be planned within the context of a 30-hour student expectation.

SPT experiences may be constructed in such a way that they pertain to students’ unique degree plans. For example, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist students, Licensed Professional Counselor students, and Licensed School Counselor students might construct a SPT experience unique to their chosen disciplines.

7. Writing Guidelines including APA

All written assignments in courses at the Adler Graduate School must be in APA format unless specifically noted by the courses instructor (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed., 2009).

8. Assessment/Evaluation Procedures

8.1 Team Presentation (20 points)
- Each Learning Team will create and present on the theme: The Adlerian System.

8.2 Team Presentation (20 points)
Each Learning Team will create, present, and dialogue on the theme: The Centrality of Neurosis in Adlerian Therapy. At least six major concepts will be integrated.

8.3 Reflective Writing (35 points)

- Using a Learning Theory every student will do reflective writing after each class and submit their work in the next class session. Each paper will reflect their “subjective” experience and their grasp of Adlerian concepts and system. 2 page limit.

8.4 Summary:

8.1 = Team Presentation = 20 points
8.2 = Team Presentation = 20 points
8.3 = Reflective Writing = 35 points
8.4 = Teamwork = 10 points
8.5 = Attendance = 15 points
Total = 100 points

8.5 Grades:

A = 90 – 100 points
B = 80 – 89 points
C = 70 – 79 points

9. Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. When a student is unable to attend class, it is a courtesy to notify the course instructor in advance using either e-mail or phone.

10. Participation Disclaimer

Active participation in class discussions/exercises/demonstrations is encouraged. As with other AGS courses, in this course, individual students must determine for themselves the level of disclosure/intimacy that is appropriate for them.

Whenever confidential information/material is used in any AGS course, students and faculty members are expected to observe AGS policy concerning the handling of confidential information/material. Full descriptions of these policies are readily available.

11. Academic Integrity Policy

Honesty and trust among students and between students and faculty are essential for a strong, functioning academic community. Consequently, students are expected to do their own work on all academic assignments, tests, projects, and
research/term papers. Academic dishonesty, whether cheating, plagiarism, or some other form of dishonest conduct may result in failure for the work involved. Academic dishonesty could also result in failure for the course and, in the event of a second incident of academic dishonesty, suspension from the Adler Graduate School. Here are examples of academic dishonesty:

- Cheating – Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit.
- Fabrication – Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- Facilitating academic dishonesty – Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of academic integrity.
- Plagiarism – The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statements of another person as one’s own without acknowledgment.

12. Internet/On-Line Activity

On-line components Adler Graduate School classes provide an opportunity for open and insightful dialogue. As in face-to-face discussion, there are differences in opinions concerning topics discussed. We view these differences as welcomed attribute of a good scholarly discussion. Respect for differences will also be viewed as a sign of scholarly debate.

Following are guidelines governing on-line discussions:

- Never post content that is known to be illegal. Never post potentially harassing, threatening, or embarrassing statements, as well as statements that might be potentially offensive and seen as disrespectful in any way.
- Faculty members monitor discussion and intervene when requested or as deemed necessary.
- On-line communication presents a significant level of ambiguity, as verbal content of communication is not well supported by its non-verbal (including contextual) components. If a student feels threatened or offended by a statement made by another student during on-line portion of a class, please address the issue immediately with the other student(s) to clarify their position and your reaction. If this does not work, contact your class instructor so actions can be taken if necessary.
- During on-line discussion, follow the same rules concerning protection of confidential information, as you would follow in face-to-face discussion.
13. **Non-discrimination Clause**

The Adler Graduate School is an equal opportunity educator and employer. The Adler Graduate School does not discriminate based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, or physical disability in the employment of faculty or staff, the admission or treatment of students, or in the operation of its educational programs and activities. The institution is committed to providing equal education and employment opportunities in accordance with all applicable State and federal laws.

14. **Learning Accommodations (including students with disabilities)**

If a student in this course has a documented learning disability, he or she should tell the instructor during the first week of class. The instructor needs to know on the front end so that he or she can work with the student. The Adler Graduate School is committed to helping all students be successful, as best as can be reasonably accommodated. Documenting a learning disability occurs at the student's expense. When documented appropriately, the Adler Graduate School makes all reasonable accommodations.

15. **Instructor Contact Information**

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