Program: Mental Retardation Counsellor

Course Title: Communication Skills

Course Number: ENG 129

Class Hours: 3

Course Description:

An introduction to the basic interviewing techniques necessary for effective communication with both the professional and lay community. A Gestalt approach will provide the student with information about professional services available and an opportunity to interact with members of various professions.

Course Objectives:

1) Study the variables of group dynamics.

2) Study interviewing techniques with emphasis on the parent interview.

3) Introduce the MRC student to the working of the professional and paraprofessional in the community.

4) Study reality and milieu therapies.

5) Develop skills for effective communication with retarded individuals, the student's peer group, and the members of the community with whom the MRC student will have professional contact.

6) Introduce some principles of attitude measurement and modification.

Course Outline:

Text: Various readings will be assigned in lieu of a standard text.
A. An overview of Communication
   1) verbal
   2) non-verbal

B. Attitudes
   1) measurement
   2) modification

C. Group dynamics

D. Interviewing techniques
   1) case history
   2) information getting techniques
   3) parent interview
   4) client interview

E. Professional community
   1) physical therapist
   2) occupational therapist
   3) physician
   4) public health nurse
   5) courts
   6) administrators
   7) social worker
   8) psychologist

F. Reality therapy

G. Milieu therapy

Course Requirement and Evaluation:
A. Regular attendance and participation in class.
B. Responsible for all materials: handouts and lecture notes.
C. Announced quizzes.
D. A major paper on some aspect of communication relevant to the content of this course.
E. Final exam
F. Demonstration of communication skills.
G. A grade of A, B, C, or R will be awarded.