

Program: Mental Retardation Counsellor

Course Title: Communication Skills

Course Number: ENG 129 <sup>now</sup> (MRC 110-3)

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.