



## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a solution-focused course providing basic training and education in interviewing and counselling skills/practice/theory. The students can expect a strong emphasis in micro-skills training with applications in real situations. Ongoing demonstration of skills is emphasized. The overall philosophy of 'solution-building' stresses the idea that clients possess the resources for growth and the Social Service Worker must learn the skills and theory that enables and supports the client to achieve greater life satisfaction.

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the CICE student, with the assistance of a Learning Specialist will demonstrate a basic ability to:

1. Define 'solution-building' as it applies to counselling/interviewing.

### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- provide accurate definition on tests and in class
- demonstrate understanding through practice in case situations
- have a basic understanding of the difference between problem-solving & solution building philosophy and interviewing methodology

2. Perform a variety of interviewing/helping/counselling skills as defined by the course professor and the course text.

### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- demonstrate skills in practical case situations
- identify and label skills in class demonstrations and on tests
- demonstrate integration of skills in major course assignment
- apply skills in different types of interviews

3. Debrief (give feedback/take feedback).

### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- participate in feedback sessions in class and with the course professor
- self-debrief class performance and major course assignment
- act as a supportive 'team member'

4. Utilize general counselling theory and solution-building model.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- possess basic understanding of stages of the helping relationship and the solution-building model
- describe the reasons for the order of the stages of the helping relationship
- observe and accurately identify most of the stages of helping relationships

5. Recognize and respond to special situations.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- possess basic understanding of special helping situation (e.g. non-voluntary clients, children, dyads, diversity issues, crisis situations)
- demonstrate basic skills used in responding to these situations

6. Communicate effectively in a variety of media.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- produce work in written and electronic format (tape) that is clear and understandable with minimal errors, in order to stress the importance of accurate and precise communication as a fundamental counselling competency

7. Demonstrate self-care.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- show organization skills through punctuality for class and meeting assignment deadlines
- show sufficient energy, focus, and commitment to classmates, the professor, and particularly the practical demonstrations
- set and manage professional boundaries
- accurately describe and demonstrate (at all times) professional ethics including issues related to: confidentiality; dual relationships; policy
- perform 'self-directed learning' by being prepared for class and practicing skills

**III. TOPICS** (not necessarily in this order):

1. Background to helping – history, general theoretical orientation for Social Service Work
2. General theory on the stages of the helping relationship.
3. Contrasting the ‘solution-building’ and problem-solving approach.
4. Micro skills of helping/interviewing/counselling.
5. Inviting the client.
6. Focusing the interview and moving it forward.
7. Feedback to clients.
8. Measuring progress
9. The involuntary client, working with children, dyads
10. Crisis.
11. Diversity issues and special situations.

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

**Course text (Required by each student)**

1. DeJong, P. and Berg, I.K. (2002) *Interviewing for solutions* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Toronto: Brooks-Cole (Wadsworth)
2. VHS video tape or Blank DVD (recordable).



#### 4. **Skill acquisition, demonstration of skills, and participation.**

This is a participatory course. Students must be prepared for each class and be willing to actively involve themselves in skill demonstration, feedback, and discussion. Students must be present in order to demonstrate these qualities. Punctuality is enforced. Students who arrive late may not be admitted to class. Absence beyond the first three hours missed will result in a 2% deduction for every class hour or part thereof that is missed. Students who fall below 70% attendance may be subject to penalty, suspension or removal from course. Students are encouraged to discuss attendance expectations with the professor.

Preparation for each class will include readings and assignments, as well as the willingness to demonstrate skills as studied and according to the professor's directions. If any part of this course leads you to feel uneasy, you are asked to discuss this with the professor.

Students are expected to videotape practice interviews as scheduled in class. Students may be expected to view practice tapes in class and provide constructive feedback regarding skill development in accordance with professor guidelines.

The grading for this section is heavily weighted toward acquisition and demonstration of skills. Attending class but not actively engaging in the assigned exercises and demonstration of skills does not meet the course expectations.

Students may be invited to individual progress meetings with the professor, as part of overall skill development.

**Grading: (a passing final grade includes achieving 60% or more on the tape assignment plus 50% or more overall)**

Tape assignment: 20%

Written self-assessment of tape: 15%

Test #1: 15%

Test #2: 15%

Test #3: 15%

Participation and Skill Development: 20%

**The following semester grades will be assigned to students in post-secondary courses:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

**Note:** For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade.

It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.

## VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

1. This course is not a therapy group/program for students. Personal gain may be achieved, and personal issues may be discussed, but the purpose is for learning of counseling theory, skills and strategy. The professor will be rigorous in monitoring this. The course is intended to be a “safe zone” for all students.
2. Cell phones, pagers, and watches that “beep” must be de-activated or put on “silent mode” during class time. Students may respond to a page or call after class ends. Violations of this may lead to the student being asked to leave the classroom and referred to the Dean’s office. Other types of disruptions will be treated similarly. Due to the intimate nature of the material in the course, students who arrive late may be denied entry to the class. Laptops are permitted for note-taking purposes only.
3. Students are expected to keep food out of the classroom.
4. Students will be expected to behave and dress in a manner consistent with the standards of the profession, and with regard for client needs – this will be discussed in the first class.
5. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar do count in grading. These are essential components in effective communications. Professionals are expected to ensure that all communications are clear.
6. Tests cannot be rewritten to achieve a higher grade. Any rescheduling of tests is at the professor’s discretion and *must* be arranged in advance of the test date.
7. Students are reminded of the need to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct.

### Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Students are expected to review, sign and adhere to a confidentiality and agreement statement. Professor will provide additional information in class.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

**VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:**

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor.

**VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:**

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Chair's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.

## **CICE Modifications:**

### **Preparation and Participation**

1. A Learning Specialist will attend class with the student(s) to assist with inclusion in the class and to take notes.
2. Students will receive support in and outside of the classroom (i.e. tutoring, assistance with homework and assignments, preparation for exams, tests and quizzes.)
3. Study notes will be geared to test content and style which will match with modified learning outcomes.
4. Although the Learning Specialist may not attend all classes with the student(s), support will always be available. When the Learning Specialist does attend classes he/she will remain as inconspicuous as possible.

#### **A. Tests may be modified in the following ways:**

1. Tests, which require essay answers, may be modified to short answers.
2. Short answer questions may be changed to multiple choice or the question may be simplified so the answer will reflect a basic understanding.
3. Tests, which use fill in the blank format, may be modified to include a few choices for each question, or a list of choices for all questions. This will allow the student to match or use visual clues.
4. Tests in the T/F or multiple choice format may be modified by rewording or clarifying statements into layman's or simplified terms. Multiple choice questions may have a reduced number of choices.

#### **B. Tests will be written in CICE office with assistance from a Learning Specialist.**

##### ***The Learning Specialist may:***

1. Read the test question to the student.
2. Paraphrase the test question without revealing any key words or definitions.
3. Transcribe the student's verbal answer.
4. Test length may be reduced and time allowed to complete test may be increased.

#### **C. Assignments may be modified in the following ways:**

1. Assignments may be modified by reducing the amount of information required while maintaining general concepts.
2. Some assignments may be eliminated depending on the number of assignments required in the particular course.

##### ***The Learning Specialist may:***

1. Use a question/answer format instead of essay/research format
2. Propose a reduction in the number of references required for an assignment
3. Assist with groups to ensure that student comprehends his/her role within the group
4. Require an extension on due dates due to the fact that some students may require additional time to process information
5. Formally summarize articles and assigned readings to isolate main points for the student
6. Use questioning techniques and paraphrasing to assist in student comprehension of an assignment

#### **D. Evaluation:**

Is reflective of modified learning outcomes.