Advanced Practicum in Clinical Psychology (PSYC 881)
Fall 2012, Section 001
Group Supervision 5:30-6:30pm on Mondays with Dr Pollard
Group Supervision TBA with Dr. Mehlenbeck
Individual Supervision times TBA
Center for Psychological Services Room #202J

Professor: Jeffrey W. Pollard, PhD, ABPP (VA Clinical Psychologist #0810003647)
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The doctoral practicum consists of group and individual supervision of clinical work in the Center for Psychological Services. The main goals of this course are to (a) help students increase their ability to provide evidence-based clinical services, (b) ensure that students work with their clients in a competent and ethical manner, and (c) help students develop their ability to provide constructive feedback on the professional work of their peers. There is no required textbook, but the instructor and students may provide relevant readings for discussion throughout the course. No mental health evaluations will be required. There are no written exams, but there are written documents to be completed from client contacts.

Requirements:

1. Participation in Group Supervision. There are two 60-minute group supervision sessions per week during which there will be discussions of client cases, including conceptualization as well as therapy techniques during which, each student needs to participate and contribute. Each student will be required to provide a select number of case presentations throughout the semester. These presentations will include a case discussion as well as video of the student’s clinical work. Each student will be asked to practice their case conceptualization of clients based on readings of various theoretical models. Finally, each student needs to regularly bring videos of his/her therapy sessions as these will be reviewed during the group supervision time.

2. Participation in Individual Supervision. Students will meet with Dr. Jeff Pollard and/or Dr. Robyn Mehlenbeck individually for 45-60 minutes per week. Dr. Pollard will supervise adult cases as well as the Generalized Anxiety Disorder group, and other adult based groups, and Dr. Mehlenbeck will supervise the child cases and the Social Skills/Binge Eating Disorder groups. Please attend individual supervision prepared with relevant material, such as clinical notes, case conceptualizations, consideration of therapy techniques, assessment results, and relevant empirically-based research findings on treatment effectiveness to discuss at each meeting.

3. Completion of Clinical Assignments. Students will conduct psychotherapy with a caseload of clients totaling at least six contact hours per week at the Center. This includes co-leading one group therapy session per semester, and working with a combination of individual clients. Each student is expected to carry at least one child case (under 18 years of age) and one adult case (age 18 and older). The remainder of cases will be assigned based on training needs and training interests.
Please audio record and video record every session with your clients so the tapes can be reviewed in supervision. Intake summaries, progress notes, and termination summaries need to be completed for each client. Please prepare the relevant clinical notes prior to individual supervision, as they will be signed at that time.

4. **Participation in Evaluation.** At the end of the semester, students will receive written feedback on their clinical performance. These will be a narrative description of strengths and weaknesses and a quantitative rating of specific skills on the Supervision Evaluation Form (described in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program Handbook).

5. **Participation in Seminars.** Students will be required to attend selected seminars on Thursdays from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

**Grading:** Students’ final grades depend on the completion and quality of your clinical work. Each of the following aspects is important and follows from the Supervision Evaluation Form:

1. **Psychological Intervention Skills:** the development of working alliances with clients, applying clinical theory and research in case formulation and treatment for each client, carrying out psychotherapy techniques effectively, and responding appropriately to relationship issues.

2. **Good Use of Supervision:** receptiveness to feedback, incorporation of feedback in clinical work, and giving feedback to others in a supportive and professional manner.

3. **Professional Reliability:** writing progress notes and therapy reports skillfully and in a timely fashion, adhering to ethical practices, and dealing with staff and colleagues in a respectful and professional manner.

   - **A+** Outstanding work, completion of all requirements, and extra services.
   - **A** Uniformly excellent work and completion of all requirements.
   - **A-** Very good work on each dimension and completion of all requirements.
   - **B+** Above average work on each dimension and completion of all requirements.
   - **B** Average work on one dimension and completion of all requirements.
   - **C** Substandard work on more than one dimension and completion of all requirements.
   - **F** Failure to complete all requirements.

**Honor Code.** The Honor Code of George Mason University deals specifically with cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. You need to follow the code and policies, set out at [http://catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu). The course will be conducted in accordance with these policies.

**Accommodation of Disabilities.** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see the course instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. You need to arrange all academic accommodations through that office.

**Official Communications via GMU E-mail.** Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices form
the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Last day to add: September 4
Last day to drop: September 28