

## **Greetings and welcome to your internship experience,**

My name is Seth Olson. I have the good fortune to work as counselor educator at The University of South Dakota. An assistant professor, I am the Clinical Coordinator (fancy title for the one who oversees all clinical training) for Counselor Education. As a counselor educator, I believe it is vital for me to keep my clinical and counseling skills current. I am a licensed professional counselor and nationally certified counselor. My clinical experiences include 10 years providing college counseling services in a detention center for juveniles, home base services, and outpatient services in community clinics. I am currently working at Stronghold Counseling Services in Sioux Falls with a focus on couples counseling, but also work with youth, families, and a variety of clinical issues such as depression, anxiety, and sexual abuse to name a few. During my clinical training, I had the great fortune of receiving excellent post master's supervision from terrific clinical supervisors. Under the supervision of these individuals I learn not only how critical it is to challenge professional and personal development, but also to request as much information from my supervisors as possible. Your supervision will be the key to your success so take advantage of every moment possible with them. Do not be afraid to ask for their guidance.

## **Course Overview**

This course focuses on enhancing clinical practice through group supervision of the field-based experiences required by your particular program of study. You will also address career development issues, with an emphasis on the application of current technologies. You must co-register for COUNS 794/894S/894D: Internship/Field Experience and maintain continuous enrollment in both courses for the duration of your internship. The prerequisites are the practica series, COUN 786 and 795 with at least a "B" in each. This course is limited to those students admitted to the counseling program area and permission of the Internship Coordinator is required. This course is D2L enhanced, meaning that half of the course commitment will spent conducting online assignments, and subsequently each class will meet for the first half face-to-face and the remainder of class time will be done through D2L. In addition, the course is offered DDN, meaning that class time will be conducted at distance delivery sites around the state.

This course will also focus on developing case conceptualization skills, exploring different intervention strategies to use with clients/students, and applying pragmatic counseling approaches to internship experiences.

## **Getting Organized in this D2L Classroom**

We will coordinate our work through the Course Homepage. Read all of the Introductory Components to the Course immediately—this letter is the first one, followed by Procedures and Protocols that explain how to use the course functions, and the Syllabus. When you finish reading each of these documents, you should have a clear picture of how to operate in the course. You may want to print these documents and keep them handy. I use a three ring binder.

The course will be available starting 9.1.09 and will end on 12.18.09. When you enter into D2L, you will need to spend considerable time making sure that you can view links, documents, and videos. In addition, you will need to spend considerable time downloading and/or printing off study guides for assigned readings. This early phase of the course is also designed to troubleshoot computer roadblocks. For technical assistance please contact ITS at 677-6364.

### Instructor Access

I recognize that I will receive requests and questions from you on a regular basis, which I look forward to and also strongly encourage. In order to keep my own professional life in order—always a challenge—I have designated time when I will concentrate on responding to your needs, answering your questions, etc. I will be dedicating my efforts to this class at particular times. I will check and respond to your questions and concerns Monday through Friday. I welcome your phone calls; however, I prefer that we set an appointment time. The bottom line is that I won't be checking into the D2L course and responding to you over the weekend on a regular basis.

### Your Immediate Responsibilities

Please

- Log onto D2L by the first day of class
- Copy the Course Calendar and make a plan to get the work done.
- Read ahead. Past learners highly encourage getting an early jump on the readings.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and to teaching (and learning) through this system. Please contact me with any questions.

Cordially,

*Seth Olson*

Seth Olson, Ph. D., LPC, NCC  
Assistant Professor, Counselor Education  
Counselor Education Clinical Coordinator  
The University of South Dakota