Course Description
A preparation for marriage and therapy training, focusing on foundations of systems thinking and current trends in philosophical assumptions, this course is designed to enable you to understand the origins of family therapy. It focuses on systemic thinking as opposed to linear thinking and the effect this shift has upon doing therapy with individuals, couples, and families.

Method
The class will open with a lecture by the instructor with opportunity for class participation and questions. After a break, the remainder of the class will focus on a film vignetter, case study, or piece of literature in which the class discussion focuses on a systemic interpretation of the focus material.

Weekly reflection papers, a major paper, and a final take-home exam will compose the written requirements of the class in addition to required readings.

Class Expectations
Class attendance is mandatory. Students are to contact the instructor if unable to attend due to illness or emergency. Extensions of deadlines, if granted, must be negotiated with the instructor prior to the due date.

Students are to schedule a brief conference with the instructor to determine the topic of the major paper. The instructor’s office hours will be posted on the office door.

Description of Written Assignments
Reflection paper-- A 1-2 page reflection paper is due weekly as a response to the readings. Students may discuss the readings with their reflection team. However, the paper is to be written individually.

Major paper—A major paper, 15-20 pages will be due December 7. Format as described in the student Handbook is required. Students will consult with the instructor about the topic.

Final exam—A take-home exam will be given to students December 7. It will be due at the time of the final exam.
Grading  
Grades will be assigned as follows:

- Class participation and attendance: 25%
- Weekly reflection papers: 25%
- Major paper: 25%
- Final exam: 25%

Texts


Schedule

August 31—Introductions, discussion of class requirements, and identifying beginning assumptions.

September 7—The Clinician and Epistemology
   Reading: Keeney, pp.xi-109.

September 14—The Clinician and Cybernetics
   Reading: Keeney, pp. 110-201

September 21—Founders Day Lecture—No Class
   (An alternate assignment will be given to students who elect not to attend.)

September 28—Communications and Systems Theory
   Reading: Watzawick, Beavin, Jackson, pp. 13-271.

October 5—Birth and Growth of MFT
   Reading: Hoffman, pp. 7-148.

October 12—Development of MFT
   Reading: Hoffman, pp. 149-277.

October 19—Postmodernism’s Challenge to MFT

October 26—Reading Week. No Class.

November 2—Creating Collaborative Voices
   Reading: Anderson, pp. 132-266.

November 9—Cultural Context for MFT
   Reading: McGoldrick, pp. xi-89.

November 16—Race, Ethnicity, and MFT
   Reading: McGoldrick, pp. 91-252.

November 23—Reading Week. No Class.

November 30—Challenge of Clients from Different Cultures
   Reading: McGoldrick, pp. 253-431.

December 7—Topic TBA
   Reading: TBA