

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PACO 611

COUNSELING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The developmental and psychological needs and problems of children are examined through the analysis of personality types and family structure. Counseling techniques (e.g. play therapy) for children are also examined.

RATIONALE

PACO 611 is a graduate course in the development and counseling of children. America's children are the focus of growing concern because of increasing rates of divorce, separation, and the fragmentation of cohabited relationships. In addition, they are the victims of physical, sexual, emotional, and verbal abuse. This specific course is offered in an eight-week format. It includes extensive readings, interactions with children/parents, a research paper, and interactions with other students via discussion board.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify and assess risk and protective factors for a child, including concepts of stress, resiliency, coping mechanisms, and developmental level.
- B. Identify and apply evaluation procedures in counseling, home, and agency settings.
- C. Describe characteristics and primary tasks of each developmental stage of childhood.
- D. Develop a developmentally appropriate framework for child psychotherapy.
- E. Create effective intervention and treatment plans for addressing the needs of children and parents.

- F. Identify and apply appropriate ethical and legal decision making in child therapy settings.
- G. Describe interventions and procedures that address socio-economic and cultural factors affecting child therapy stakeholders.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)
Each forum will require the student to answer questions with a minimum of 400 words based on that particular module/week's readings or video content. The student will be required to post at least 2 replies of 100 words each to other students' threads.
- D. Schedule Observation/Interview
The student will schedule the required observation/interview and submit documentation including the participants to be present along with the date and time they are to take place. The student will also submit a short biography on the therapist to be interviewed.
- E. Toddler Observation/Parent Interview Paper
The student will spend 30–60 minutes observing a younger toddler via Internet resources (such as YouTube). Next, the student will spend 30–60 minutes interviewing the parents of an older toddler. Finally, the student will write a 5-page paper in current APA style documenting both the observation and the interview.
- F. Elementary School Child Observation Paper
The student will spend 2–3 hours observing elementary school children. Afterwards, the student will write a 5-page paper answering a set of provided questions, integrating materials from the Davies text with what has been observed. This paper must be written in current APA style.
- G. Child Therapist Interview Paper
The student will locate a professional actively involved in counseling children in the student's local area. The student will prepare at least 10 questions and interview the professional. The student will summarize his/her findings from the interview in a 3-page paper; the paper must be submitted along with a copy of all the questions asked in the interview.
- H. Research Paper
Topic: The student will submit a topic with a 200-word rationale (with 1 cited source) detailing why the topic is relevant to pastoral counseling.
Outline: The student will submit an outline for the paper and include at least 5 sources.
Final: The student will write a 12–15-page paper in current APA format on the approved research topic with at least 20 references from current sources.
- I. Essay Exam
The student will complete an open-book/open-notes exam that will consist of 4 essay

questions chosen by the student from a pool of 6 questions. The exam will have a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 60 pts ea)	240
Schedule Observation/Interview	10
Toddler Observation/Parent Interview Paper	125
Elementary School Child Observation Paper	125
Child Therapist Interview Paper	100
Research Paper	
Topic	20
Outline	30
Final	250
Essay Exam (Modules 1–8)	100
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 679 and below

C. Dual Relationship

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

D. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PACO 611

Textbooks: Cloud & Townsend, *Boundaries with Kids* (2001).
Davies, *Child Development: A Practitioners Guide* (2010).
Greenspan, *Building Healthy Minds* (2000).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Davies: chs. 1–4 1 presentation 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	60
2	Davies: chs. 5–8 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 2	60
		Schedule Observation/Interview	10
		Research Paper: Topic	20
3	Davies: chs. 9–13 1 presentation 1 website	Toddler Observation/Parent Interview Paper	125
4	Greenspan: chs. 1–3 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	60
		Research Paper: Outline	30
5	Greenspan: chs. 4–6 1 presentation	Elementary School Child Observation Paper	125
6	Greenspan: chs. 7–8 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 4	60
		Child Therapist Interview Paper	100
7	Cloud & Townsend: chs. 1–7 1 presentation 1 website	Research Paper: Final	250
8	Cloud & Townsend: chs. 8–14 1 presentation	Essay Exam	100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.