

**AMBERTON UNIVERSITY**  
**SYLLABUS FOR LECTURE/CLASSROOM COURSE**

**CSL6839.01 Pre-Practicum Professional Counseling**

**Spring 2023**

**Location: Garland**

**This is a hybrid course that is conducted using both in-person (lecture) and online (distance learning) formats.** The course content, assignments, and discussions will be administered and delivered through the online Moodle Learning Management system. Attendance for both in-person and online classes will be mandatory as specified by the Professor.

**NOTE:** The Zoom classes will start at 6pm, CST on Tuesdays.

**PROFESSOR INFORMATION:**

Name: Ken Johnson, Ph.D.  
Phone Number: 972-279-6511 ext. 160  
Faculty Fax #: 972-686-5890  
Office Location: Garland Room # I  
Office Hours: Before class, Classroom  
Email Address: KJohnson@Amberton.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

CSL6839.01 Pre-Practicum professional Counseling  
Level: Graduate  
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, March 11, 2023  
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, May 18, 2023  
The first-class meeting is **Wednesday**, March 15, in Room **#17(Garland)**

All Monday-Thursday lecture classes begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. All Saturday lecture classes begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

**Prior to enrollment in Pre-Practicum in Professional Counseling, students must meet the following requirements:**

- 1. All coursework completed (except for Practicum courses)**
- 2. GPA of 3.00 or higher**
- 3. Be in good academic standing**

**Note: The Professional Counseling Portfolio must be successfully completed prior to the end of the PrePracticum class to be eligible to enroll in Practicum I for the next session.**

**TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Title: N/A  
Author: N/A  
Publisher: N/A  
Year Published: N/A  
Edition: N/A  
ISBN: N/A  
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Amberton University has an agreement with eCampus.com to provide a full-service online bookstore to students. The Amberton University Virtual Bookstore is accessible through the University's website, [www.Amberton.edu](http://www.Amberton.edu). There is also a bookstore link in the Student Portal.

The AU Virtual Bookstore provides an easy to use interface, online buyback of books, and same day shipment of most titles with an average delivery time of 2-3 days depending on the student's location. Textbook options include new, used, rental, and electronic media as available.

Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping. Be certain you are enrolled in the course before purchasing your book(s). All textbook information (Title, Author, ISBN, etc.) is available in course syllabi so students can shop competitively. Most textbooks can be purchased from many different textbook vendors. Some textbooks may only be available on the University's Virtual Bookstore. Students should be careful to obtain the exact resource(s) required for the course.

## **LINKS TO COUNSELING HANDBOOKS**

### **MA in Professional Counseling**

<https://www.amberton.edu/media/Files/2020-2021%20Professional%20Counseling%20Handbook.pdf>

### **MA in Marriage and Family Therapy**

[https://www.amberton.edu/media/Files/2020-2021\\_MFT\\_Handbook.pdf](https://www.amberton.edu/media/Files/2020-2021_MFT_Handbook.pdf)

### **MA in School Counseling**

<https://www.amberton.edu/media/Files/2021-2022%20School%20Counselor%20Handbook.pdf>

## **APA Requirement**

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES:**

The following represents the course competencies for this class. Competencies are equivalent for all lecture and distance learning courses. Following each competency is the assignment used to gain mastery of this area of study.

This course is a stand-alone course and cannot be taken simultaneously with any other courses. This course provides an assessment of one's learning in the field of professional counseling. Students complete homework, lead classroom discussions and examine topics designed to prepare them for entrance into the Practicum stage of their preparation. Students prepare for Practicums I and II by completing activities such as making application for Practicum, completing a simulated interview, and developing a thorough case study.

## **UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:**

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| 1. Developing a counselor portfolio to document and link academic learning with future plans and goal setting.   |
| 2. Organizing one's schedule to follow a specific guide and timetable for Practicum.                             |
| 3. Contributing to group learning of counseling competencies by developing and presenting a thorough case study. |

4. Developing solutions to selected counseling problems across a variety of counseling settings.
5. Applying critical thinking skills to the critique of counseling approaches to specific cases with individuals, families, groups, or organizations.
6. Writing a paper assessing counseling techniques and describing one's theoretical counseling orientation.
7. Analyzing the conceptual frameworks and treatment objectives of selected vignettes of others' work.
8. Evaluating and demonstrating the appropriate use of techniques associated with selected alternative and emerging therapies.
9. Explaining the implications of emerging standards that are being advanced by the Texas or other State Boards of Licensure for Professional Counseling, the American Counseling Association, and the Texas Counseling Association.
10. Demonstrating skills of referral, advocacy, and triage in crisis intervention cases.
11. Developing and analyzing one's personal philosophy of counseling.
12. Evaluating and understanding the emerging role of technology-based counseling.
13. Demonstrating readiness for Practicum I by completing the official Amberton Practicum Application Packet.
14. Applying critical thinking skills in developing a framework for counseling diverse client populations.
15. Selecting and demonstrating techniques of a chosen counseling theory.
16. Assessing for difficulties in the areas of addictive behavior, depression, anxiety, suicidality, homicidal and violent behavior.
17. Demonstrating the ability to apply methods and models to professional counseling situations.

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

Assignments: All assignments **MUST** be submitted in the APA required format and by the due date.

### ***Student's Responsibilities***

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

### ***Attendance Policy:***

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a lecture course is defined as punctual arrival to, and engagement in, a full lecture session. Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be dropped at the discretion of Amberton University.

***Plagiarism Policy*** Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a

book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source.

Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin "Draft Coach" is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach, helps address errors and improve the quality of student's writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

#### **COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:**

This course is offered as a Lecture/Classroom course. This course requires that students meet a designated time in the classroom.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:**

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
Week 1	Introduction & overview	Counseling Portfolios Campus	1,3,12	3/15/23
Week 2	Portfolios; Practicum applications	Work on portfolios & practicum applications Campus	9,10	3/22/23
Week 3	Portfolios & practicum applications	Portfolios & practicum applications Zoom	2,3	3/29/23
Week 4	Counseling Portfolios	Discuss portfolios Zoom	2,3	4/5/23

Week 5	Portfolios	Final instructions for portfolios Zoom	N/A	4/12/23
Week 6	Portfolios Due on Tuesday, 10/18/22	Submit portfolios Zoom	N/A	4/19/23
Week 7	Portfolio results; Practicum applications	Preparation for site interviews Zoom	3,6	4/26/23
Week 8	Practicum applications	Practicum applications Zoom	3,6,13	5/3/23
Week 9	Practicum site selection	Practicum sites Campus	1,17	5/10/23
Week 10	Rap-up	End of session review, Zoom	N/A	5/17/23

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Grading Scale – Final grades will be based on passing or failing the counseling portfolio (100%) of final grade.  
 Counseling Portfolio – 100% of final grade.

Graduate

- 92 – 100    A
- 82 – 91    B
- 72 – 81    C
- 62 – 71    D
- Below 62   F

**GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:**

Each assignment/exam submitted will be reviewed, graded, and return to the student in a timely manner, along with appropriate commentary.

Final grades are processed approximately one week after the last day of the session and may be located in the My Grades section of the online registration portal as well as being emailed to the student’s Amberton University email. Amberton University staff will not release grades over the phone. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in *Professor Information* area.

**Incomplete Grades** An “I” (incomplete grade) is given at the discretion of the professor and may be given only when an emergency or illness prevents the student from completing course requirements. Should an “I” be granted, the student has 30 days from the end of the session to complete the conditions of the incomplete. An “I” which is not properly removed within 30 days following the session enrolled will become an “F” grade.

***How to Withdraw from a Course***

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the “Schedule of Classes” (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

## **COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:**

This course is offered as a lecture course; however, several technological options are available to faculty and students that can enhance communication both during the session and after the session has ended. The **Student Portal** is the gateway to email, Remote Research, General Tools, and Electronic Instructor Folders (FTP). The Student Portal may be accessed through a link on the University's website, <http://www.Amberton.edu>, or at <http://apps.Amberton.edu>.

After selecting the "Student Portal" link, you will be prompted for a Username and Password. Use your assigned **username and password** (AUID) as described below:

**Username** = your capitalized firstname **initial**+lastname+last 3 digits of your SSN.

\* Use your name exactly as it is listed on the University's records, including any suffixes or hyphenations, such as Jr, Sr, or II, as a part of your username.

For example: James Jones, Jr. SSN: 123-45-6789 Username:  
JJonesJr789

**Password** = your Amberton University ID# (AUID) **including the dashes**

For example: 04-999-999

Once your login has been validated, you may select from a variety of menu options, including online course materials, email access, Remote Research, General Tools, all Syllabi, Research Tutorials and Electronic Instructor Folders (FTP).

## **Email Communication**

Each student enrolled is assigned an Amberton email account, which gives the student access to the Amberton email system (my.Amberton.edu). This email account is provided by Google Apps for Education. Students are encouraged to check their email regularly for university news, notices, and to communicate with instructors.

The student's assigned email address would be Username@my.Amberton.edu

Example: LJones-Smith789@my.Amberton.edu

The student Username is determined by:

firstname initial+lastname+last 3 digits of student ssn.

For example: Linda Jones-Smith SSN: 123-45-6789  
Email Address = LJones-Smith789@my.Amberton.edu

Students will be prompted for a Username and Password when accessing their email account. Use the Username portion of the email address as the username (Example: LJones-Smith789) and your Amberton ID# (including the dashes) as the password.

If you already have a Google gmail account, you might be prompted to add this account to your current settings. Click 'Yes' and you will be logged into your my.Amberton.edu email account. It will be a separate email account from your personal gmail account.

If you need assistance with your email account, please visit <https://support.google.com/mail>

### ***The Amberton University Moodle Website***

Students enrolled in this course will also be using the Moodle Learning Platform, with access available through the Student Portal or by going to: <http://moodle.Amberton.edu>

For those utilizing Moodle for the first time, the **username and password** for the Moodle Learning Platform will be emailed to the student's email account prior to the start of the course. For those returning to Moodle who do not remember their username and password, click on the link "*Forgotten your username or password*" available on the Moodle log in page (<http://moodle.Amberton.edu>). Otherwise use the same username and password as previous session.

### **Moodle Tutorial:**

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a *Student Moodle Tutorials* course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the *Student Moodle Tutorials* and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Each session, all Amberton students are requested to evaluate their courses. The evaluation process is an important one and provides students with an anonymous and confidential way to give meaningful feedback to the University. Summary information and comments are provided to faculty after the close of the session. Students' identities are not disclosed.

Students will be notified through the Amberton email system of the Course Evaluation procedures. Usually, the evaluations take place in class during week 9 of the session. Please take advantage of this opportunity and participate in the evaluation process.

### **RESEARCH RESOURCES:**

The library provides access to full-text, and peer reviewed articles, and digital research tools. Students can search Library holdings through the online catalog and databases search engines available on the library website or browse the physical library space and holdings located at the Garland campus.

Research items not contained in the Amberton Library collection can be located through interlibrary Loan (ILL) or through the TexShare program with the help of the library staff. Students with questions about available services, resources, or research, may contact the library via email at [Library@amberton.edu](mailto:Library@amberton.edu).

### **RESEARCH ACCESS:**

Databases can only be accessed by authorized users, and students at Amberton must enter their Amberton ID credentials-same as Moodle login-to gain access when off-campus. Use an Amberton website, such as the University site ([Amberton.edu](http://Amberton.edu)) or the library site ([Library.amberton.edu](http://Library.amberton.edu)) to find links to databased and digital books. Online resources are available all day, every day.

### ***Library Live Chat Feature***

Library staff are available to assist students with research problems or questions during Library hours through a live online chat feature, telephone, email, "How-to" videos, or in person. The library telephone is (9722796511 ext. 136, 137, or 138. You can email questions to [library@amberton.edu](mailto:library@amberton.edu) or visit the library in person on the Garland campus for assistance.