

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

CSL6785.E1 Trauma Counseling
Fall 2023

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

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COURSE INFORMATION:

CSL6785.E1 Trauma Counseling
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 9, 2023
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 16, 2023
Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, September 9, 2023

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

CSL6782-Counseling Theories

RECOMMENDED:

CSL6765 Crisis Counseling
Psychopathology course--either Child & Adolescent or Adult & Geriatric

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Principles of Trauma Therapy
Author: John N. Briere & Catherine Scott
Publisher: Sage
Year Published: 2015
Edition: 2nd
ISBN: 978-1-4833-5124-7
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. 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 the 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://amberton.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/LPC_Handbook_2023_2024.pdf

MA in Marriage and Family Therapy

https://amberton.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/MFT_Handbook_2023_2024.pdf

MA in School Counseling

<https://amberton.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2021-2022-School-Counselor-Handbook.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 7th 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*, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an introduction to the practice of effective trauma-focused therapy. The course includes study of the nature of psychological trauma and its effects, the problems, symptoms, and disorders that can follow traumatic events and an overview of the primary trauma-focused assessment strategies and instruments used in the field currently. The course provides information on treating one-time adult trauma and treatment for individuals with more complex presentations, including treatment for the effects of childhood maltreatment from various scientific and humanistic domains.

Attention is given to the individual context of survivors: the adverse sociocultural factors, needs of diverse cultures and the substance abuse/addiction issues that affect trauma survivors. The course provides information on trauma-relevant, research-based treatment approaches, interventions and practices, trauma psychobiology, neuroscience & psychopharmacology, and best practices for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of trauma. The course also addresses ethics in trauma treatment, secondary trauma, and promotion of positive counselor self-care.

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.

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

1. Knowledge of the historical context of trauma & core trauma concepts.
2. Knowledge of the differences in various types of abuse and trauma, including physical, emotional & sexual abuse; domestic violence, experiences of war for combat veterans and survivors of war; natural disasters and community violence.
3. Knowledge of symptoms & effects of trauma on children, adolescents & adults
4. Knowledge of the varying effects that different types of trauma have on human development and the development of psychological and substance use issues.
5. Knowledge of the nature and neurobiology of trauma & current neuroscience regarding how the brain processes traumatic experiences.
6. Knowledge of the accepted methods of assessment for psychological trauma including diagnostic interviews and psychological tests to determine specific targets for treatment, & DSM-5 criteria.
7. Knowledge of diagnostics involved in determination of other differential diagnoses related to traumatic experiences.
8. Knowledge of how trauma affects diverse people throughout their lifespans, including with differing mental health problems, cognitive and physical disabilities, and substance use issues.
9. Knowledge of the impact of trauma on diverse cultures with regard to the meaning various cultures attach to trauma and the attitudes they have towards behavioral health treatment.
10. Knowledge of the Social-Ecological Model of Trauma & how it effects individuals.

11. Understanding the effects of trauma on individual domains of functioning (cognitive, emotional, physical, spiritual, relational, and identity) and how they express stress reactions both behaviorally and psychologically.
12. Knowledge & skills in screening and assessment of individuals' trauma history including knowledge of and practice with specific screening tools, and ability to identify clients' strengths, coping resources, and resilience.
13. Knowledge of necessity to ensure physical and emotional safety of clients and to avoid confrontation of apparently unhealthy client behaviors that could trigger trauma symptoms or acute stress reactions.
14. Knowledge of evidence-based treatment modalities, common factors, and emerging trends and training needed to deliver effective treatment for varying presentations of trauma.
15. Knowledge of research, methodology, and goals of mindfulness-relevant trauma treatments & their use in reducing psychological symptoms of trauma survivors.
16. Knowledge of ethics of trauma treatment & strategies to address secondary trauma and promote positive counselor self-care.
17. Knowledge and skill in general trauma-informed counseling strategies, including grounding techniques that manage dissociative experiences, cognitive-behavioral tools that focus on anxiety reduction and distress tolerance, and stress management and relaxation tools that reduce hyperarousal.

- Beginning in the Fall 2023 session, students who are enrolled in the **Professional Counseling** degree program must successfully pass the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) practice exam before registering for CSL6839 Pre-Practicum. Detailed information about the exam and program requirements can be found in the LPC Handbook as well as the information page on our website: [CPCE Information Page](#)
- Beginning in the Fall 2023 session, students who are enrolled in the **Marriage & Family Therapy** degree program must successfully pass the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy Regulatory Board practice exam (AMFTRB) before registering for CSL6839 Pre-Practicum. Detailed information about the exam and program requirements can be found in the MFT Handbook as well as the information page on our website: [AMFTRB Information Page](#)

COURSE POLICIES:

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.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

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 and self-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 OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
1	What is Trauma? The Effects of Trauma	Ch. 1 & 2	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11	Week 1
2	Assessing Trauma and Posttraumatic Outcomes Central Issues in Trauma Treatment	Ch. 3 & 4	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Assignment 1 due See Assignment Instructions in Moodle for due dates.
3	Psychoeducation	Ch. 5	12, 13, & 14	Week 3

4	Distress Reduction and Affect Regulation Training	Ch. 6	11, 12, 13, & 15	Assignment 2 due See Assignment Instructions in Moodle for due dates.
5		Midterm exam, Readings 1- 6	All of the above.	Midterm exam due See Exam Instructions in Moodle for due date and time.
6	Cognitive Interventions Emotional Processing	Ch. 7 & 8	5, 13, 14	Week 6
7	Increasing Identity and Relational Functioning Mindfulness in Trauma Treatment	Ch. 9 & 10	12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Assignment 3 due See Assignment Instructions in Moodle for due dates.
8	Treating the Effects of Acute Trauma	Ch. 11	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	Week 8
9	Psychobiology and Psychopharmacology of Trauma	Ch. 12	13, 14, 15, & 17	Assignment 4 due See Assignment Instructions in Moodle for due dates.
10		Final exam, Readings 7-12	All of the above.	Final exam due- See Exam Instructions in Moodle for due date and time.

1. Instructions for 4 assignments. **Please Note: Once enrolled in the course, you will see additional details in the Moodle Document called Assignment Instructions.**

Students are provided (posted) a list of 4 discussion questions, for each assignment, via the Moodle discussion board prior to the due date. Each of the discussion questions will require you to read, comprehend and translate in your own words your understanding of information found in the text. You are also expected to treat each of the discussion questions as a short essay by including your thoughts, feelings, views, and perspectives and if possible, any examples. You must back up your short answers with content from the readings. College level writing is expected. Each question should be answered in less than 300 words. **You**

will 'reply' to each of the 4 professors posted questions or you can start your own thread.

You will have several days after the due date for discussion with classmates before the assignment will be graded. You will be graded according to quality of your own answers and the quality of your discussions with your classmates with respect to their answer to the same question. You must also back up your comments/responses to fellow classmates with content from the text. Plan to have quality discussions with at least 3 classmates for each assignment. Assignments are to be submitted on the due date by 11:59 PM (Central Standard Time). Failure to respond to discussion questions by the due date will result in loss of grade points. Do not send in your assignment answers via email attachment to professor. The purpose of posting in discussion board is to encourage discussion of each other's answers which creates an environment for further learning and exploration.

Note for all Assignments –See Assignment Instructions in Moodle for additional details and Assignment due dates and times

2. Instructions for all exams. **Please Note: Once enrolled in the course, you will see additional details in the Moodle Document called Exam Instructions.**

Students are provided a list of essay questions **via Moodle**. Each of the discussion questions will require you to read, comprehend and translate in your own words the information found in the text.

Test Prep:

The questions are general in nature....focusing on the main areas that we covered in the first half (for midterm) and second half (for final) of the semester. Be sure to study the main theories, approaches and concepts and have a feel for how you would apply them in real life. I like to see that you have a basic understanding and can provide effective help in typical course related counseling situations.

Remember, you only have an hour...I am not looking for a research-like paper, just good sound thoughts and practices based on your readings.

You are also expected to treat each of the discussion questions as an essay by including your thoughts, feelings, views, and perspectives and if possible, any examples. College level writing is expected. Each question should be answered in less than 500 words. Students will send the answers **via Moodle**. An exam submitted after the time allotted will be assessed an appropriate penalty. Students are expected to take the exams during the designated time window. Make-up exams will be determined on an individual basis.

Note: See Exam Instructions in Moodle for additional details and exam due dates and times.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Assignment 1 – 5%
Assignment 2 – 5%
Assignment 3 – 5%
Assignment 4 – 5%
Midterm Exam – 40%
Final Exam – 40%

Graduate

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

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

A successful distance learning experience requires a flow of communication between instructor and student throughout the session. Instructor comments are considered essential to the learning process. Therefore, each assignment/exam submitted will be reviewed, graded, and returned to the student in a timely manner

along with the appropriate commentary. Students should carefully review all comments.

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 university 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 DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is offered as a distance-learning course through the Moodle Learning Platform. Amberton's distance learning courses, called e-Courses, are identical to classroom courses in terms of learning outcomes, competencies, and instructor expectations. A student choosing to take an e-Course must have the following skills and technical capabilities:

1. Access to the Internet
2. General knowledge in:
 - Internet browser settings and configuration
 - e-mail and file attachments
 - Uploading and downloading files
 - Using a word processing package
3. Ability to conduct on-line research

Students who have not mastered these skills should not enroll for this course but should consider enrolling in MIS2110 Computer Concepts and Internet Technologies for instruction in these areas.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

Through the Amberton University Student Portal

Students enrolled in distance learning courses using the Moodle Learning Platform may access the course through the Amberton University Student Portal. The site may be accessed through the University's main page (<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 to enter the AU Student Portal:

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 your individual E-Course, email account, Remote Research, General Tools, all Syllabi, Research Tutorials and Electronic Instructor Folders (FTP).

If you are accessing the Student Portal from a public or shared computer, close the browser completely when finished, or click on the Logout button. For security purposes, no other person should have access to your Username or Password. If you feel your information has been compromised or if you experience technical difficulties, contact the e-course system administrator at: e-sysop@amberton.edu

If you have lost or do not know your Amberton ID#, please contact the Student Services Office 972/279-6511 or advisor@Amberton.edu for a replacement AUID card. You must know your Amberton ID# to gain access to the course and to send email to your professor.

Through the Amberton University Moodle Website

Students enrolled in distance learning courses using the Moodle Learning Platform may also access the course 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 University 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 COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

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 account. 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>

Students are responsible for reviewing the “Communication Guidelines” provided on the individual E Course for specific instructor requirements.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments are to be submitted to the appropriate assignment Drop Box in the Moodle system. Specific directions and guidelines for submission of assignments are located on-line in the “Communication Guidelines” of the e-course. Due to compatibility issues, Office 2007 files cannot be read by earlier versions of Microsoft Office. Before submitting an exercise file, confirm the file is in the proper format for grading by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Each session, all Amberton students are provided with the opportunity to evaluate their courses and instructors. 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. All information provided is anonymous.

The Instructor/Course Evaluation will be open for completion during week 9 of the session. An evaluation assignment will be placed in week 9 of the Moodle course, along with the instructions on how to complete the evaluation. Prior to week 9, the University will send out an email containing instructions and dates for the evaluation period.

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.

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) or the library site (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 (972-279-6511 ext. 185. You can email questions to library@amberton.edu or visit the library in person on the Garland campus for assistance.