



Course Syllabus

**Course:** COUN 303 Introduction to the Helping Profession  
**Semester:** Fall 2011  
**Course Format & Credit Hours:** Lecture and discussion: 3 credit hours  
**Prerequisites:** Please see the Undergraduate Catalog  
**Instructor:** Jes Leonard  
**Instructor Contact Information:** All class related correspondence should be conducted within the eCampus mail system. If necessary, I may also be reached at Jes.Leonard@mail.wvu.edu  
**Schedule:** See below  
**Location:** eCampus  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Course Objectives:** The objectives of this course are to

1. Expose students to the many different professions within human services.
2. Expose students to topical issues served by helping professionals.
3. Expose students to populations served by helping professionals.
4. Expose students to concerns and issues within the helping profession

**Expected Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course:

1. Students will have an understanding of the different professions within human services.
2. Students will have an understanding and exposure to topical issues to which helping professionals are exposed.
3. Students will have an understanding of the populations served by helping professionals.
4. Students will have an understanding of concerns and issues within the helping profession.

**Required Text:** Woodside, M. & McClam, T. (2011). *An Introduction to Human Services* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) Thomson Brooks/Cole, United States

Albom, M. (1997) *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Double Day, United States

**Grading:** **Weekly Readings:** Readings are assigned for each week to provide you with an introduction to the topic being discussed. Information from the readings will be essential in discussion and will be found on the Exams (see below).

**Discussion/Participation:** On weeks specified, students will be asked to post responses (at least 1 paragraph) to questions posted about the Woodside & McClam textbook. To receive credit students are required to respond to all questions assigned. Each response is worth 10 points. It is not required that you also respond to your classmates' original posts, but are welcome to do so in the interest of creating "classroom" discussions. Due dates are on the course schedule and are due by 11:59 p.m. (It is always a Tuesday). **Total: 50 points.**

**Journal Entries:** Students will be asked to complete on-line journals regarding original thoughts and responses on the topics presented in the book *Tuesdays with Morrie*. To receive credit for each assignment, you must post **one original journal entry** (1 paragraph each), and respond to **at least two** entries created by other students. Original postings must be about the topic of that weeks' chapters or thoughts on what the characters in the book are experiencing. You must post your original responses by the date on the syllabus (it is always a Tuesday) to allow for

others enough time to respond to your entry. **If your original post is not completed by 11:59 p.m. on that date, you will automatically lose 5 points for that entry.** The two response postings must be completed by 11:59 p.m. Thursday of that week (date of completion is also on the syllabus). **Both response postings must be about another person's journal entry and are worth 5 points total.** To earn credit for the responses, each student must post two responses by the posted deadline. **Total: 70 points**

**Exams:** There will be four exams for 50 points each. Each exam is scheduled to be taken on a Friday of the assigned week, and will be made available on eCampus by 9:00 am until 11:59 pm of that day. You will have 50 minutes to complete each exam (50 multiple choice questions), and only one chance. This means that you will need to plan a time to take the exam when you not only have a solid internet connection, but also a block of time free from distraction. The information for the Exams will be taken from the readings in the Woodside & McClam book. You will be able to reference this source during your exam, but you are *strongly advised* to complete all reading as the questions may be difficult to answer for those not familiar with the content. **Total: 200 points**

**Media Analysis:** For this assignment, each student will select a news story which reflects a human service problem and will follow this story in the news (internet, television, paper media, e.g.). In a 2-3 page report, describe the situation and what the problem is (who are the participants, what is the central issue, what are the different perspectives, etc.; **20 points**). Additionally, if the situation was resolved, describe the resolution and respond to how it impacted those involved. If the situation has not been resolved, make recommendations for how the participants could successfully handle the problem (**20 points**). Finally, comment on relevant public policy considerations and how those affect the problem in question (**10 points**). Due date is October 4 by 11: 59 p.m. **Total: 50 points.**

**Book Report:** As a final project you will be writing about your reaction to a book from the list below. Below are the specific criteria for your report, again it is NOT to be a retelling of the book. This paper should be approximately 5 pages in length. Due date is December 13 by 11: 59 p.m. **Total: 80 points**

**BASICS:** In completing the book report, you must use 12 pt. Times New Roman Font, Double spaced, be sure to check grammar, punctuation and spelling! (**10 points**)

**WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT?** Describe why you picked this book. (**10 points**)

What was the most surprising/disturbing/difficult part of this book? What was your personal response to this material? (**10 points**)

How has this book changed you or the way you think about people, issues in the area described in the book? (**20 points**)

If you are a 'helper' (a counselor, teacher, minister, etc.) describe how you would respond to this type of client, student, etc. (**30 points**)

**Select One Of the Recommended Reading Books:**

- Burroughs, Augusten, (2002), *Running with scissors: A Memoir*
- Fitch, Janet, (1999), *White Oleander*
- Kaysen, Susanna, (1993), *Girl Interrupted*
- Pelzer, Dave, (1995), *A Child Called "It"*
- Sacks, Oliver, (1985), *A Man That Mistook his Wife for a Hat and other*

*Clinical Tales*

- Samenow, Stanton, (2004), *Inside the Criminal Mind*
- Yalom, Irvin, (1989), *Love's Executioner and other Tales of Psychopathology*
- Zailckas, Koren, (2005), *Smashed: A Story of a Drunken Girlhood.*

\*\*\*\* **All the above books are available through the library.**

**Grading Policy:**

No make-up exams except by prior arrangement with instructor  
Late assignments will not be accepted except by prior arrangement with the instructor

Late Discussion and Journal Entry posts will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Exam grading appeals in writing on the day the exam is returned.

**Grade Assignment:**

A total of 450 points can be obtained for this course:

A= 405-450 pts

B= 360-404 pts

C= 315-359 pts.

D= 270-314 pts.

F= 0-269 pts.

## Reading Assignments

\*Please note that you have readings due in *Tuesdays with Morrie* even on weeks in which you have an exam!

Week of:

Aug 22	Introduction to Morrie <b>p. 1- 47 Albom</b>  An introduction to Human Services <b>Ch 1 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Aug 29	The First Tuesday: We talk about the world <b>p.48-54 Albom</b> The Second Tuesday: We talk about feeling sorry for yourself <b>p. 55-61 Albom</b>  History of Helping profession <b>Ch 2 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Sept 5	
Sept 12	The Third Tuesday: We talk about regrets <b>p. 62-68 Albom</b>  Human Services Today <b>Ch 3 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Sept 19	The Fourth Tuesday: We talk about death <b>p. 69-89 Albom</b>  Models of Service Delivery <b>Ch 4 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Sept 26	The Fifth Tuesday: We talk about family <b>p. 90-99 Albom</b>
Oct 3	The Sixth Tuesday: We talk about emotion <b>p. 100-108 Albom</b>  The Client <b>Ch 5 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>  <b>MEDIA ANALYSIS DUE OCT 4</b>
Oct 10	The Seventh Tuesday: We talk about the fear of aging <b>p. 109-121 Albom</b>  The Human Service Professional <b>Ch 6 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Oct 17	The Eighth Tuesday: We talk about money <b>p. 122-128 Albom</b>
Oct 24	The Ninth Tuesday: We talk about how life goes on. <b>p. 129-141 Albom</b>  The Helping Process <b>Ch 7 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Oct 31	The Tenth Tuesday: We talk about marriage. <b>p. 142-152 Albom</b>  Working within the System <b>Ch 8 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Nov 7	The Eleventh Tuesday: We talk about our culture <b>p. 152-159 Albom</b>  Professional Concerns <b>Ch 9 Woodside &amp; McClam</b>
Nov 14	The Twelfth Tuesday: We talk about forgiveness. <b>p. 160-170 Albom</b>
Nov 21	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
Nov 28	The Thirteenth Tuesday: We talk about the perfect day <b>p. 171-180 Albom</b>
Dec 5	The Fourteenth Tuesday: We say Goodbye <b>p. 181-192 Albom</b>
Dec 12	<b>FINAL PROJECT (book report) due by 11:59 p.m. on December 13!</b>

**Attendance Policy:**

Consistent with WVU guidelines, students absent from regularly scheduled examinations because of authorized University activities will have the opportunity to take them at an alternate time. Make-up exams for absences due to any other reason will be at the discretion of the instructor.

**Social Justice Statement:**

"West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class. Please advise me and make appropriate arrangement with Disability Services (293-6700)."

**Policy for Incomplete Grades:**

When a person requests an incomplete from an instructor in a course, an agreement for completion of the coursework must be done. Attached is a form that must be completed when the grade of "I" is granted. Please note that the policy is that the coursework should be completed within the following semester. A grade of "incomplete" ("I") should be given to a student when the instructor believes the course work is unavoidably incomplete (e.g. due to illness, family emergency, etc.) or a supplementary examination is justifiable. Incomplete grades should not be given to students who have stopped attending class, who have never attended class, or who are trying to improve their grades by being granted additional time to complete the work of the course, particularly students who are earning grades of D or F. Neither should an incomplete be given unless the student has contacted the instructor to explain the circumstances of the unavoidable delay or absence. A grade must be recorded each time a student registers for a class. Therefore, should a student be given an incomplete, he/she must not register for the same class in a subsequent semester in order to remove the incomplete. If the student does register for the class again, the original incomplete will automatically become an F. You must make specific arrangements with the instructor regarding how and when the work will be completed.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, the Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling and Counseling Psychology professors and graduate teaching assistants will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuring sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code at <http://www.arc.wvu.edu/admissions/integrity.html>. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see either the professor or the appropriate graduate teaching assistant before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

**Student Evaluation of  
Instruction Statement:**

Effective teaching is a primary mission of West Virginia University. Student evaluation of instruction provides the university and the instructor with feedback about your experiences in the course for review and course improvement. Your participation in the evaluation of course instruction is both strongly encouraged and highly valued. Results are strictly confidential, anonymous, and not available to the instructor until after final grades are released by Admissions and Records. Information about how you can complete this evaluation will be provided later.

## Course Schedule

**\*Please be advised that the course is reading/assignment heavy in the first half weeks of the semester in order to give you an adequate amount of time after Thanksgiving break to work on your final book report. Please make sure to set out an adequate amount of time to get all of your work done effectively.**

Week of:

Aug 22	
Aug 29	<b>Journal Entry:</b> Introduction to Morrie <b>p. 1- 47 Albom</b> The First Tuesday: We talk about the world <b>p. 48-54 Albom</b> The Second Tuesday: We talk about feeling sorry for yourself <b>p. 55-61 Albom</b> (Original post due <b>Aug 30</b> , two other responses due <b>Sept 1</b> )
Sept 5	<b>Exam 1: Chapter 1 &amp; 2 (Sept 9)</b>
Sept 12	<b>Discussion Board response due Sept 13</b>
Sept 19	<b>Journal Entry:</b> The Third Tuesday: We talk about regrets <b>p. 62-68 Albom</b> ; The Fourth Tuesday: We talk about death <b>p.69-89 Albom</b> (Original post due <b>Sept 20</b> , two other responses due <b>Sept 22</b> )
Sept 26	<b>Exam 2: Chapters 3 &amp; 4 (Sept 30)</b>
Oct 3	<b>Journal Entry:</b> The Fifth Tuesday: We talk about family <b>p. 90-99 Albom</b> ; The Sixth Tuesday: We talk about emotion <b>p.100-108 Albom</b> (Original post due <b>Oct 4</b> , two other responses due <b>Oct 6</b> )  <b>MEDIA ANALYSIS DUE: OCT 4</b>
Oct 10	<b>Discussion Board response due Oct 11</b>
Oct 17	<b>Journal Entry:</b> The Seventh Tuesday: We talk about the fear of aging <b>p. 109-121 Albom</b> ; The Eighth Tuesday: We talk about money <b>p. 122-128 Albom</b> (Original post due <b>Oct 18</b> , two other responses due <b>Oct 20</b> )  <b>Exam 3: Chapters 5 &amp; 6 (Oct 21)</b>
Oct 24	<b>Discussion Board response due Oct 25</b>
Oct 31	<b>Journal Entry:</b> The Ninth Tuesday: We talk about how life goes on <b>p. 129-141 Albom</b> ; The Tenth Tuesday: We talk about marriage <b>p. 142-152 Albom</b> (Original post due <b>Nov 1</b> , two other responses due <b>Nov 3</b> )
Nov 7	<b>Discussion Board response due Nov 8</b>
Nov 14	<b>Journal Entry:</b> The Eleventh Tuesday: We talk about our culture <b>p. 152-159 Albom</b> ; The Twelfth Tuesday: We talk about forgiveness. <b>p. 160-170 Albom</b> (Original post due <b>Nov 15</b> , two other responses due <b>Nov 17</b> )  <b>Exam 4: Chapters 7, 8. &amp; 9 (Nov 18)</b>
Nov 21	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
Nov 28	<b>Discussion Board response due Nov 29</b>

<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>Journal Entry:</b> The Thirteenth Tuesday: We talk about the perfect day <b>pp171-180 Albom</b> ; The Fourteenth Tuesday: We say Goodbye <b>pp181-192 Albom</b> (Original post due Dec 6, two other responses due Dec 8)
<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>FINAL PROJECT (book report) due by 11:59 p.m. December 13!</b>