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EMP 8192: BIOSEMIOTIC PHARMACOLOGY (3 credits)

Overview of Course:

Students will be introduced to healing servomechanisms and biosemiotic explanation of these psychosomatic phenomena.

Course Topics:

- Basic mechanisms of placebo responses.
- Biosemiotic biology: from Darwinian to Peircian paradigm.
- Eriksonian hypnotherapy and healing metaphors.
- Neurolinguistic programming and changing belief system.
- Biosemiotic approach to Healer-Healee relationship.

Learning Objectives:

- Intro to placebo response and its biopsychosocial mechanisms.
- Intro to Biosemiotic biology.
- Define the flow of signs from culture to genes and vice versa.
- Explain therapeutic metaphors which can be used in healing methods.
- Explain Biosemiotic programming of healing communications.

Audience:

This course is open to Master, Doctorate and non-degree students who pass BEE I program.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

The on-campus and off-campus components of BEE Trainership/Healership program.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Placebo effect is the spirit of Medicine. Different therapeutic mechanisms only represent the tip of the iceberg of healing response but there is a folk belief that the healing response (non-specific + specific responses) attributes to the therapeutic method or agent. Placebo is a neutral matter of sham technique, which can heal because it is expected to heal. In fact, placebo is interpreted as a sign and it produces meaning; anticipation of getting better.

Energy-based therapies like other medical interventions transfer this healing sign in several forms, and induce placebo response in their own manner. If a healer knows the Biosemiotic dynamisms and the function of direct and indirect suggestions in clinical settings s/he can intentionally select and formulate an effective and salutogenic set of signs.

If you mention it or not, healing is occurred in a semiotic atmosphere, and if we want to reduce the failure rate and resistance to healing stream we should organize the act of verbal and non-verbal signs.

BRIEF NEED STATEMENT

For an effective resource-based approach to health, we must know the healing servomechanisms and how these pathways are blocked and how we can open these ways by biosemiotic codes; the healing codes.

FACULTY-STUDENT COMMUNICATION

- **Telephone Contact:** Students should arrange all telephone communications with the instructor by email beforehand. An initial phone contact to clarify course objectives and develop a schedule should be made prior to beginning the course. This contact should be scheduled within the first few weeks of commencement of the semester. After this, periodic telephone communication can be arranged with instructor. All telephone calls will be at student's expense.
- **Email Contact:** Reflection on and questions about the coursework papers and field placement internship should be addressed via email monthly or as needed. Students are always encouraged to contact the instructor via email whenever a problem arises.

• Communications

It is requested that students stay in weekly or every other week correspondence with the instructor using e-mail. The student should also set up periodic telephone conversations, at their expense, to discuss problems, concerns, or determine the direction of their course work. Students are always encouraged to contact the instructor by e-mail, fax, or telephone whenever a major concern may arise. It should be understood that as mature students, it is the responsibility of the students to stay in contact with their instructors. The instructor may be able to set up one-on-one discussions with the student using Skype. Students should check e-mail frequently for professor and EMU messages.

Students will normally send communications via email and submit papers as MSWORD format files attached to email messages. Synchronous Internet sessions may be used for "chat sessions" using Yahoo Messenger Chat or Skype. Check with your instructor on the type of communications s/he uses.

Internet Threaded Discussion: There is also an on-going Internet threaded discussion among the students and faculty for the entire semester which creates a larger feedback mechanism of communication. It may be accessed anytime. The thread page is located at: http://groups.yahoocom/group/Energy_Medicine

Length of Course:

Length of this Energy Medicine course is five (5) months or one (1) semester.

COURSE DELIVERY STYLE

Distance Education - Coursework is completed at a location determined by the student utilizing a computer that has the ability to play audio and video clips, with Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Reader, along with a current web browser, internet connection and email address. Contact and communication with distance students is typically conducted by telephone, Internet, Skype, text chat, and email. Students are also encouraged to contact the University by facsimiles, and postal mail, and by personal visit to the University.

All lessons, coursework and papers must be copied to lessons@energymedineuniversity.org from both the student and professor.

DISTANCE LEARNING COMPONENT

Required reading, Scholarly papers and Multimedia reports are designed to deepen students' understanding of the materials.

Required practice sessions and experiential assignments will facilitate student's ability to use the BEE skills. The assignments are as follow:

1) Reading Assignments

Students will read the course assignments and text materials during the first two months.

2) Course Paper/Project

Students will conduct research based on secondary and primary source materials and the required texts. From this research, students will write four papers consisting of BEE specific topics (approved by the instructor) and provide a twenty-minute film of their training experiences. Students may also elect to do a graduate level project.

3) Final Interview (on skype)

Students are issued a set of topic assignments, readings and explorations, in preparation for final interview. Before the deadline, students schedule with the instructor the time and date for the face-to-face, telephone or Skype conference. During the examination, the instructor will make notations of the effectiveness, qualities, and weaknesses of the student's replies.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

On-Campus COMPONENT:

❖ Assignments #1-2 are associated with the Bioenergy Economy Workshops.

Assignments #1: Grade Count: 30% DUE: During the first two months

Read: "The Placebo Response", "Biosemiotic communication", chapter 2 of "Hypnotic suggestions and Metaphores", and "Beliefs: Pathways to Health and Well Being ".

Write: A 5-10 page scholarly paper for each text (3 personal reviews)

Assignments #2 Grade Count: 30% DUE: Before 3rd month of study

Research: at least 10 review article on placebo effect, Biosemiotics and/or therapeutic metaphors.

Write: A 10-15 page scholarly paper.

Assignment #3 Grade Count: 10%

Contact: by telephone or skype monthly and by email weekly with BEE instructors during the course, and a final interview on skype after the course.

Assignment #4 Grade Count: 10% DUE: Before final interview

Write: at least a 4-session of individual or group psychoeducation or therapy plan on Biosemiotics, Therapeutic Metaphares and Neurolinguistic programming.

Assignment #5 Grade Count: 10%

Write: a 10-15 page final report including following items:

- 1- Describe their changings in their knowledge, attitude, practice (KAP).
- 2-Describe their goal setting and programs in relation with personal and professional application of Biosemiotic approach to healing methods for higher health and quality of life.

INDIVIDUALIZATION OF STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Each research project will be chosen by the student to best support their individual professional goals, yet each student will also benefit from seeing the fruits of all fellow students' research and providing professional criticism of each others work.

Each student will be afforded the opportunity of writing on a subject that is related to his or her field of interest. This will assist the student in making each paper individualized. Also the student is encouraged to go outside the field and obtain research data from other interdisciplinary areas. Each student, based on his or her background, will be encouraged to transfer that theoretical information which the course provides into a practical format in the final paper or project.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course grade will be based upon the quality of the research papers and reports, participation and promptness of postings, and the final interview.

COURSE GRADING DETERMINANTS

Grades are based on the mentioned elements of a student's participation and accomplishment. In determining a grade for this course, the following formula will be used:

92-100 points = A range 86-91 points = B range 80-85 points = C range 70-80 points = D range Under 70 points = F

SPECIAL NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS

All coursework must be completed in a timely fashion. Students are encouraged to phone or e-mail the instructor whenever they need advice, comments, or instruction.

Texts:

- Oller, JW, The Antithesis of Entrog: Biosemiotic Communication from Genetics to Human Language with Special Emphasis on the Immune System Entrop.2010,12:631-705
- Kradin, R., *The Placebo Response and the Power of Unconscious Healing*, (2008).
- Hammond, D. C. 1990, Handbook of Hypnotic Suggestions and Metaphors, WW Norton & Co., New York.
- Dilts, R.; Beliefs: Pathways to Health and Well Being, 1990.