

SW 790-001
Theory and Practice of Infant Mental Health
Spring/Summer 2012

Prof. Julie Ribaldo
2784 SSWB Office: 734.936.4949
Cell: 586.360.7521
Email: jribaldo@umich.edu

Office hours -
Monday 12:30 - 1:30

Course Domain and Boundaries

This is an *introductory* course on the relationship between theory and practice in infant mental health. It is intended for graduate students in Social Work, Education, Nursing and Psychology. Its purpose is to furnish a conceptual framework, based upon recent developments in attachment theory, for understanding how the emotional qualities of the infant-parent dyad influence the infant's development, the parent's capacity to give care, and finally the professional's state of mind regarding the family. Emphasis is given to how the experiences of early childhood persist over time, and how they are summoned up again by the presence of a baby. This understanding becomes in turn the basis for learning how to plan a treatment approach which takes into account the family's capacities for change.

Specific Knowledge and Skill Objectives

The students should learn:

- A. Theories of the relationship between early parent-infant interaction and subsequent development.
- B. Consequences of failures or disruptions of the attachment process for both parent and child.
- C. Strategies for effective intervention to strengthen early attachment.
- D. Transference and countertransference issues pertinent to infant mental health work.

Class Agenda

Wednesday June 13

Morning –

Class Introductions; course parameters
Attachment Theory

Afternoon-

Attachment Theory
Adult Attachment Interview
Assessment - Observing infants and parents – what do we look for; what do we see?

Wednesday June 20

Morning –

Assessment
Strategies for intervention
Infant-Parent Psychotherapy

Afternoon-

Strategies for intervention
Watch, Wait and Wonder
Transference and Countertransference

Reading Requirements

In prep for Class One:

Bretherton, I. (1992). The origins of attachment theory: John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth. *Developmental Psychology*, 28, 759-775.

Lyons-Ruth, K & Jacobvitz, D. (2008). Attachment disorganization: Genetic factors, parenting contexts and developmental transformations from infancy to adulthood. In J. Cassidy & P.R. Shaver (Eds.) *Handbook of Attachment*, 2nd edition (pp. 666 – 697).

In prep for Class Two (most are brief chapters):

Case Studies in Infant Mental Health: Risk, Resiliency, and Relationships (ordered through Ulrich). **Chapter 1 (pp. 1- 14), Chapter 3 (pp. 27-39), Chapter 13 (pp. 187-199).**

Kermoian, R. and Leiderman, P. H. (1986). Infant Attachment to mother and child caregiver in an East African community. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*.

Hoffman, et. al. (2006). Changing Toddlers' and Preschoolers' Attachment Representations: The Circle of Security Intervention. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 74, 1017-1026.

Working Model of the Interview (class handout)

Additional Suggested Reading:

Kobak, R. & Madsen, S. (2008). Disruptions in attachment bonds: Implications for theory, research and clinical intervention. In J. Cassidy & P.R. Shaver (Eds.) *Handbook of Attachment*, 2nd edition (pp. 23 – 47).

Seligman, S. (1993). Why How You Feel Matters: Countertransference Reactions in Intervention Relationships. *The Signal*. Vol. 1, No.2 (class handout)

Course Paper

Name and describe three core concepts you will take from this course. You must fully elaborate your idea and use at least one reading to elucidate your thinking (you must show some depth of reading and integrating whatever reading you use). Your response should demonstrate strong understanding of the concepts, or include some discussion of what you would eventually like to understand at a deeper level. The paper should be 2 to 3 pages, double-spaced.

In the final paragraph, note (to the degree that you feel comfortable - you don't need to fully reveal your "self" to me) at least one way that the course either added to or deepened your awareness about yourself.

DUE: Monday July 2 at 11:00 p.m. on Ctools