

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

ART 209 – Spring 2010

ART THERAPY PRACTICUM

Instructor: Rebecca Arnold, MA, ATR-BC
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mailbox: Alumnae Hall art office
Availability: By appointment

Class schedule: Thursday 4pm

Class dates: Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides the student with an opportunity to explore field experience and observe art therapy practice in a clinical setting with structured supervision. It is designed to give senior students who have already completed the pre-requisite courses: Introduction to Art Therapy and Applications in Art Therapy, an opportunity to clarify and focus their professional intentions and to obtain experience that will be useful in pursuing further educational opportunities. It is appropriate for students who plan to continue into graduate education in the field of art therapy.

The student will participate in monthly group supervision where there will be an opportunity to address art therapy theory and practice. In addition, students are required to keep a **personal journal** in which a summary of activities and general observations can be recorded as well as documenting their observations through art making. The class format will elicit dialogue and self-awareness. Supervision by an on-site art therapist is required and will be combined with support and guidance from the course instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Communicate openly and effectively in a professional manner.
- Develop observational skills of various populations as related to therapeutic treatment and care.
- Develop self awareness through presentation of personal issues and/or experiences as related to observations.
- Demonstrate understanding of client confidentiality and treatment planning.
- Articulate ways to use art as a therapeutic tool in clinical settings.
- Demonstrate the ability to accurately report on the art therapy sessions, group and individual, with emphasis on art processes and products, treatment objectives and verbal interactions.

COURSE STRUCTURE: Each student will have the opportunity to present journal entries, observations and questions during each class meeting. Supplemental reading materials may be offered as decided by the course instructor.

SITE OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION: Students will rotate observation sites throughout the semester to offer a more expansive look at how and where art therapy is practiced. Each student will require 50 hours of combined observation time at selected facilities and will have an opportunity to evaluate each site upon completion of observation time.

COURSE EVALUATION: The final grade will be recorded as follows:

Classroom attendance and participation	25%
Journal work	25%
Fulfillment of practicum hours	50%

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Class attendance and participation is an integral part of the practicum learning process and all students are expected to attend the full class schedule. This includes regular class attendance, sharing observations at the practicum site, actively engaging in discussions, peer feedback and engagement of any responsive art processes presented.

Any late arrivals or missed classes must be reported to the course instructor at a reasonable time and will reflect negatively on your final grade.

2. Journal work must be completed after each visit to the site. Entries must include a written review of observations including any personal or professional reactions. Entries may be submitted weekly to the course professor via campus email, but are required at each class meeting. Any journal entries consisting of images may be shared in class or handed in during class meetings.
3. Fulfillment of practicum hours requires each student to complete 25 hours at two separate sites agreed upon by the instructor for a total of 50 hours during the semester. At least 15 of the 25 hours at each site need to be direct observation of therapeutic art processes. The remaining 10 hours may be used for on-site supervision/discussion with the supervising art therapist.

General Notes:

- Always maintain the client's right to privacy and use protective methods whenever writing about and/or discussing a client. Any art work or copies of work used outside of the therapy setting must remain confidential and must have consent for release of information signed. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of each practicum site and the AATA Code of Ethics: http://www.atcb.org/export/sites/atcb/_resources/author_files/code-2005.pdf
- I am always available to you. I can be reached by phone, email, or by scheduled appointment. Please consider me as one of your resources in this class and do not hesitate to contact me if, at any time during the course of the semester, an issue or difficult feelings arise. You may also choose to contact the college counseling services to use at your own discretion.