Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies in Working with Survivors of Violence, Torture, and Trauma (VTT): Theoretical Foundations and Mental Health
Department of Psychology
Counseling Psychology Program

PSYC 665: Understanding Torture and Trauma II (3 credits)

INSTRUCTOR: Sheetal Patel, Ph.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is the second course in a series of two classes focused on theory, research, and psychological interventions related to the treatment of survivors of torture and trauma. Current approaches to treatment of torture survivors, as well as psychological, social/familial, spiritual, physical, community, and political implications of torture will be introduced.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Describe the role of the therapeutic relationship in torture treatment
2. List common psychological disorders experienced by refugees and survivors of torture
3. Recognize important treatment goals for torture survivors
4. Critically evaluate individual therapeutic intervention strategies with torture survivors
5. Explain testimony methods and the benefits and risks of discussing traumatic experiences
6. Critically evaluate the role of political activism in fostering mental health of torture survivors
7. Describe the unique benefits and risks of group therapy for refugee clients
8. Outline appropriate torture treatment strategies as supported by research
9. Identify torture treatment issues unique to adults
10. Describe common experiences of children in exile
11. Identify torture treatment issues unique to children
12. Identify torture treatment issues unique to families
13. Explain the intergenerational transmission of trauma
14. Demonstrate an understanding of employment related issues faced by survivors of torture
15. List appropriate intervention strategies for employment issues faced by survivors of torture
16. List psychological benefits of employment for torture survivors
17. Identify unique social service needs of torture survivors
18. Describe the typical emotional reactions to the asylum evaluation process
19. Summarize common psycho-legal issues experienced by torture survivors
20. List common medical problems experienced by torture survivors
21. Apply ethical standards to describe appropriate collaboration with legal professionals while maintaining client confidentiality
22. Apply ethical standards to describe appropriate collaboration with medical professionals while maintaining client confidentiality
23. Articulate various forms of torture
24. Critically evaluate controversial topics with regards to torture

**Class Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>The therapeutic relationship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Healing + Reconnection: psychotherapy Individual, group, family, alternative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Adults + Children (reunification, intergenerational conflict)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Social Services+ Work: strength-based, accessing employment, treatment, relationship with supervisors, change in status</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Medical: physical/psychological symptoms, working with medical doctors</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Legal : status, application for asylum, relationship with lawyer, forensics, psychologists working with lawyers</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Gender-based torture</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Controversial topics: Solitary confinement, FGM, Psychologists as Interrogators</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Special Topic Group Presentations</td>
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