I. Course Number & Credit: CPS 569, 3sh

II. Course Title: Clinical Assessment in Mental Health Counseling

III. Course Description:

a. Catalog Description: This course will prepare students to interpret and perform clinical mental health assessments through the use of structured mental health interviews and objective personality and other assessments.

b. Extended Description: This course will provide instruction and practice on the administration, scoring, and interpretation of selected advanced assessment instruments. Special emphasis will be given to screening tools, clinical interviews, and report writing. The course will also cover ethical concerns of using these assessments and will discuss the implications of using these assessments with diverse populations.

IV. Prerequisites: Graduate standing & completion of CPS 585 and CPS 511 or CPS 512/3, or permission of instructor.

V. Justification: The practice of mental health counseling as defined by NY state education law allows for the use of assessment instruments to identify, evaluate and treat dysfunctions and disorders for purposes of providing appropriate mental health counseling services (Education Law, Article 163 §8402). This course will meet that requirement by providing instruction and practice in the use of clinical interviews (including biopsychosocial assessments and mental status exams) standardized personality tests, screenings and interest inventories. Additionally, students will be able to create an integrated report based on these assessments, culminating with a multiaxial diagnosis and treatment plans.

VI. Course Objectives: Students will be able to:

A. Demonstrate an understanding of the history, role, and function of personality and other testing in clinical counseling. (KNOWLEDGE)
B. Administer, score, and interpret objective assessment instruments. (PRACTICE, AUTHENTIC LEARNING)
C. Write comprehensive clinical reports by integrating structured interviews and objective assessments with adults and adolescents. (PRACTICE, AUTHENTIC LEARNING)
D. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethics of personality test construction and administration. (KNOWLEDGE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, REFLECTION)
E. Complete a biopsychosocial history & assessment. (PRACTICE, AUTHENTIC LEARNING)
F. Complete a mental status exam. (PRACTICE, AUTHENTIC LEARNING)
G. Demonstrate an understanding of issues regarding race, gender, disability and assessment. (KNOWLEDGE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, REFLECTION)