

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 4062 3.0 Section M: SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES IN COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY**  
**Tuesdays/5:30pm-8:30pm/In-Person, rm. 1005 Vari Hall (VH)**  
**Winter/2024**

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The entire course will be delivered in-person with no accommodations (i.e., lectures are not recorded) made for students who cannot attend lectures. Lecture slides will be posted on the course website before each class. Please note: this class has a workshop format, therefore lecture slides will be minimal and class discussion in addition to class exercises/activities will be engaged in to learn course material and active listening skills. Active participation and engagement are strongly encouraged and is reflected in participation contributing to 15% of your final grade.

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Jennifer Lewin, Ph.D., C.Psych  
Office Hours: by appointment, rm. 251 BSB  
Email: [jlewin@yorku.ca](mailto:jlewin@yorku.ca)

**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)
- HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 (Statistical Methods I) or HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II)
- HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 (Introduction to Research Methods) or substitutes
- HH/PSYC 2130 3.00 (Personality)
- HH/PSYC 3140 3.00 (Abnormal Psychology)
- HH/PSYC 4061 3.00 (Theoretical Approaches to Counselling and Psychotherapy)
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits.

**Course Credit Exclusions**

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

**Course website: [eClass](#)**

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. The site will be your central access point for course materials such as lecture slides, student forum, and assignment instructions in addition to important updates, changes that may occur during the course.

## Course Description

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn and discuss important counselling concepts/ideas and engage in experiential learning by practicing active listening and other fundamental skills used by counsellors and other mental health professionals. Foundational person-centred concepts and interventions will be introduced and practiced through various activities and exercises, which will include but are not limited to: creating an environment of safety and trust, developing the therapeutic relationship, empathic active listening, and paraphrasing and reflecting. Other skills will be touched upon in this course which include: goal setting and treatment planning, working with emotions, and incorporating activity exercises. Additionally, students will be introduced to and will engage in *psychotherapy process analysis* through class discussions, reviewing and discussing therapy video in-class, and through tests and assignments.

*Please note:* Active participation in discussion and skills practice will be expected of all students in this class. A large portion of student evaluation is placed on participation. As well, students will be encouraged to become aware of and reflect upon their own values, motivations, strengths, and limitations in terms of what they bring to the therapeutic relationship, and in relation to their emerging understanding of the **process** of counselling.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in skills and techniques in counselling and psychotherapy.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize, and resolve conflicting results in skills and techniques in counselling and psychotherapy.
3. Articulate trends in skills and techniques in counselling and psychotherapy.
4. Locate research articles and show critical thinking about research findings.
5. Express psychological knowledge in written form in more than 1 sub-discipline.
6. Engage in evidence-based dialogue with course director and peers.
7. Demonstrate an ability to work with others.

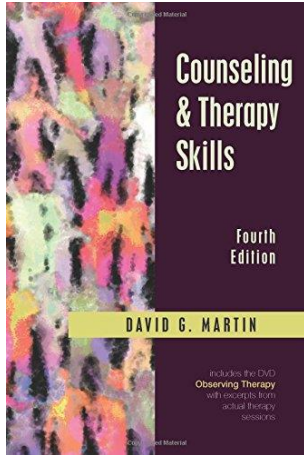
## Specific Learning Objectives

Critically reflect on skills and techniques of foundational counselling work and recognize one's own values, motivations, and biases through discussion, experiential learning and written reflection.

Start to learn fundamental active listening and counselling skills and appreciate moment-to-moment processing of psychotherapy sessions.

## Required Text

- Martin, D.G. (2016). *Counseling and therapy skills, 4th edition*. (Text with DVD) Long Grove, Ill: Waveland Press



## Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Test 1	February 13, 2024	35%
Group Presentations	February 27 to April 2, 2024	15%
Transcription Assignment	April 2, 2024	35%
Participation	Throughout course	15%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

## Description of Assignments

### TEST 1

**Worth: 35% of final grade**

**Test Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

The test will be based on all the textbook readings/assigned readings and class discussions/lecture material provided during the first 5 classes (January 9 to February 6, 2024). The test will involve application of the concepts discussed and practiced in class. There may be a small portion of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions, however, most of the test will consist of a transcript analysis. The analysis of a portion of a therapy transcript (i.e., you will be asked to comment and reflect upon what is happening in this therapy segment, including naming the therapeutic interventions being utilized and evaluating the manner in which they are being applied. Additionally, you will be asked to provide alternate therapist responses). This process analysis on Test 1 provides you with the opportunity to apply the concepts you have been learning to a portion of a therapy session AND will give you some practice regarding what you will be asked to do for the final transcription assignment. You will have 3 hours to write the test. More information regarding the test will be provided in class.

## GROUP PRESENTATION

**Presentation length:** 30 minutes

**Class activity and post-discussion:** 30 minutes

**Group size:** 4 to 5 people

**Worth:** 15% of final grade

The list below provides the topics and dates from which to choose your presentation. Class presentations will be 30 minutes in length – this is a strict guideline; your presentation needs to fall within this time frame. You will be given a two-minute warning, and you will be cut off to move into a class activity illustrating one of the therapeutic techniques associated with this psychotherapy approach. You will also need to provide a *relevant reading to your presentation* 1 week before your presentation date. Make sure you plan enough time to explain the activity and have classmates engage in the activity and allow for post-activity class discussion. You will have 30 minutes for the class activity and post-activity discussion. Each group presentation will consist of 4 to 5 students. Short excerpts of video material or other visual aids may be used only *if applicable* to your topic and *if they add value to your presentation*.

The following are the presentation topics and dates (they are also located in the course schedule).

Presentation Date	Topic
February 27, 2024	Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
March 5, 2024	Gestalt Therapy
March 12, 2024	Multicultural Counseling and Therapy
March 19, 2024	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) for a Specific Disorder
March 26, 2024	Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction
April 2, 2024	Narrative Therapy

Here is the **scoring rubric** for the group presentations:

<b>Content</b> (is appropriate level for 4 <sup>th</sup> year audience in terms of difficulty as well as the article/reading assigned to the class)	/20
<b>Organization/Coherence</b> (presentation sequence is easy to follow, flows well, slides are clear)	/15
<b>Clarity</b> (effectively communicate concepts to audience, demonstrating knowledge base)	/15
<b>Engagement</b> (delivering information in interesting manner, which includes presentation style – i.e., eye contact, enthusiasm, etc. and quality of presentation slides, e.g., effective visuals)	/20
<b>Exercise &amp; post-presentation discussion</b> (relevancy and delivery of therapeutic technique/exercise as well as effectiveness at answering questions & moderating class discussion)	/25

<b>Finishes presentation on time</b> (group does not go under or over time + or – 5 minutes)	/5
<b>TOTAL</b>	/100

## **PARTICIPATION**

### **Worth: 15% of final grade**

Participation will be evaluated based on:

- On time and present for all classes
- Preparation for discussion, having read the reading(s) for that class
- Active and regular participation in discussion
- Active engagement in role plays and in-class exercises

*Particular attention will be paid to attending and engaging with student presentations.*

Also, as part of your participation, within the first two weeks, a 5-minute meeting to assess your baseline active listening skills will be booked and conducted with me. No preparation is required. Near the end of the course, another 5-minute assessment will be booked in order for me to assess your improvement in your active listening/counselling skills over the course. It will also be an opportunity to provide you with some direct feedback regarding the development of your counselling skills. More information regarding this part of your participation grade will be discussed in class.

## **FINAL “Therapy” TRANSCRIPT ASSIGNMENT**

### **Worth: 35% of final grade**

**Instructions posted: February 27, 2024, on course website**

**Due: Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

For this assignment, students will record and transcribe a 12 to 15 minute “counselling” interview or “session” with another classmate. The “therapist” will engage in at least 15 interventions with the “client” (i.e., class member) identifying and making process comments regarding the foundational helping skills that you have learned in this class and are being illustrated in your “therapy” segment. Each student will transcribe a continuous “counselling” segment (not sections put together), ensuring that this transcription is a **verbatim** account of the interview/session. The instructor will provide an article with psychotherapy transcription rules (Mergenthaler & Stinson, 1991) and an abridged list of these rules, which will be posted on the course website. More information regarding this assignment will be provided in class. Ensure that you do not use a font size smaller than 12. The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day late. *You will need to provide the actual recording along with your assignment.*

The transcription should be presented in a table with three separate columns: one for transcription, the second for naming the intervention used by the “therapist” and briefly commenting on the impact of it (e.g., effectiveness, function it served – deepening, clarifying, focusing), and the third column for *alternate “therapist” responses*.

**Transcription (column 1):**

- \* Transcribe your interview segment using the guidelines provided in class.

**Process Observations & Comments (column 2):**

- \* Identify verbal interventions occurring in the interview segment that have been discussed in the course (e.g., open-ended questions, minimal encouragers, paraphrases, and reflections).
- \* Briefly comment on the success or effectiveness of the intervention by examining the “client’s” response and considering your intentions for employing the intervention in the moment.
- \* Provide any other brief comments regarding the moment-to-moment therapy/interview process as it occurs that seem important to you to note.

**Alternate Responses (column 3):**

- \* You DO NOT need to provide alternate responses to every “therapist” response. If you consider your original response to be effective and it achieves what you intended to do (or even achieved something positive that you did not intend), you don’t need to provide an alternate response. Provide alternate responses when the “client” provides feedback indicating that your response was inaccurate or “off the mark”, or if upon reflection of the transcript, you realize an alternate response would likely have been more effective or would have potentially helped move the “client” deeper in the therapy process than your original intervention. If you would have liked to have used a different intervention, name the different intervention you would use and provide the actual response you would like to have given at the point of the therapy segment.

In addition to the transcription with process comments, you will submit to 2-to-4-page (double-spaced, 12font) reflection on your strengths and weaknesses as a helper or “therapist”, as demonstrated in the interview, and on the evolution of your counseling skills over the course. This may include your overall impression of the interview segment, including how well you feel it demonstrates your current skill level, and comment on the interpersonal dynamics contributing to the working alliance (or lack thereof) and/or any other important aspects of the interview segment that you feel had a particular impact. In addition, this is an opportunity to reflect on your experiences engaging in different exercises and practicing different interventions in class and to comment on various factors that led to the development (or lack of development) of your helping skills. For example, depending on your personal experience with the course, you may want to address your strengths or difficulties with employing different helping interventions (e.g., reflections, paraphrases), discuss the potential effects of learning these helping skills outside the classroom in your everyday life, address obstacles in developing your skills, or describe any particularly poignant or “aha” moments and their subsequent impact on your helping skills. I am interested in your experience, your insights and your elaboration of significant moments in the evolution of your helping skills.

**NOTE:** For the transcript analysis – I am NOT marking you in terms of your skill as a “therapist” – I am marking your ability to properly identify what you did during the therapy segment and thoughtfully reflect on the therapy process with your comments and alternate responses. I am interested in your interpretation of the therapy process based on the information and skills that you have learned in this course.

### **Class Format and Attendance Policy**

This course will be taught in a workshop fashion, whereby classes will include: a) role-playing and practice interviewing; b) minimal lecture and more group discussion of the reading for each class; c) small group discussions and experiential exercises; d) video demonstrations of skills and e) homework in the form of reflections on readings & class exercises and/or cognitive-behavioural exercises to be completed outside of the classroom.

Beginning to acquire skills is an integral component of this course. Within the role-plays and practice interviewing components, there is a possibility that a student will gain knowledge of confidential information, such as information another student’s personal life. It is essential and the responsibility of each student in the course to respect and maintain every other student’s right to confidentiality. Moreover, as potential members of the helping profession, it is important to keep in mind that this experience is one point along the journey of ethical action and practice.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning and after the midway break for each class.

### **Grading as per Senate Policy**

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2023-24](#)

### **Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment**

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician’s Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

**Makeup for Test 1:** If you are unable to write Test 1 on the original test date and you have a valid reason (e.g., injured, car accident, death in the family, illness), you will be eligible to write the makeup, which will take place approximately 2 weeks after the original test date.

## Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2023-24 Important Dates](#)

	Winter 2024 (Term W)
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan. 22
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Mar. 11
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	March 12 - April 8

## Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

## Information on Plagiarism Detection

The university has subscribed to the Turnitin service which helps professors identify internet plagiarism and helps students maintain academic integrity. The work submitted by you in this course will be submitted through Turnitin via eClass.

## Electronic Device Policy

This course will be delivered in-person. Electronic devices are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. Please appreciate that in this course will involve active participation in the form of small and large class discussion and engaging in different exercises with fellow



students. As such, electronic use is discouraged and will not be particularly relevant for this course. Lastly, you will be working on developing therapeutic presence, which requires attention and focus, not distraction and split attention.

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

### **Academic Integrity for Students**

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

### **Test Banks**

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

### **Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the

academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

**Course Materials Copyright Information**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC4062Q course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

**Tentative Course Schedule**

<b>DATE 2024</b>	<b>LECTURE TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
January 9	Overview and skills-based learning in counselling; empathy and getting started	Martin: Chapters 1 & 7
January 17	Building the foundation: Effective listening	Martin: Chapter 2
January 23	Questioning, restatements, & paraphrasing	Assigned reading
January 30	Reflecting emotion, evocative paraphrasing	Martin: Chapters 3 & 4
February 6	Therapeutic relationship & issues mid-therapy: exploring & deepening	Martin: Chapter 8
<b>February 13</b>	<b>TEST 1</b> Short answer questions & transcript analysis (process comments & summary)	Covers textbook readings: Martin: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 Assigned readings: Lectures: 1 to 5

<b>February 19</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	No class or readings!!!
February 27	<b>Group presentation: <i>Dialectical Behaviour Therapy</i></b>  Client problem solving, assessment, & goal setting	Assigned Reading:  Martin: Chapter 5
March 5	<b>Group presentation: <i>Gestalt therapy</i></b> Ending therapy, reflection and transition	Assigned Reading
March 12	<b>Group presentation: <i>Multicultural counseling &amp; therapy</i></b> Diversity and multicultural considerations	Martin: Chapter 14 <i>Assigned reading:</i> Sue, Sue, Neville, & Smith (2019). Obstacles to developing cultural competence and cultural humility, <i>Counselling the Culturally Diverse: Theory and Practice, 8<sup>th</sup> edition</i> , (pp. 5-25), Wiley.
March 19	<b>Group presentation: <i>CBT for a Specific Disorder</i></b>  CBT and incorporating activities into therapy	<i>Assigned reading:</i>
March 26	<b>Group presentation: <i>Mindfulness based stress reduction</i></b> Self-care	Martin: Chapter 15
April 2	<b>Group presentation: <i>Narrative therapy</i></b>  Ethical Issues  <b>Transcription Assignment Due</b>	Martin: Chapter 11

\*Assigned readings (which will consist of various journal articles, book chapters, etc.) will be posted ahead of lectures on eClass for students to have time to read the material.

\*\*\*Please be aware that course schedule/readings are subject to change prior to course starting. Please look to course announcements and updates on eClass for any changes.