

The Narrative Therapy Initiative at The Salem Center

The Narrative Therapy Initiative at The Salem Center has three intentions.

- First, to offer programs that introduce professionals to narrative therapy.
- Second, to offer the highest level training possible for professionals interested in practicing narrative therapy.
- Third, to develop and sustain a positive and respectful community where people can gather sustenance and support for their attempts to practice narrative therapy in their own work contexts.

Narrative Therapy Skills Program (Level I – III)

This series of courses is for students interested in developing their narrative therapy knowledge and skill. The completion of these three courses will help students develop their confidence in their own narrative therapy practice. Completion of these courses, or their equivalent, is necessary prior to enrollment in the Postgraduate Certificate Program

Level I Course: This course is for students who have not had formal training in narrative therapy. Students can expect to learn about the worldview that shapes the thinking behind narrative therapy practice and its context in the history of psychotherapy. Students also can expect to learn narrative therapy ideas about problems in people's lives and relationships, how change happens, and the stance of the narrative therapist. Finally, students can expect to get a taste of the narrative therapy skills associated with the approach. The instructor will present materials through lectures, case examples, live interviews, and experiential exercises. Students will be asked to read one journal article or book chapter per week assigned by the instructor. They will be asked to write a short reflection paper for each reading assignment and a short final paper that describes what was most important to them about the course. The goal of this course is for students to be introduced to narrative therapy in a way that allows them to determine whether the worldview and associated practices fit with their hopes for themselves as professionals.

Level II Course: This course is for students who have completed the Level I course or the equivalent and who want to develop their narrative therapy understanding and skill further. It is a course for people who want a chance to experiment with the practice of narrative therapy in a supportive environment. Students can expect to begin developing narrative skills, including externalizing, deconstructing, double-listening, re-membering, and re-authoring. Students will have opportunities to practice interviews and participate as outsider witnesses for their classmates. Between meetings, students will identify a particular skill they wish to focus on in their learning and/or work contexts. Regular readings and short writing projects will be assigned. Students will be asked to make audio or videotapes of their work if possible and present some of their work in class. These tapes will be used to help all students reflect on and identify skills they wish to practice further. The goal of this course is to leave students with a strong sense of what rich story development in practice means.

Level III Course: This course is for students who want to develop strong confidence in their ability to practice narrative therapy. The course will consist of regular taping of practice for review and critique. Students will lead presentations on their work and identify/analyze how their work fits with their intentions for their practice. Students will participate in one another's skill development through practicing as outsider witnesses for these presentations. The completion of this course will prepare students to enroll in the Postgraduate Certificate Program.

Postgraduate Certificate Program

The Narrative Therapy Postgraduate Certificate Program is designed for students interested in developing their narrative therapy knowledge and practice to a level where they are confident to teach, publish, present, and/or develop a specialized narrative therapy focus for their professional identity as a practitioner, educator, and/or researcher. Regular reading will be assigned and students will be encouraged to write a paper for publication as part of their projects.

2009-2010 Class Offerings

Level 2 Class

Course Information:

A maximum of 8 students will meet on four Fridays, 9:00-4:00.

CEUs Available: 26 hours per course for LICSW, LMHC, and LMFT

Cost: \$750 (payment plans possible).

Prerequisite: Level 1 Class

Course Dates: 10/23, 11/20, 12/18 and 1/22

Contact: narrativetherapyinitiative@gmail.com

Level 3 Class

Course Information:

A maximum of 8 students will meet on four Fridays, 9:00-4:00.

CEUs Available: 26 hours per course for LICSW, LMHC, and LMFT

Cost: \$750 (payment plans possible).

Prerequisite: Level 2 Class

Course Dates: 2/5, 3/5, 4/9 and 5/7

Contact: narrativetherapyinitiative@gmail.com

Level 1 Class

Salem State College, Graduate School Continuing Education Program
Winter 2010

If you have any questions, or if you would like to add your name to our email list to hear about upcoming classes and events, please contact us at:

narrativetherapyinitiative@gmail.com