Instructor: Mark Becker, Ph.D., L.P.
Office: 3038 Student Services Bldg. (Student Counseling Service)
Phone: 294-0156 (direct) or 294-5056 (SCS front desk)
Email: mrbecker@iastate.edu
Office hours: Monday & Thursday, 1:10 – 2:00, Friday, 1:10 – 2:00
   * Please see me before or after class, or call or email, to set up an appointment *

and research to work (2nd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Course goals: The counseling psychology program at ISU approaches training from the
scientist/practitioner model. This model recognizes the importance of research that has application, as well
as practice that is informed by research. Therefore, this class will seek to provide students with a strong
theoretical foundation in the area of vocational psychology, as well as a firm foundation in the practical
application of career assessment and counseling. Students will become familiar with the main theories and
theorists in the field of vocational psychology. They will learn methods of application of this theory to
clinical practice. They will become familiar with standard career assessment instruments, as well as
techniques of career counseling.

Attendance: I believe that attendance is crucial, especially in a class that only meets once per week.
However, attendance will not be taken in this class -- I feel that at the graduate level students are able to
make their own choices as to whether they attend class or not.

Grading: Grading is as follows:
   Midterm = 25%
   In-class presentation = 20%
   Term paper = 20%
   Case conceptualization = 10%
   Final = 25%
The midterm and final will both be take-home essay tests. The in-class presentation and term paper will be
on the same topic. This can be any topic that is relevant to the course, but your topic must be approved by
the instructor. The case conceptualization will involve explaining the career difficulties of a fictional client
with a career theory discussed in class. It will also involve interpretation of test material. Details of each
assignment will be provided later in the semester.

Assessments: Each student will take the Strong Interest Inventory, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and
the assessment that are part of the Kuder Career Planning System. These assessments will be discussed
during the appropriate class sessions.

ADA Accommodations: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities
Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and requires accommodations, he or she should contact the
Disability Resources office for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disability Resources is
located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076; their phone number is 294-6624.
SCHEDULE

* Note: This is a projected schedule, however the schedule is subject to change based on course needs *

1/16  Introductions, review syllabus
      **Theory**: Vocational psychology in historical perspective; Brown chapter 1 & Swanson chapter 3

1/23  **Theory**: Holland; Brown chapter 3 & Swanson chapter 6

1/30  **Theory**: Theory of Work Adjustment; Brown chapter 2 & Swanson chapter 7
      **Theory**: Social cognitive theory; Brown chapter 5 & Swanson chapter 9, 10

2/6   **Theory**: Developmental theories; Brown chapter 4 & Swanson chapter 8

2/13  **Assessment**: Strong Interest Inventory; Brown chapter 14 & Swanson chapter 2

2/20  **Assessment**: Strong Interest Inventory continue; Campbell Skills & Interests Inventory, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator; Brown chapters 16
      **CASE CONCEPTUALIZATION DUE!**

2/27  **Assessment**: Computer based self-assessments (DISCOVER, SIGI³, Kuder); Card sorts
      (Missouri, Knowdell)

3/6   **Clinical**: Career counseling overview; diamond model; systems of occupational classification;
      Brown chapter 18

3/13  **Clinical**: Career counseling techniques; Brown chapters 20, 22
      **Clinical**: Beyond skills/values/interests; Brown chapter 15

3/20  **Spring Break**: No class this week

3/27  Integrating SII and MBTI; **MIDTERM DUE!**

4/3   Student presentations – 3 slots

4/10  Student presentations – 3 slots

4/17  Student presentations – 3 slots
      **TERM PAPERS DUE!**

4/24  **Clinical**: Work with special populations; Brown chapters 7, 8, 9, 10 & Swanson chapter 5

5/1   Course summary

5/8   **FINAL DUE!** No class this week