

YC218
Animal Assisted Interventions
3 Credits

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YC218 Version: 7



Animal Assisted Interventions

Calendar Description

Animal Assisted Interventions is a unique and growing field in working with children, youth and families. This course explores why animals are currently being recognized as effective people helpers. An overview of the different ways animals have been helping people throughout history is provided with an in depth look at their role in assisting people in need. Students should take this course to gain a better understanding of the human-animal bond and the benefits animals can provide to people in need.

Rationale

This course explores a variety of issues relating to the field of human services. Students have the opportunity to connect the knowledge from their previous course work to current issues and trends. Emphasis is placed on students developing critical thinking skills by listening to guest speakers, media (DVD) or examining research articles on current topics and presenting findings to fellow students.

Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. describe the historical perspectives related to animals assisting humans.
2. examine how animal assisted interventions can be applied in the Human Services scope of practice.
3. research how different animals can be used to assist specific populations.
4. describe how animals are selected and screened.
5. argue in support of the ethical treatment of therapy animals.

Resource Materials

Required Text(s):

Online resource and research material

Reference Text(s):

Fine, A. H. (2019). *Handbook on animal-assisted therapy: Theoretical foundations and guidelines for animal-assisted interventions* (5th ed.). Cambridge, MA: Academic Press.

Conduct of Course

Lecture, class discussion, group exercises, videos, and guest speakers are used to deliver the course content. Participation is necessary.

Evaluation Procedures

The requirement for marks in this course consists of a research assignment, a quiz, a presentation and a final exam.

Quiz	15%
Presentation Assignment	25%
Research Assignment	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.0

Students must maintain a cumulative average grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work and assignments to the

satisfaction of the instructor. Frequent absences may result in the student being probation. Further absences may result in suspension from the program.

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate. *Instructors have the authority to require attendance in classes.*

Course Units/Topics

- A. Introduction to the Human/Animal bond
- B. Animal assisted interventions in an historical perspective
- C. Differences between
 - a) animal assisted therapy
 - b) animal assisted activity
 - c) animal assisted interventions
- D. Benefits of animal assisted intervention
- E. Animals and professional practice
- F. Animals, children and individuals with autism
- G. Application of
 - a) AAT
 - b) AAA
 - c) AAI
- H. Safety and risk management in AAT
- I. Animal ethics
- J. Animals and assessment
- K. Animal/personal awareness
- L. Loss of a therapy animal
- M. The link between animal abuse and violence towards people
- N. Animals and the CYC scope of practice - Areas of service
 - Hospitals
 - Residential treatment
 - Rehabilitation
 - Justice
 - School based
 - Child day care
 - Early intervention
 - Parent education
 - Recreation
 - Social services



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