**Aim of the course**

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The main goal of this course is to provide insight into the practice of clinical psychology. Students acquire the basic skills needed for the first encounter and communication with patients. Based on the theoretical knowledge of characteristics of mental disorders, students are able to explore a patient with mental disorder and they are able to summarize their experiences. Practical information regarding the aims of a first psychological interview in clinical practice, special problems that could occur during an interview, and possible solutions are discussed using role plays and other exercises.

**Learning outcome, competences**

**knowledge:****
- characteristics, diagnostic and psychotherapeutic aspects of main mental and behavioral disorders
- person-centered approach
- initial interview and other techniques of interviews

**attitude:**
- explorative
- empathetic, congruent, with unconditional positive regard
- supportive

**skills:**
- ability of empathy and exploration
- get in touch with a patient with mental disorder
- form and maintain an ethically proper relationship with patients
- development of basic skills for initial interview
- ability of case presentation

**Content of the course**

**Topics of the course**
- 1-5: introduction, presentations of material, initial interview, structured interviews, role play, practice of basic skills
- 6-12: empathy, person-centered approach, skilled helper model, mental disorders and special problems in interviews, presentations, role-play
- 13: evaluation

**Learning activities, learning methods**
active presence, in groups, role-plays, presentation of material, case presentation, video

**Evaluation of outcomes**

**Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation:**
requirements
*The active presence is essential (max. 3 missed classes can be accepted).*
Students are required to read the material and each week, one student gives a talk to the class about the current section of the material, lasting up to 15 minutes; then we discuss it in class in an active way (for example by role-play).
A visit of a unit of psychiatry and an exploration of a patient, then students are required to give a case presentation and write an essay about their experiences (case report)

**mode of evaluation:**
*practical mark*
criteria of evaluation:
active presence
presentation of material
case presentation
essay (case report)

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