SR 950-32 Clinical and Applied Sociology

Elsworth B. Neale

Omega Graduate School

August 18, 2023

Professor

Dr. Joshua Reichard

Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

**a.** Weekend Residency: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage

with other students during the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

**b.** The professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Clinical Sociology**

The practice of clinical sociology has been around for a very long time; however, the framework and definition have developed over the recent past. Clinical sociology, according to Fritz (2021), “is a creative, humanistic, rights-based and interdisciplinary specialization that seeks to improve life situations for individuals and groups in a wide variety of settings.”

The major contribution of clinical sociology within contemporary sociology is the provision of a broad, substantive base and conceptual context for intervention work at different levels of social organizations (Hall, 1991).

Involvement in, and interaction with members of a specific social system to address specific social problems, is the most basic attribute that sets the subdiscipline of clinical sociology apart from other sociological disciplines. Clinical sociologists blend the role of social scientist with the role of active social change agent. Intervention along with the application of sociological perspectives, knowledge, and skills comprise the unifying themes that span the diversity of clinical sociology (Rebach, 2001).

Clinical sociology shifts away from researcher/respondent relationships and power dynamics, toward clinical practitioner/client interactions, across social levels and complements the diversity of approaches within sociology by illustrating the wide spectrum within the discipline.

Clinical sociology makes this integration clear, with a practical focus and intent: going beyond providing research questions and social analysis, towards taking concrete steps in addressing issues faced by individuals, communities and states ( Rocha, 2022).

Clinical sociologists use existing theory to formulate models that will be helpful in identifying and understanding problems and also to identify strategies to reduce or solve these problems. Clinical sociologists also have shown that practice can have an influence on existing theories and help in the development of new ones.

Clinical sociologists have many different areas of expertise, such as health promotion, organizational development, needs assessments, social conflict reduction, or cultural competence (Fritz, 2021).They work with individuals, with families and small groups, with government, corporate, and community organizations, and even larger social aggregates and systems. However, regardless of the scope of the social system being analyzed, a distinctive feature of the clinical sociological approach is recognition of the interaction of levels (Bruhn & Rebach, 2012).

WORKS CITED

1. Bruhn, J. G., & Rebach, H. M. (Eds.). (2012). *Handbook of clinical sociology*. Springer Science & Business Media.
2. Fritz, J. M. (Ed.). (2021). *International clinical sociology*. New York: Springer.
3. Hall, C. Margaret (1991) "Clinical Sociology and Religion," *Clinical Sociology*

*Review: 9*(1) 8. <http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/csr/vol9/iss1/8>

1. Rocha, Z. L. (2022). Clinical Sociology and Mixedness: Towards Applying Critical Mixed Race Theory in Everyday Life. *Genealogy, 6*(2), 32. <https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy6020032>
2. Rebach, H.M. (2001). Intervention in Clinical Sociology. In: Rebach, H.M., Bruhn, J.G. (eds) *Handbook of Clinical Sociology. Clinical Sociology: Research and Practice.* Springer, Boston, MA. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4615-1217-2_2>