

Course Code: OTA 214

Course Title: Occupational Therapy Theory

Department: Allied Health

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.2 - Occupational/Technical Instruction

CIP Code: 51.0803

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 2-3-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 2

Lab: 3

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Presents frames of reference, therapeutic models, and approaches used in occupational therapy evaluation, clinical reasoning, and intervention processes. Includes the Model of Human Occupation, sensorimotor, cognitive, and psychosocial frames of reference.

General Course Objectives

1. Describe the purpose and concepts associated with different types of clinical reasoning and how to use them during the intervention process. (B.2.1., B.4.2., B.4.3.)
2. Understand and describe how to identify and use levels of research used to make evidence-based decisions in OT practice. (B.6.1., B.6.2., B.6.3.)
3. Describe the purpose, concepts and postulates of change (interventions) associated with different frames of reference used in OT services. (B.2.1., B.2.2.)
4. Explain the relationship between various practice models (FORs) with the Model of Human Occupation and other occupation-based models. (B.2.1., B. 3.2., B.4.2., B.4.3., B.4.4.)
5. Explain use of motor learning and cognitive learning theories to guide and structure instruction and occupational health and performance. (B.2.1., B.3.2., B.3.5., B.4.2., B.4.3., B.4.4., B.4.18.)
6. Define and apply principles of ecological frames of reference and universal design to plan and modify context and environments supporting occupation-based performance. (B.2.1., B.3.5., B.4.2., B.4.3., B.4.18.)
7. Define and apply sensorimotor frames of reference and approaches to promote self-regulation and improve attention and occupation-based performance. (B.2.1., B.3.2., B.3.5., B.4.2., B.4.3., B.4.13., B.4.18.)
8. Describe and apply cognitive frames of reference and approaches to guide instruction, grade activities, highlight activity demands, and improve safety and performance. (B.2.1., B.3.2., B.3.5., B.4.2., B.4.3., B.4.4., B.4.9.)
9. Explain how different practice models (FORs) and psychosocial frames of reference are used to improve mental health, occupational engagement and performance. (B.2.1., B.3.2., B.3.5., B.4.2., B.4.3., 3.1., B.3.2., B.5.6.)

10. Identify and describe how frames of reference are used in clinical reasoning and treatment selection within one's current fieldwork II experiences. (B.3.5., B.4.2., B.4.3., C.1.)
11. Describe the importance of developing and maintaining an occupation-oriented practice in OT. (B.4.2., B.4.3.)

Minimum Placement Levels

| English | Reading | Math |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Placement out of ENG 099 | Placement out of CCS 099 | None |

Prerequisites

Credit in OTA 111, OTA 112, OTA 113, OTA 114, and OTA 115

Credit or concurrent enrollment in OTA 213

Admission into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program

Methods of Evaluation

6-9 quizzes, 1 term paper, 3-4 discussion boards, 8-11 article review/homework, 3-4 objective exams.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy, Gillen, G. and Brown, C. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, current edition. 978-1975106584

Applied Theories in Occupational Therapy: A Practical Approach, Cole, M.B. & Tufano, R., Thorofare, NJ: SLACK, Inc. 2nd edition. 978-1617116360

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Reasoning and Inquiry: Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using deductive reasoning and logic, quantitative reasoning, or the scientific method.
- Technology: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate, select, and appropriately use current and emerging tools.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

| Course Segment | Learning Outcomes | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|--|---|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Using Theoretical Concepts in Term Paper and Projects | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe and classify different types of clinical reasoning in vignettes and current practice. 2. Describe and classify the five levels of research used in evidence-based practice. 3. Describe and discriminate the function of theories and frames of reference in OT. 4. Outline, define, and classify the basic structure of frames of reference and theories in relationship to practice. 5. Define and compare different types of clinical reasoning used in occupational therapy and their relationship to theories and frames of reference. 6. Identify and define the structure and function of the occupation-based frames of references, psychosocial frames of references, cognitive-based frames of references, sensory-motor based frames of references, and environmentally-based frames of references. | 20 | 30 | 0 |

| Course Segment | Learning Outcomes | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|--|--|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Using Theoretical Concepts in Term Paper and Projects (cont'd) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Illustrate and examine the theoretical assumptions, principles, and components of occupation-based frames of references, psychosocial-based frames of references, cognitive-based frames of references, sensory-motor based frames of references, and environmentally-based frames of references. 8. Describe and illustrate how frames of references (occupation-based, psychosocial-based, sensory-motor based, environmentally-based) could be used in OT intervention. 9. Compare frames of reference with various interventions, strategies, and therapeutic activities used in the fieldwork setting. | | | |
| Develop Ethical Standards Pertaining to Professional Interactions, Citations in Papers, and Classroom Behavior | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate ethical behaviors in professional interactions and interview. 2. Construct and demonstrate all written work using appropriate APA referencing. | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Communication Skills - Verbal and Written Work | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construct and demonstrate effective communication skills when researching Fieldwork II setting to develop written analysis of frames of references used in Fieldwork. 2. Compare and examine frames of references in discussion of research results. 3. Construct and demonstrate effective written communication when developing written analysis. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Collaboration with Intraprofessionals | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate with Fieldwork clinical educator to research the frames of references used in Fieldwork setting. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Evidence-Based Practice Demonstrated with Assignments | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify, construct, and organize written assignments using evidence-based literature. 2. Identify and describe differences between levels and types of research. 3. Identify and distinguish research of various frames of references used in Fieldwork setting. 4. Identify and distinguish how the levels of research reflect chosen frame of reference. | 3 | 3 | 0 |

Total Contact Hours

| Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 30 | 45 | 0 |