

Field Notes from Observations

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Observer: BLINDED, CEPD 7152 student

Setting: Professional counseling class for master's level students

Conducted on Monday, June 20, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.

Location: Room 1, Education Center, University of West Georgia

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Thoughts/Comments</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 students (17 female, 5 male)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 1 professor, 1 student supervisor (both female)– 5 rows of students– 1 male student sitting in 3rd row from the front (psychology), 1 male student sitting in 4th row (community counseling), and 3 male students sitting in 5th row (student affairs)– No male students in first two rows of class• Watched movie during first two hours of class; Topic of movie was about group formation, interaction, and sharing• Beginning of the movie: 4/5 of male students not watching movie<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 2 males students – alternately doing homework and texting (student affairs)– 2 male students – alternately texting and falling asleep (1 community counseling and 1 student affairs)– 1 male student – watching movie (psychology major/sitting closest to front of class in 3rd row)– In contrast, 4 female students are doing homework and 2 are texting (6/17 female students not watching movie)• Halfway through the movie:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– One male student (4th row/community counseling) left class to go sleep on couch in hallway; he returns to the classroom toward the end of the movie to sleep in the last row• Three-quarters of the way through the movie:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 1 male student (the only one who had been paying attention) leaves class for more than thirty minutes (3rd row, psychology)– 1 male student still asleep out in the hallway (4th row, community counseling)– 3 remaining male students stop texting and doing homework when a woman in the movie begins to share about coming out as a lesbian to her mother– After the lesbian in the movie is finished talking, one of the male students leaves the	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is the most male students I've had in a counseling class, usually there are only one or two male students• Men have spaced themselves out and are sitting with women rather than grouping themselves together – If the tables were turned, I suspect female students would all be sitting together in a male-dominated classroom• Most male students appear disinterested in class material (movie); whereas most female students are engaged in the class material• This is the first time (about 1.5 hours into a 2 hour

Observations

- classroom, he returns with a snack and proceeds to eat and text
- Toward the very end of the movie:
 - All 5 male students are paying attention to the movie for the first time since it began 2 hours previously
 - During last hour of class, students working in small groups were asked to engage in a discussion of what they saw happening in the movie, citing specific examples in the movie as illustrations of the 5 stages of group counseling
 - All male students actively participated in their small group discussions
 - 3 male students shared during the large group discussion, but the discussion was dominated by women

Thoughts/Comments

- movie) that all the male students in the room are watching the movie with interest
- Male student in my small group had great ideas but he didn't want to speak out in the larger group
 - One male student did a majority of talking (in terms of male student sharing); he's very opinionated, asks a lot of questions, and acted as spokesperson for small group; he also paid attention during most of the movie and showed the most interest
 - Student affairs students (all 3 are male) are the least engaged in this class, maybe because they don't need this material for their work?