Course Title and Number: SW 763D
Professional Issues in Advanced Generalist Practice - Substance Abuse

Instructor:

Contact Information:

Meeting Day / Time:

Location:

Course Description -

This course addresses the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of substance-related and behavioral addictive disorders from the advanced generalist social work perspective. Information from a variety of other disciplines will be included to assist the student in understanding the special needs of those individuals being assessed, diagnosed and treated for these disorders. Special attention will be paid to the role of medications in the treatment of addictions. The emphasis throughout the course will be on understanding the unique strengths and challenges of the individual who presents with addiction problems, as well as the impact of that person’s illness on the family system and community.

Course Objectives / Educational Outcomes -

- To understand a variety of models of addiction.
- To understand the role of a thorough assessment in the effective diagnosis, assessment and treatment of individuals with addiction disorders. This will include a review of current assessment tools, e.g. SASSI, MAST, etc.
- To understand the interaction of biological, psychological and social factors in addiction.
- To understand the fundamental concepts of pharmacological properties and effects of psychoactive substances on the central nervous system.
- To be able to assess clients for the presence of dual diagnostic or co-morbidity issues.
- To move from assessment and diagnosis of patients to the development of treatment plans and interventions based on the diagnostic presentation.
- To understand the role of other disciplines, physicians, psychiatrist, nursing, etc. in the effective treatment of individuals with addictive disorders.
- To identify ethical and professional issues associated with assessing, diagnosing and treating individuals with addiction disorders.
- To identify how issues of culture, diversity and oppression impact the effective assessment, diagnosis and treatment of individual with substance-related and/or behavioral addictions.

Required Text and Reading -
Required Text:  

Additional Readings: Selected articles will be utilized throughout the semester and are on electronic reserve at the library.

Course Requirements -

- **Class Attendance and Participation:** You are expected to come to this class prepared to actively participate in every class meeting. Each class will be a combination of lecture and experiential learning so active involvement will be a pivotal part of your learning and final grade. You will get out of this class exactly what you put into it. You are expected to arrive for class on time and remain for the entire class. **You are expected to conduct yourself with the professionalism befitting the field of social work.** Since this course is taught over a period of three days, any absences will result in the student failing the course.

- **Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability that may affect your learning or performance in this class, you should contact the UNR Disability Services Office. The instructor will make only those accommodations that are requested in writing by the aforementioned office.

- **Assignments:**
  - You are expected to participate in experiential activities during class. These exercises are designed to enhance your knowledge, skills and self awareness as related to assessment, diagnosis and treatment of individuals with behavioral and/or addiction disorders.

- **Paper:** You will be given seven cases on the first day of class. Each case has a series of questions that you will answer in a paper you will turn in. More details to follow.

- **Exam:** There are one exam

- **Grading:** Final grades will be based on the following -
  - Class attendance and participation  20%
  - Paper  30%
  - Exam  50%

  Letter grades will be based on the following cumulative percentages -

  - “A”  100 – 95
  - “A-”  94 – 90
  - “B+”  89 – 85
  - “B”  84 – 80
  - “C”  79 – 75
  - “C-”  74 – 70
  - Less that 69% is considered failing

Sample Course Outline and Calendar

Reading are to be completed PRIOR to class so that the students are prepared for class discussions and activities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Chapter(s)</td>
<td>Topics</td>
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<td>01-25</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Models of addiction</td>
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<td>Neurobiological aspects of addiction</td>
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<td>Assessment and diagnosis</td>
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<td>02-01</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Uppers: Stimulants</td>
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<td>02-08</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Downers: Opiates and Sedative Hypnotics</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Downers: Alcohol</td>
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<td>02-15</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>All Arounders: Hallucinogens</td>
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<td>Chapter 7 (7.1-7.11; 7.29-7.58)</td>
<td>Other Drugs: Inhalants</td>
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<td>Behavioral Addictions</td>
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<td>02-22</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Treatment</td>
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<td><strong>Case Studies Due - Will review answers in class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td>Available on Friday, February 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 7:00pm</td>
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<td>Exam will close on Friday, March 1\textsuperscript{st} at 7:00pm</td>
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