

Social Work 617

Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery

3 Units

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I. COURSE PREREQUISITES

This elective course is open to School of Social Work students who have completed their foundation year course requirements and open to all concentration students.

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Causal exploration of substance related and behavioral addictive disorders. Evidence-based and practice informed treatment models for vulnerable individuals, groups and families.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses a social work systemic approach to understanding substance misuse and other addictive behaviors. At present, there are no unifying theories of addiction and there are no unifying theories on treating addictions. Given the absence of overarching theoretical support, this course begins with a historical overview of addiction and the systems used in the past to try to eradicate addiction to illegal substances and the systems of care used to treat addiction and improve the well-being of vulnerable individuals and communities. The course is designed to then provide an overview of the epidemiological perspective, ethical and legal perspective, and sociological perspective. It also contains information on current treatment trends including the recognized levels of care. The course ends with an overview of both the historic and the contemporary policy trends for how our society views addiction, responds to those people affected by addiction, advances social and economic justice,

and to eradicate pressing societal problems in complex and culturally diverse environments.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objective #	Objectives
1	Introduce to the field of substance related and behavioral misuse including historical and contemporary clinical, ethical, legal, political, sociological, public policy, and criminal justice perspectives. Discuss and assess ways the social work profession influences how the field of addictions is approached from both a clinical and policy perspective.
2	Introduce the context and stages of substance and behavioral misuse and dependence, as well as the stages of recovery, by exploring the Jellinek curve, definitions, etiological theories, including stigma, shame.
3	Exploring commonly used legal and illicit psychoactive drugs and behaviors and their resulting acute and long-term effects on the body and brain.
4	Introduce the various levels of addiction recovery care and the professional role and tasks of social work. Critically survey and evaluate evidence-based and evidence-informed intervention methods.

V. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The format of the course will consist of didactic instruction and experiential exercises. Case vignettes, videos, and role plays will also be used to facilitate the students' learning. These exercises may include the use of videotapes, role-play, or structured small group exercises. Material from the field will be used to illustrate class content and to provide integration between class and field. Confidentiality of material shared in class will be maintained. As class discussion is an integral part of the learning process, students are expected to come to class ready to discuss required reading and its application to theory and practice.

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following table lists the nine Social Work core competencies as defined by the Council on Social Work Education's 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards:

Social Work Core Competencies	
1	Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior *
2	Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice *
3	Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice *
4	Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice *
5	Engage in Policy Practice *
6	Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities *
7	Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities *
8	Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities *
9	Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities *

* Highlighted in this course

The following table shows the competencies highlighted in this course, the related course objectives, student learning outcomes, and dimensions of each competency measured. The final column provides the location of course content related to the competency.