

Doane College COU 658/HRE371
Medical & Psychosocial Aspects of Alcohol/Drug Use, Abuse, and Addiction
Course Syllabus

3 Semester Credits

Purpose:

Counselors and Therapists must be prepared to effectively address a variety of substance abuse issues with their clients. Understanding basic pharmacology, and physiology, as well as medical and psychosocial characteristics of substance use disorders is essential to a comprehensive practice. Knowledge of alcohol, cocaine, opiates, hallucinogens, barbiturates, amphetamines, designer drugs, marijuana, and inhalants and their affect on the human system is fundamental in treating an array of presenting problems.

Course Description:

This course has been developed to examine the physical, psychological, and sociological aspects of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and dependence. The course will provide an opportunity for students to examine their belief system about drug and alcohol use and will review the processes of addiction/dependence including the signs, symptoms, and behavior patterns. Further, the course will cover the basics of drug pharmacology including alcohol; examine the physiology and the effects of drugs and alcohol on the human body; alcohol and drug tolerance. The effects of alcohol and drugs on mechanisms of the brain will be discussed. The course exposes students to the etiological, behavioral, cultural, and demographic aspects of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and addiction.

Contact Hours:

The course will be held during the regular semester meeting schedule.
Weekly . Hours 6:00 – 10:30 PM

Course Objectives:

1. Explore personal belief systems about drug/alcohol use, abuse, and dependence.
2. Examine the physical and psychological aspects of substance use disorders and how drugs affect basic functions of the body and human behavior.
3. Identify and describe the six classifications of drugs and the basic pharmacology of various drugs of abuse.
4. Review the process of substance abuse and dependency including the symptoms and behavioral aspects of tolerance and withdrawal in the human body in relation to substances.

5. Assess the cultural and demographic aspects of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and dependence.

Course Materials:

Required Text: Uppers Downers All Arounders - Physical & Mental Effects of Psychoactive Drugs (6th Ed.). Darryl S. Inaba & William E. Cohen

Various handouts to be provided by the instructor, Addiction Counseling Competencies: Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes of Professional Practice, and the Treatment Improvement Protocols from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Course Requirements:

All students are required to 1) attend course meetings, 2) complete all course readings, 3) complete 3 worksheets, 4) visit a treatment facility and present information on community services available, 5) develop and provide a 30 minuet oral presentation including handouts to the class.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on 1) attendance and course participation, 2) community services presentation, 3) course presentation method, 4) materials and handouts and 5) completion of all course activities including worksheets.

Course Format:

Classroom instruction, guest speakers, videos, case studies, and student presentations.
Cell Phones & Text Messaging: The class will discuss handling cell phone calls during class and come to consensus on a procedure.