OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.

Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor.

SOWK 394 Subtitle

Substance Misuse Issues

CALiNDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide students with the theoretical knowledge and introductory social work practice skills needed to work with people with substance use/misuse concerns and/or addictive behaviours from an evidence-based, social work perspective. Students will explore various theoretical perspectives of substance use, including the bio/psycho/social/spiritual model, strengths-based practice, and harm reduction. Other specific topics include an overview of psychoactive drugs; the use/misuse/abuse continuum; individual, family, and community issues; ethics in the field of addiction; social costs and policy issues related to substance use/misuse; co-occurring disorders; HIV/AIDS; prevention issues; and treatment of addictions (including motivational interviewing and the stages of change). The particular focus of social work and related professions in the continuum of care will also be examined. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and problem-based learning activities. There will be emphasis on issues related to indigenous people, gender, ethnicity, culture, LGBTQ persons, age, and disability.

PREREQUISITES: 
45 university-level credits, including PSYC 101, with a CGPA of 2.5 or greater; or instructor’s permission

COREQUISITES: 

SYNONYMous COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces: SSSW 394
(b) Cross-listed with: 
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 45

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:

Lectures: 15 Hrs
Seminar: 30 Hrs
Laboratory: Hrs
Field experience: Hrs
Student directed learning: Hrs
Other (specify): Hrs

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:

Length of course:
Hours per day:

OTHER:
Maximum enrolment: 30
Expected frequency of course offerings: 1 per semester (every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)

TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:

Course designer(s): Dr. Leah Douglas
Department Head: Dr. Elizabeth Dow, Director
Supporting area consultation
Curriculum Committee chair:
Dean/Associate VP: Dr. Rosetta Khalideen, Dean
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval

Date of meeting: January 21, 2011
Date of meeting: February 3, 2012
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply an evidence-based approach to theory, research and practice issues related to addiction
- Articulate the importance of social work ethics and values and their application in substance misuse-related work
- Explain bio/psycho/social/spiritual, harm reduction, and strengths-based models of addiction, their role in treatment planning, and the supporting research
- Articulate the historical evolution and impact of other dominant substance-related theories and approaches
- Explain the use/misuse/abuse continuum of psychoactive substances and effects on behaviour
- Identify the characteristics and effects of the major classes of drugs (alcohol, depressants, stimulants, other psycho-active drugs)
- Describe and critique the continuum of care and explain the role of social work interventions with individuals, families and communities.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse needs and experiences related to addiction and social work intervention from users’ perspectives
- Understand substance misuse issues faced by a variety of groups including women, youth, elderly, indigenous, various ethno-cultural groups, and LGBTQ populations
- Describe the nature and extent of substance use/misuse/abuse in Canada
- Conduct substance-related social work assessments based on standardized criteria
- Demonstrate basic skills in using the stages of change and motivational interviewing to assess, interview, and effectively communicate with people with substance-related concerns

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
This course will be taught using a combination of lectures, class discussions, problem-based learning activities, videos, small group presentations, and guest speakers.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)

☐ Other (specify):

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS: [Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]
Csiernik, R. & Rowe, W.S. (Eds.) (2010). Responding to the oppression of addiction: Canadian social work perspectives (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Toronto: Canadian Scholars’ Press Inc.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION: [An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]
Student Led Presentations 20%
Literature Review 30%
Case Study 20%
Final Exam 30%
COURSE CONTENT: [Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

WEEK 1: Introduction, Course Expectations, Frameworks for Understanding Drug Use from a Social Work Perspective
WEEK 2: Drug Use, the Body and the Brain
WEEK 3: Stages of Change & Motivational Interviewing
WEEK 4: Drugs and Theories of Use
WEEK 5: Harm Reduction and its Application
WEEK 6: Assessment, The Continuum of Addiction Treatment
WEEK 7: Drug Policies and their Impact on Society
WEEK 8: Aboriginal Peoples and Substance Misuse
WEEK 9: Co-occurring Disorders
WEEK 10: Women and Substance Misuse, HIV/AIDS
WEEK 11: Family Issues with Addiction
WEEK 12: Prevention, Youth Substance Use Issues
WEEK 13: Substance Use Issues with the Elderly, Wrapping Up, Exam Review