## SOWK 797

### Advanced Social Work Practice in Mental Health

**Course Name/Number**: Advanced Social Work Practice in Mental Health  
**Former Course Number**: N/A  
**UFV Credits**: 3

**Calendar Description**:

Students will develop knowledge and a critical analysis of mental health, social attitudes about mental illness, and service delivery models in Canada, with a particular emphasis on British Columbia. Through various theoretical lenses, students will examine the ideological, social, and political perspectives of mental illness and advanced social work practice. Students will develop skills, knowledge, and ability to critique mental health diagnosis and assessment.

**Prerequisites**: Admission to the MSW program.

**Corequisites**: None.

**Total Hours per Term**: 45

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<th><em>Structure of Hours</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures:</td>
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<td>Seminar:</td>
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<td>Field Experience:</td>
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<td>Laboratory:</td>
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<td>Student Directed Learning:</td>
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<td>Other (Specify):</td>
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| Maximum Enrollment:          | 24 |

**Expected Frequency of Course Offerings**: Every 2 years, based on MSW Cohort model

**Authorization Signatures**:

- **Course Designer(s)**: Margaret Coombes, Ph.D.  
  Lisa Moy, Ph.D. RSW  
  Glen Paddock, PhD.

- **GPC Chair**: John Hogg, MSW, RSW

- **Dean**:  

- **GSC Chair**: Rosetta Khalideen, PhD  
  Adrienne Chan, PhD

- **GSC Approval in Principle Date**: GSC Final Approval Date: January 23, 2014

**Course Implementation Date**: September 1, 2011

**Course Revised Implementation Date**: January 2015

**Course to Be Reviewed (4 years after approval)**: January 2018
COURSE OBJECTIVE - The overall purpose / rationale for this course is:

To demonstrate knowledge and skills in advanced social work practice with those affected by mental health issues at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze the Medical Model as it currently operates in the Canadian mental health system, identifying its strengths, weaknesses in terms of its implications for both the quality of life for people with mental illnesses and for service design and structure;
- Articulate an understanding of the format and application of DSM V;
- Examine various theoretical models as it is currently practiced in the Canadian mental health system, identifying its strengths and weaknesses in terms of its implications for both the quality of life for people with mental illnesses and for service design and structure;
- Identify the core elements of the mental health system in British Columbia and evaluate this system in relation to its effectiveness in meeting the needs of people with mental illnesses;
- Critically analyze the current key issues facing people with mental illness in Canada, within their historical, philosophical and political dimensions. There will be particular emphasis on the ways in which people with mental illness are marginalized and stigmatized; Critically analyze the fit between the mental health system and other service delivery systems such as the family services system, the correctional system, income support systems, education and employment systems, etc.;
- Develop and critique the clinical knowledge and skills of the social worker on a mental health intervention team;
- Practice reflexivity in relation to the effective practice of social work in a mental health setting.

METHODS:

Methods of instruction may include lecture, guest speakers, classroom discussion, student presentations, audio/visual materials, direct practice, site visits and experiential exercises.

COURSE CONTENT:

- The history of psychiatry and the development of the medical model
- The development of the community mental health movement and the recovery model
- The Medical Model vs. the Recovery Model
- Current relevant legislation in BC
- Mental Health service structures i.e. Health Authorities, Provincial Health Authority, Federal services to prisoners and First Nations People, the National Mental Health Commission, the non-profit sector, self-help, peer support, advocacy and public education services and university based research
- Other key services systems and their role in creating and/or solving the problems of people with mental illness
- Social issues complicating the lives of people with mental illness
- The role of the social worker on the mental health team
- The role of the social worker within the criminal justice/correctional system
- Diagnosis and Assessment using the DSM V- Mental Health practice with adults
- Substance abuse treatment
- Concurrent Disorder (mental illness and substance abuse)
- Suicide and suicide risk assessment
- Violence risk assessment
- Mental health practice with children
- Mental health practice with older adults. Advanced clinical skills used in work with people with mental illnesses
- Ethics and principles in mental health practice

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Assignment #1 - A Personal Experience of Mental Illness (Value: 25%)
Assignment #2 - The Medical Model vs. the Recovery Model: Your Views (Value: 20%)
Assignment #3 - Mental Health Issue Paper (Value: 30%)
TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

* SUPPORT MATERIALS:

BC's Mental

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR (Please check:) ☐ YES ☑ NO

* If YES specify how:

* These sections are subject to change at the discretion of the department and the content will vary.