

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL FOR NEW LEARNING

SW 365 ADDICTION STUDIES

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Monday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

COMPETENCIES:

- A-3-X: written by student/faculty
- H-2-A: can understand a social problem and can analyze the effectiveness of social institutions in addressing it (*Local, state and federal governments regularly join with charitable institutions to address the problems of addiction.*)
- H-3-F: can understand the interrelationships among intellectual, psychological, spiritual, and physical health in one's own life (*Recovery from addiction is often described as a journey through physical and psychological wellness as well as spiritual awakening.*)
- S-2-C: can describe, categorize, and explain development or change within physical or biological systems (*Psychotropic drugs alter brain chemistry and bring about a host of physiological changes.*)
- S-3-B: can assess health care practices based on an understanding of the biological and social factors that contribute to a definition of health (*Treatment for addiction to one or more psychotropic substances requires a multifaceted approach addressing the individual, the family and the community.*)

INTRODUCTION:

Humans are an intensely curious species. This trait has led us to discover substances which make us feel calmer, more alert, more powerful, more connected to or more distant from our surroundings. Today we live with a wide array of drugs that affect mind and body. Whether we desire to feel light-headed, euphoric and relaxed or have our

senses heightened there is a psychoactive drug available to alter our consciousness. Some of these drugs, such as alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, and inhalants, are legal in our society. Other such as stimulants, narcotics, hallucinogens, anabolic steroids, and prescription drugs for mood disorders, are legally restricted. When used appropriately many of these substances have the capacity to enhance our lives. Inappropriate use, however, carries the risk of addiction – often accompanied by personal, social and economic decline.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course in the field of addiction studies. In this course we will examine the relationship between drugs and behavior, the personal and social concerns of drug-taking behavior and how drugs work in the body and mind. Legal and legally restricted drugs as well as medical drugs will be discussed. We will also cover issues of prevention, treatment and education. By the end of this course students will understand:

1. the differences between use, abuse and addiction to drugs,
2. the extent of substance abuse in the United States today,
3. the legal, social and cultural ramifications of substance abuse,
4. methods of treatment and prevention of substance abuse,
5. major classifications of addictive substances, and
6. how drugs work in mind and body.

PRESENTATION:

This course will be a mix of lecture, discussion, videos and other supplemental materials. In addition to their six-to-eight-page competence papers, students will be required to take three self-assessment quizzes to check their understanding of textbook material and will be encouraged to take an active part in class discussion.

ASSESSMENT:

The percentage assigned to each of the course components is as follows: each self-assessment quiz 10%, class participation 15% and the papers 55%. At all times throughout the quarter, I will strive to ensure that my assessment of and feedback about student performance is as clear, honest and complete as I can make it. Since no two

students are exactly alike, I will work to be as flexible and understanding as I can of the challenges individual students face.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT: Written work will be evaluated as follows:

1. A grade of “A” designates work of high quality; reflects thorough and comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand; reflects a clearly identifiable thesis and argument that demonstrates cogent and creative development and support of ideas.
2. A grade of “B” designates work of good quality; reflects clearly organized and comprehensive understanding of issues at hand; presents substantive thesis and argument with evident development and support of ideas.
3. A grade of “C” designates work that minimally meets requirements set forward in the assignment; reflects some organization and development of ideas but develops argument in superficial or simplistic manner; may only address part of the assignment or be otherwise incomplete.
4. A grade of “D” designates work of poor quality, which does not meet minimum requirements set forth in the assignment; demonstrates poor organization of ideas and/or inattention to development of ideas, grammar, and spelling. Treatment of material is superficial and/or simplistic; it may indicate that student has not done reading assignments thoroughly.

PLEASE NOTE:

The *DePaul Student Handbook* defines plagiarism as follows: “Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following: (a) The direct copying of any source, such as written and verbal material, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores, whether published or unpublished, in whole or in part, without proper acknowledgement that it is someone else’s. (b) Copying of any source in whole or in part with only minor changes in wording or syntax even with acknowledgement. (c) Submitting as one’s own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment, which has been prepared by someone else. This includes research papers purchased from any other person or agency. (d) The paraphrasing of another’s work or ideas with out proper acknowledgement.” Plagiarism will result in a failure of the assignment or possibly of the course. If you are unsure how to cite a source, ask!

INSTUCTOR:

Robert W. Mills has earned an M.A. degree in Communication Studies from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from The University of Michigan. He has been an adjunct with the School for New Learning since 1997 and has been certified as an alcohol and drug addictions counselor by IAODAPCA (Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association, Incorporated) since 1994.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Carroll, Charles R., Drugs in Modern Society, 5th edition.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Introduction

January 4: Chapter 1 “Drugs, Drinks and Medications”

January 11: Chapter 2 “The Allure of Drugs”

January 18: Chapter 3 “Pharmacology”
Self-assessment quiz # 1 (chapters 1-3)

The Depressants:

January 25: Chapters 4 & 5 “Alcohol”, “Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism”

February 1: Chapter 6 “Narcotics”

February 8: Chapter 7 “Sedative-hypnotics and Inhalants”
Self-assessment quiz # 2 (chapters 4-7)

The Stimulants:

February 15: Chapters 8 & 9 “Tobacco”, “Cocaine and Other ‘Chemical Uppers’”

The Mind-Expanding Euphorians:

February 22: Chapter 10 “Psychedelics and Phencyclidine”

March 1: Chapter 11 “Marijuana”
Self-assessment quiz # 3 (chapters 8-11)

New Dimensions of Drugging, Drinking, Medicating, and Prevention:

March 8: Chapters 15 & 16 “Drug-abuse Prevention”, “Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drug Education”
ALL COMPETENCY PAPERS DUE

March 15: Return of competency papers and course wrap up

PLEASE NOTE:

- Attendance at all 11 class sessions is suggested. If you foresee problems, please discuss them with me in advance. Your ability to receive a passing grade in the course may be jeopardized by more than two absences.
- This course will follow the procedures established by the university regarding plagiarism (see statement above).
- All papers are due on the date listed in the syllabus (above) and will be returned on the last day of class. This will allow you to make minor corrections if needed. To obtain an “incomplete” in this course a written contract between student and instructor must be negotiated prior to the 10th week. Incomplete grades are not automatically awarded. The contract is available on line under “forms”. Generally students have two quarters to complete their work and a grade of “F” is automatically submitted if work is not completed by the end of the contractually stipulated time period.
- Students wishing to take this course pass/fail should let me know at the beginning of the course. Once committed to taking a course P/F a student cannot switch back to a letter grade.
- DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students’ own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or of the university’s academic resources; alteration or falsification

of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/homehandbook.html> for further details.