

## **Doane College COU 657 and HRE 421 Clinical Treatment Issues in Chemical Dependency**

### **Course Syllabus**

3 Semester Credits

#### **Purpose:**

Professional counselors and therapists must have knowledge of issues that affect substance use disorders for their clients, including knowledge of theories and models, in order to develop an application of techniques for treating clients. Clinical issues that shape practice for professionals treating chemical dependency include mental and physical health concerns, social and familial histories, elements of enabling, and popular methods influencing recovery such as 12 step models of treatment. In addition, various diversity issues with special populations, cultural dimensions, and developmental influences need to be assessed and integrated into clinical practice.

#### **Course Description:**

This course has been developed to study treatment issues specific to substance abuse disorders, including but not limited to the assessment of and service delivery to the special populations of adolescents, women and older adults, sexual orientations, and cultural uniqueness. The course will focus on how dual diagnosis disorders affect treatment protocols for substance dependent individuals, and how both physical and mental disorders affect treatment planning and provision. Family and historical influences such as the generational affects of substance dependence, including examination of issues surrounding the family systems concepts, how enabling changes system responses, and the affect on children in the system will be studied. Twelve-step philosophies in treatment of substance abuse disorders, strengths and limitations of treatment settings and philosophies, including Motivational Interviewing, will be discussed and the effectiveness of the 12-step model for addressing this population will be explored.

#### **Contact Hours:**

The course will be held during the regular semester meeting schedule.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. Describe and demonstrate therapeutic skills specific to alcohol and drug abusing clients.
2. Discuss treatment issues including dual diagnosis, Adult Children of Alcoholics, family systems issues, cultural dimensions of substance abuse and issues specific to women, older adults and gay/lesbian issues.
3. Compare and contrast specific treatment issues that arise due to drugs of choice.
4. Examine the concepts of denial and resistance to change, and strategies to enhance change.
5. Review properties of relapse including the signs and symptoms, relapse and treatment following relapse.

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6. Examine strengths and weaknesses of current treatment modalities including: Residential, Outpatient, Partial Care, Therapeutic community, and Methadone Maintenance.
7. Review and assess treatment philosophies and their attributes including Institutionalized 12 Step Programs, Bio - psychosocial model, Behavioral Treatment models including controlling drinking, and Motivational Interviewing Strategies.

**Course Materials:**

Text: Harold Dowieko, Concepts of Chemical Dependency, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Publisher: Thomson Brooks Cole, ISBN 0-495-50580-3 and selected articles, handouts and course materials.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to attend scheduled course meetings, and complete all course assignments.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated on course participation, and completion of required course projects.

**Course Assignments:**

Students are required to complete course assignments which include: selected readings from the text; develop a case study to be used in class; complete 3 worksheets; work with a team to contact a local community speaker, and provide a 1 page handout for course participants; gather information on a community treatment agency to present to class; present a media piece to bring clinical issues to light, complete 3 reaction papers, and take part in discussion exercises and case studies.

**Course Format:**

This will be an interactive course that includes an elevated level of classroom participation, including lecture and instruction, guest speakers, videos, case studies, and student presentations. **Cell Phones:** The class will discuss handling cell phone calls during class and come to consensus on a procedure.

**Attendance:**

*Because of the intensive nature of Doane-Lincoln classes, attendance is critical. Please discuss attendance issues with the instructor.*