

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 for eight (8) weeks. Hours 6:00 – 10:30 PM

Course Objectives:

1. Identify, state, and describe the six classifications of drugs and their properties.
2. Classify the basic pharmacology of alcohol and drugs.
3. Examine human physiology and how drugs affect basic functions of the body.
4. Review how tolerance is built in the human body in relation to substances.
5. Explore the social, psychological, etiological, and behavioral attributes of drug/alcohol use, abuse, and dependence.

6. Assess the cultural and demographic aspects of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and dependence.
7. Identify the signs, symptoms, and behavior patterns associated with the process of addiction to alcohol and other drugs.
8. Explore personal belief systems about drug/alcohol use, abuse, and dependence.

Course Materials:

Required Text: Drugs, Society & Human Behavior, (12th Ed.).

Ksir, Hart & Ray

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 attend course meetings, complete all course readings, complete 3 worksheets, develop and provide a one-hour oral group presentation including handouts to the class.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on course participation and attendance, and course presentation method, materials and handouts and completion of course activities.

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.