

Eastern Kentucky University

Department of Psychology

PSY 429 Psychological Perspectives of Substance Abuse

Course Syllabus

(CRN: _____), 3 Credit Hours

Course: PSY 429: Psychological Perspectives on Substance Abuse: Theories and Intervention (3 credit hours)

Instructor Information

Name: _____

Office Location: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Office Hours: _____

Catalog Course Description: PSY 429 Psychological Perspectives on Substance Abuse. (3)
A. Prerequisite: PSY 308. Topics include an overview of current and historical models of addiction and a comparison of assessment and treatment techniques. Evidence-based practice is emphasized.

Last day to drop course without “W” on record: _____

Last day to withdraw (W on record, but no grade to affect GPA): _____

Required Text: Stevens, P. and Smith, R. (2012). *Substance abuse counseling: Theory and practice (5th ed)*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall. ISBN-13: 9780132615648.

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course you will:

1. Describe and explain the history of chemical dependency and its impact on society.
Evaluation Methods: quizzes, exams, blog entries.
2. Discuss theories that explain chemical addiction.
Evaluation Methods: quizzes, exams, blog entries.
3. Understand the characteristics and dynamics of the family of chemically dependent individuals and treatment issues related to the recovery process of the various family members. *Evaluation Methods: quizzes, exams, blog entries.*
4. Apply screening tools and diagnostic methods for assessing the chemically dependent client. *Evaluation Methods: quizzes, exams, blog entries.*
5. Identify support systems and recovery resources for clients.
Evaluation Methods: quizzes, exams, blog entries
6. Critically evaluate therapeutic techniques used in both individual and group settings for chemical addiction. *Evaluation Methods: quizzes, exams, blog entries, final paper.*

Official E-mail: An official ECU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this ECU e-mail address.

Attendance Policy: The assignments in this class are available to be completed during a window of time, and consistent participation throughout the course is required of all students. If you remain active and engaged, you will do well.

Make-Up Assignment Policy: All course assignments must be completed by the scheduled time printed on the syllabus. Failure to complete a course assignment will result in a 0 on that assignment. A make-up assignment can be taken only if I agree to the extension prior to the assignment due date.

Course Requirements:

1. Chapter Quizzes

Students will complete weekly quizzes addressing the textbook chapter(s) covered in each weekly learning module. These quizzes will assess the students' knowledge of the course material.

2. Weekly Blog Assignments

Students will complete weekly blog assignments addressing the information presented in the textbook chapter(s) covered in each weekly learning module. Students are also required to comment on a minimum of three (3) other students' blog posts so as to facilitate communication between students and promote positive learning with peer observation and feedback.

3. Mid-Term Exam

Students will complete an exam at the mid-point of the course covering information offered to that point. This exam is designed to assess the students' knowledge of the course material covered to date.

4. Final Paper

Students will complete a five-page paper as their final assignment in the course. This paper will help assess students' ability to utilize critical thinking as well as their ability to do a literature review and utilize the information to defend a field of thought.

Evaluation Methods and Relative Weight of Each Course Requirement (e.g., for an 8-week class):

1. Chapter Quizzes (8 @ 10 points each)
2. Weekly Blog Assignments (8 @ 10 points each)
3. Midterm Exam (50 points)
4. Final Paper (100 points)

Final Grade:

The final course grade is based on the percentage of total points earned. Grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 90-100 % B = 80-89 % C = 70-79 % D = 60-69 % F = <60 %

Student Progress: Students will receive weekly feedback on their blog assignments and quiz grades. All grades will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

Academic Integrity

Students found guilty of an academic honesty violation will receive a 0 on the assignment in question. Violations could also result in a 0 in the course and/or a referral to the Academic Council. Students are advised that ECU's Academic Integrity policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.ecu.edu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Students with disabilities.

A student with a "disability" may be an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, seeing or hearing. Additionally, pregnancy or a related medical condition that causes a similar substantial limitation may also be considered a disability under the ADA.

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the office in the Whitlock Building Room 361 by email at disserv@ecu.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

Standards for Written Assignments

Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments. If you would like free help with your writing, you may visit the Noel Studio, in the Library: The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is a free resource for the ECU community, including graduate and undergraduate students. At the Noel Studio, a trained consultant will work you or your small group on any piece of written or oral communication, at any stage in the process from brainstorming to finished product. Consultants can also help you develop effective research strategies. For more information, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.ecu.edu/> or call 859-622-6229.

Course Outline (for an 8 week online class):

Week One Learning Module

Chapter 1 – Introduction to Substance Abuse Counseling

Chapter 2 – Ethical and Legal Issues in Substance Abuse Counseling

- Quiz covering both chapters – **20 points**
- Blog Assignment – Discuss the history of chemical addiction and at least one (1) ethical or legal issue that could impact practice and why. Respond to a minimum of three (3) other students' posts. – **20 points**

Week Two Learning Module

Chapter 3 – The Major Substances of Abuse and the Body

Chapter 4 – Etiology of Substance Abuse: Why People Use

- Quiz covering both chapters – **20 points**
- Blog Assignment – Discuss the effects of various substances upon the body and brain. Pick one (1) theory that you think best explains chemical addiction and discuss the specifics of that theory and how it supports your view of addiction. Respond to a minimum of three (3) other students' posts. – **20 points**

Week Three Learning Module

Chapter 5 – Assessment and Diagnosis

Chapter 6 – Treatment Setting and Treatment Planning

- Quiz covering both chapters – **20 points**
- Blog Assignment – Pick one of the screening tools discussed in the chapter and use it on someone you know who uses alcohol or other drugs (**do not include any names or identifying information in your post**). Discuss the results as well as what the interview experience was like for you as well as the person you interviewed, e.g. how comfortable were you with the process; did you encounter or note any defensiveness; did you note any tendency in yourself to “rescue” the other person from uncomfortable questions? Also, pick one the treatment setting (as discussed in Chapter 6) that you feel would be most effective in dealing with addiction issues and discuss why. Respond to a minimum of three (3) other students' posts. – **20 points**

Week Four Learning Module

Chapter 7 – Individual Treatment

Chapter 8 – Group Treatment in the Continuum of Care

- Quiz covering both chapters – **20 points**
- Blog Assignment – Discuss individual and group treatment issues. Why is the therapeutic relationship between the client and therapist important in treatment? What are the benefits of group therapy and why is it the most common form of treatment for chemical addiction? Respond to a minimum of three (3) other students' posts. – **20 points**
- **Mid-Term Quiz – 40 points**

Week Five Learning Module

Chapter 9 – Family Treatment

Chapter 10 – Retaining Sobriety: Relapse Prevention Strategies

- Quiz covering both chapters – **20 points**
- Blog Assignment – Discuss the benefits of family therapy in treating chemical addiction. Also, discuss factors affecting both relapse and recovery including the importance of relearning how to experience pleasure. Respond to a minimum of three (3) other students' posts. – **20 points**

Week Six Learning Module

Chapter 11 – Working with Selected Populations: Treatment Issues and Characteristics

Chapter 12 – Working with Diverse Cultures: Exploring Sociocultural Influences and Realities in ATOD Treatment and Prevention

- Quiz covering both chapters – **20 points**
- Blog Assignment – Discuss the unique issues related to providing treatment services to various populations and cultures. What are some barriers that some populations may experience seeking treatment? What cultural values are important for a therapist to know? Respond to a minimum of three (3) other students' posts. – **20 points**

Week Seven Learning Module

Chapter 13 – Prevention

Quiz – **10 points**

- Blog Assignment – Discuss prevention efforts in addressing chemical dependency as well as the steps in effective prevention program planning. Respond to a minimum of three (3) other students' posts. – **10 points**

Week Eight Learning Module

Final Paper – 100 points

Pick a theory from the textbook that you believe offers the best explanation for chemical addiction as well as a treatment approach that you feel is best suited to address the problem. Discuss why you believe they are the most appropriate using a review of the literature utilizing peer reviewed articles to defend your choices.

NOTE: In a 16-week class, the amount of time spent on each of the above modules will be approximately 2 weeks.