UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
Department of Sociology and Substance Abuse Studies

Spring 2013
SAS 2603, CRN 27980 – Introduction to Substance Abuse Studies
MWF 8:00-8:50 a.m. LAR 218

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. LaDonna McCune, LADC, NCGC-II
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Office 201B Liberal Arts
Office Hours: MWF: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.; TR: 10:00-11:00 a.m. (or by appointment)
Office Phone: 405-974-5538

Course Description: An overall introduction to the field of substance abuse studies, this course covers categories of substance abuse, physiological and psychological effects of alcohol and other drugs, the disease concept of addiction, family and social dimensions of substance abuse, and the principle therapy and treatment approaches to the disease. Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course students will have attained the following competencies:

1. An understanding of the etiology, functions, meanings, models and at-risk factors.
2. An understanding of the alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction as the modern disease of our society.
3. An understanding of specific information on chemicals that are commonly abused.
4. An understanding of alcohol and other drug assessments.
5. An understanding of the effects of chemical dependency on family dynamics and parenting.
6. An understanding of the feelings of shame and abandonment in imbalanced family systems.
7. An understanding of adult children of alcoholics.
8. An understanding of the prevention of chemical abuse and dependency.
10. An understanding of common dual disorders within the chemical dependency realm.
11. An understanding of chemical dependency treatments and relapse prevention.

Questions to be answered:
1. Why do people use and abuse alcohol and other drugs?
2. What is important to know about substance abuse and family systems?
3. What are risk factors for substance abuse?
4. What are the stages of change?
5. How do you prevent substance abuse problems?

About the instructor: My educational background includes degrees in liberal arts, sociology (with an option in chemical dependency), criminal justice management and administration and a doctorate in higher education administration with a minor in sociology. I am a licensed alcohol/drug counselor, an Oklahoma board approved supervisor and a nationally certified gambling counselor. I have also been trained in the National Organization for Victim’s Assistance (NOVA) curriculum, Oklahoma Marriage Initiative and Co-Parenting through Divorce. I have been in the counseling profession since 1989; working in both outpatient and inpatient facilities as a substance abuse counselor, gambling counselor and a youth and family counselor. I am interested in the dynamics of substance abusing families.

Required Text:
Fields, Richard, 2005 Drugs in Perspective (8th ed.)

Instructional Delivery: Students can expect the professor to collaborate with you on providing an educational experience that seeks to foster the student’s personal and professional development and encourages students to become life-long learners and critical thinkers. Please come to class having read the material and ready to verbally participate in class discussions, ask questions, offer your viewpoints, and otherwise make honest attempts to learn and make positive contributions to the classroom discussion.
Transformational Learning Outcomes: The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered organization committed to transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. This course addresses six of the university’s transformative learning goals. Students will build discipline knowledge through interactions with the readings, videos, classroom exercises, instructor, and one another, engage in scholarly and creative pursuits through creating and participating in in-class exercises, written papers, and quizzes.

About the course:
This is an overview and introduction to the substance abuse problems in society. In this course, you will be evaluated in a number of ways, including exams, class projects, 12-step meeting attendance, counselor interviews, response papers and a review or literature. Because students tend to learn in a variety of ways and have different levels of skills in demonstrating their knowledge, I like to provide different opportunities for students to succeed. This method allows you to still do well in the class even if you perform poorly on a particular assignment.

Course Organization: The course objectives will be achieved through the following methods:

1. Reading: The course outline will list the assignments. It is important for you to complete these as assigned in order to fully participate in and understand class material.
2. Lecture/Discussion: Information will be shared and covered during the class period which will be available nowhere else. Guest speakers will be included as sources of current information.
3. Participation: Student participation during class discussion is essential to successful course completion. The class process is built around interactive student participation.
4. Response Papers: In-class one-page essays will be assigned in response to certain subjects. Students must be in attendance to receive credit for this assignment.
5. Field Experience: Each student will complete two field experience projects. The first will be to visit an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting. Second, the student will conduct a brief interview of a substance abuse counselor.
6. Student Project: Each student will choose one of the topics in the text for further study. Students will complete a study/research project and lead a 15 minute informal discussion of the project in class. Six references; three from the internet and three from the library are needed. An abstract, a list of six discussion points and a list of references are required.

Course Policies:
Attendance Policy: There is a strong correlation between classroom attendance and success in college. I do understand that emergencies may cause absences. However, the only excused absences are for school-sponsored events approved in advance by the professor.

Email Policy: If you are emailing me it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the professor receives the email. I will respond to your emails within 48 hours. You should copy yourself on all emails so that you have proof of having sent them.

Classroom Civility:
1. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Please be on time for class and refrain from packing up or leaving early. Both behaviors are distracting to the class. If you must arrive late, please come in as quietly as possible and sit near the door. In addition, if you must leave early please inform me in advance and sit next to the door in order to minimize the distraction. As the professor, I reserve the right to mark students absent who continually arrive late or leave early.
2. All electronic devices are considered unnecessary distractions and are to be turned off and concealed during class. Interacting with these devices during class will not be tolerated. Any student who is text messaging in class will be asked to leave.

Grades in this course are based on the following:
Exams (4) 400 possible points
Reaction Papers 50 possible points
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting Attendance/Two Page Response 25 possible points
Interview with Substance Abuse Counselor/Two Page Response 25 possible points
Student Project 100 possible points
Total Possible – 600 Points
540 - 600 A (90-100%)
480 – 539 B  (80-89%)
420 – 479 C  (70-79%)
360 – 419 D  (60-69%)
359 & Below F  (<60%)

Course Outline:
Week 1 – Introduction/Syllabus
Chapter 1 & Discussion
Chapter 2

Week 2 – Chapter 2 Discussion
Chapter 3 & Discussion
January 21 – Martin Luther King Holiday

Week 3 - AA Meeting Response Papers/Discussion
Chapter 4

Week 4 – Chapter 4 Discussion
Test Review
Exam – Chapters 1-4

Week 5 – Chapter 5
Guest Speaker/Response Paper
Chapter 5 Discussion

Week 6 - Chapter 6
Chapter 6 Discussion
Chapter 7 & Discussion

Week 7 – Test Review
Exam II – Chapters 5-7
Discuss Counselor Interviews/Response Papers

Week 8 – Chapter 8 & Discussion

Chapter 9 & Discussion
Guest Speaker/Response Paper

Week 9 – Chapter 10 & Discussion
Chapter 11 & Discussion

Week 10 – March 18–22
Spring Break

Week 11 – Chapter 12 & Discussion
Test Review

Week 12 – Exam III – Chapters 8-12
Student Projects
Student Projects

Week 13 – Student Projects
Student Projects
Student Projects

Week 14 – Student Projects

Week 15 - Student Projects
Student Projects
Student Projects

Week 16 – Course Critique/Review and Wrap-Up
May 6: 7:00-8:50 a.m.
Comprehensive Final Exam