THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
School of Social Work
Course Outline – SOWK 521

School Vision: Building upon a foundation of social justice and an ethic of care, we are a community of learners actively engaged in the development of critical, transformative knowledge for social work practice.

MSW Mission: The MSW program offers an accessible, advanced professional degree focused on social work practice in the fields of child and family welfare, health and social care, and international and social development, using a social justice lens. The purpose of this MSW program is to prepare our graduates to be competent social work professionals, equipped with state-of-the-art knowledge and skills, a critical analytic lens, and a social justice orientation.

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<tr>
<th>Year/Term</th>
<th>2017-2018 Winter, Term 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>SOWK 521 (001) – Social Work Practice in Addictions</td>
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<tr>
<th>Course Schedule</th>
<th>Thursday, 2:00-5:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Location</td>
<td>Room 222, Jack Bell Building</td>
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Instructor: Mohamed Ibrahim
Office Location: Room 241
Office Phone: 604-822-2100
E-mail address: mohamed.ibrahim@ubc.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide participants with a theoretical, ethical and skills foundation for advanced social work practice in the field of addiction. The essentials of direct practice in the context of the structural, political and policy dimensions of addiction will be emphasized. A strengths-based perspective and harm reduction orientation to addiction will be applied.

The course is divided into three main parts: (1) definition of addiction and recovery, and focus on substance addiction; current and historical patterns in addiction and drug policy; effects of illicit, legally available and medicinal drugs; an overview of concurrent disorders; (2) etiology of addiction; and current and historical responses to drug use and addiction; overview of abstinence- versus harm reduction-based approaches to practice in the field of addiction; (3) mainstream and emergent models of practice at the individual, family, group, community, organizational and policy levels. Several practice models to addiction treatment will be examined, with an emphasis on motivational interviewing. Emergent models of practice will also be discussed.

Participation in this course will allow students to familiarize themselves with the concept of addiction from a range of theoretical perspectives, with an emphasis on a biopsychosocial-spiritual/ecological understanding of addiction, harm reduction as a practice orientation, and the transtheoretical model as a form of meta-theory.

The course will emphasize the perspective of people struggling with addiction, and the social responsibilities of service providers to the needs of addiction service consumers.
RATIONALE:

Social workers in virtually all areas of practice deal with individuals, families and communities who have problems related to addiction. Social workers can play a role in policy development, health education and promotion, direct provision of addiction-specific services (including treatment services), provision of harm reduction services, assessment, and referral/linkage, mobilization of self-help, mediation, advocacy, community development, and research.

The voices of service consumers have been largely absent in the dominant addiction discourse, but this is changing. This course offers an opportunity for social work students to be exposed not only to service providers but also people struggling with addiction. The course thus seeks to provide a bridge between social work students (and practitioners) and users/consumers of services.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. To acquire knowledge in relation to:
   
   (1) The core concepts in the field of addiction; historical and political context of addiction and drug policy
   
   (2) Various theories related to etiology and treatment of addiction;
   
   (3) The principles of drug action and the physical and psychological effects of the major drugs of abuse (including stimulants, narcotics, hallucinogens, marijuana, alcohol, nicotine, and prescription drugs); bio-physiological mechanisms of addiction.
   
   (4) The roles and fields of practice of social workers in the field of addiction;
   
   (5) A harm reduction and strengths-based orientation to practice.

2. To develop an ethical foundation for advanced practice in the field of addiction, by examining a range of current debates and ethical dilemmas in the addiction field.

3. To develop skills in relation to:
   
   (1) Engagement of those who are affected by drug use and other addictions;
   
   (2) Assessment of those affected by drug use and other addictions;
   
   (3) Intervention with those affected by drug use and other addictions;
   
   (4) Intervention at the individual, family, community, organizational, institutional, and public policy levels with respect to drug use and other addictions.

READINGS:

Required


REQUIRED Readings (articles):
Required articles and other book chapters are available online and outlined in the course schedule. Please note: these may be subject to change over time. Advance notice will be provided of any changes. It is expected that the readings will be reviewed prior to the scheduled class.

**Recommended**


**PREREQUISITES AND/OR COURSE RESTRICTIONS:**

SOWK 521 is a practice course within the MSW program. Enrollment is restricted to students in the graduate program.

**Format of the course:** Graduate seminar

**ASSIGMENTS**

*Details of course assignments will be posted on Canvas and discussed on first day of class.*

**COURSE POLICIES [attendance, participation, academic dishonesty]:**

*Excerpt from the UBC calendar:*

Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from the final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes.

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require
any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

It is recommended that students retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.

Academic Dishonesty:
Please review the UBC Calendar “Academic regulations” for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit www.arts.ubc.ca and go to the students’ section for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

**Session 1 (Jan 4th) Introduction, Core Concepts in the Field of Addiction**

- Overview of course, including course outline and assignments
- Core theoretical concepts, with an emphasis on beliefs and attitudes about addiction, and defining addiction
- Addiction as a field of practice in social work; differential approaches to practice
- Roles of social workers in the field of addiction
- Addiction as a public health emergency in the context of the current opioid crisis

**Reading:**

- Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 1

**Session 2 (Jan 11th) The Context of Addictions in Canada**

- Historical dimensions: cultural attitudes toward addiction and drug use and everyday life; drug consumption profiles and preferences; societal (including legal and criminal justice) responses; addiction /drug policy and direct practice /treatment approaches; VANDU, drug user associations.
- Political dimensions: cultural attitudes toward addiction and drug use and everyday life; drug consumption profiles and preferences; societal (including legal and criminal justice) responses; addiction /drug policy and direct practice /treatment approaches
- Addiction in the context of globalization and international politics: the “War on Drugs”
- The regulation of drugs: individual, community, societal responses to drug use and addiction; will legalization or decriminalization of all/some drugs be a step forward or backward?
- Current issues and debates in the field of addiction

**Reading:**

- Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 2

**Session 3 (Jan 18th). What Is New in Addiction Social Work?**

**Guest speaker**—Cody Callon MSW, RSW, Director- Addiction Social Work Fellowship-The BC Center for Substance Use.
Session 3 (Jan 25\textsuperscript{th})  Etiology of Addiction: Theoretical Frameworks

- Etiological theories of addiction: Moral theory; disease theory; genetic theory; systems theory; behavioral theory; sociocultural theory; biopsychosocial theory
- Trauma, dislocation: Precursors of addiction

Reading:

- Fisher & Harrison (2000), Ch. 3 “Models of Addiction,” In \textit{Substance abuse: Information for school counselors, social workers, therapists, and counsellors} (2nd ed.), Boston: Allyn and Bacon (course reading packet)

Session 4 (Feb 1\textsuperscript{st})  Substance use: Illicit, Legally Available and Medicinal Drugs

- Properties of stimulants (cocaine and amphetamines), narcotics (opium, morphine, and heroin), hallucinogens, cannabis
- Properties of legal drugs (alcohol, nicotine and tobacco, caffeine), prescription drugs, antidepressants and antipsychotics
- Physical, psychological and social effects and interactions
- Multiple drug use and drug interactions

Reading:

- Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 3

Session 5 (Feb 8\textsuperscript{th})  Concurrent disorders & Behavioral Addictions

- Concurrent disorders
- Gambling, sexual, internet, work and other addictions

Reading:

- Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 4 & 5.

Session 6 (Feb 15\textsuperscript{th})  Contemporary Service Delivery Systems

- Overview of current programs and services: outpatient treatment; withdrawal management (detoxification); day treatment; residential treatment; supportive recovery; and other treatment services (transitional living; hospital-based substance misuse programs; needle exchange programs; dual diagnosis programs; pregnancy support; counselling; mutual aid groups); family-, school- and community-based prevention programs

Reading:

- (course reading packet)

Feb 22\textsuperscript{nd}  Spring Break –No class

Session 7 (March 1\textsuperscript{st})  Screening and assessment
• screening tools and assessment
• Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), CIWA, COWS etc.

Reading:

• Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 7

Session 8 (March 8th) - Harm Reduction;
• Basic principles and working methods of harm reduction
• Overdose prevention & Naloxone training
• Pharmacological interventions- rationale, pharmacology, and biology (methadone, buprenorphine/naloxone etc.)

Reading:

• Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 8

Session 9 (March 15th) Motivational Interviewing
Guest speaker Ayesha Sackey, MSW, RSW
Clinical Service Manager
The Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addictions
BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services

• Stages of change and motivational interviewing

Reading:

• Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 8
• Diamond, J. (2000). “Trauma and Recovery” In Narrative Means to Sober Ends (course reading packet)

Session 10 (March 22nd) Culture-, Gender-, and Age-Specific Approaches

• Addiction across the life span; focus on youth and elders
• Gender and addiction
• Racial, ethnic and cultural issues
• First Nations perspectives on addiction and addiction treatment

Reading:

• Van Wormer & Davis, Ch.6, 11 & 12

Session 11 (March 29th) Family Practice and Group Work in the Field of Addiction

• Guest speaker - TBD
• Practice with families; family systems therapy
• Practice with groups; mutual aid model

Reading:

• Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 10
Session 12 (April 5th) Community Practice and Policy Development in the Field of Addiction

Guest speaker—Guy Felicella—Community Liaison Worker--DTES Connections

- Community development: locality development, social planning, and social action
- Street work and outreach; focused harm reduction
- Policy development; the politics of drug reform

Reading:

- Van Wormer & Davis, Ch. 13

Bibliography


Motivational Interviewing (n.d.). Retrieved April 24, 2008 from http://motivationalinterview.org (Mid-Atlantic Addiction Technology Transfer Center; Motivational Interviewing Resources).


**Web Sites**

- BC Center on Substance Use http://www.bccsu.ca/
• BC CDC Harm Reduction [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/harm-reduction]
• Canadian Center on Substance Use and Addiction [http://www.ccdus.ca/Eng/]
• BC Center for Excellence in HIV/AIDS [http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/]
• Campbell Collaboration (systematic reviews of the effectiveness of various social welfare, criminal justice, and education interventions; includes some AODA issues) [http://www.campbellcollaboration.org]
• Cochrane Collaboration (systematic reviews of the effectiveness of various healthcare interventions; includes some AODA issues) [http://www.cochrane.org]
• US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism [http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/]
• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association: [http://www.samhsa.gov/]
• The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information [http://www.health.org/]
• Alcoholics Anonymous [http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/]
• Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research [http://info.pitt.edu/~cedar]
• National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome [http://nofas.org]
• National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors [http://www.naadac.org]
• Women for Sobriety [http://www.womenforsobriety.org]

Journals

Journal of Social Work in the Addictions
Harm Reduction Journal
Addiction
International Journal of Drug Policy
Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment
Addictive Behaviors
Drug and Alcohol Review
Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy
Addiction Research and Theory
Journal of Drug Education
American Journal of Addictions
International Journal of the Addictions
Journal of Addiction and Mental Health
Journal of Substance Use
Journal of Psychoactive Drugs
Journal of Cannabis Therapeutics