SOCIAL SERVICES DIPLOMA PROGRAM

SOCW 270  SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

COURSE OUTLINE

Section: S17N01  Semester: Spring 2017

Instructor: Kathy Smith, MSW

Office Hours: Additional office hours available by appointment
Office Location: Building 180, Room 522, Nanaimo Campus
Office Phone: Instructor prefers e-mail
e-mail: Kathy.Smith@viu.ca

Class time: Wednesday, 1:00-4:00
Class location: Building 180, Room 310, Nanaimo Campus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCW 270  (3)  Social Work Practice in Mental Health and Addictions

An introduction to the practice of social work with populations with concurrent disorders. Topics include: examination of current theories, delivery of social work services, policy and practice issues, as well as critical review of contemporary perspectives on the ecology of mental health challenges and addictions. SOCW 270 was formerly called SSER 270; credit will not be granted for both courses. (3:0:0)

Prerequisite: Second year standing or permission of instructor.
COURSE DETAILS
This course provides an introduction to the practice of social work with concurrent disordered populations. Students will explore policy and practice issues pertaining to the theoretical understanding and delivery of social work services for people with substance misuse and mental health issues. Students critically review contemporary perspectives on the etiology of mental illness and addictions. Students will examine assessment and intervention methods as well as analyze the impact of current trends and changes in the health and social service system that directly affect people who require mental health and addictions services. The course examines the role of social work practice from a biopsychosocial/spiritual perspective in contrast to the medical model of service delivery. Students will critically examine historical and contemporary theoretical perspectives on concurrent/co-occurring disorders, Canadian law and policy pertaining to mental health and addictions, cultural diversity, DSM V classification, evidence-based treatment, and ethical issues. Service delivery within the context of multidisciplinary teams and integrated case management - as a preferred model of care - will be accentuated.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the stigma associated with mental illness and substance misuse and the impact of societal discrimination.
2. Reflect on one’s own lived experience with mental health and mental illness.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of mental health and addictions (co-morbidity) issues related to social work practice.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts in co-occurring disorders (mental illness and substance misuse).
5. Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary ideological perspectives regarding mental health and mental illness including: medical, biopsychosocial, feminist, anti-psychiatry, strengths-based, and community-based perspectives.
6. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the use of DSM IV.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the major diagnostic categories related to mental health problems in children and youth, adults and the elderly.
8. Develop a critical understanding and insight into the utility of labels and diagnostic categories.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of social work assessment and intervention in a range of co-occurring/concurrent disorders within the context of a multi-disciplinary team.
10. Demonstrate an appreciation for evidence-based treatment modalities including the utility of psychotropic medications.
11. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the methods used in implementing a Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated System of Care (CCISC) for co-occurring disorders.
12. Demonstrate an understanding of current mental health and addictions policy and legal requirements.
REQUIRED TEXT & READINGS:

There is no required text for this course. Class readings will be from academic journals and texts and will be provided for the students and posted on the D2L website. There will be an actual document or a link to the VIU Library or outside resource. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the readings for each class. The mini quizzes, case reviews and reflective journals will be focused on the readings, class discussions and personal experiences. If you are having difficulty with accessing the readings, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

RESOURCES AND LINKS

- Canadian Mental Health Association [www.cmha.ca](http://www.cmha.ca)
- The Centre for Addictions and Mental Health [www.camh.ca](http://www.camh.ca)
- Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse [www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca)
- Mental Health Commission of Canada [www.mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca)
- BC Mental Health Foundation [www.bcmhf.ca](http://www.bcmhf.ca)
- VIHA (Island Health Authority) Mental Health and Substance Use Services [www.viha.ca/mhas](http://www.viha.ca/mhas)
- Canadian Association of Social Workers [www.casw.ca](http://www.casw.ca)
- Centre for Addictions Research BC [www.uvic.ca/research/centres/carbc](http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/carbc)

VIU LEARN/DESIRE TO LEARN (D2L – ONLINE LEARNING INTERFACE)

Readings will be assigned to the students and posted on the D2L site. Students will need to become comfortable with and accustomed to accessing the D2L site for this course. The instructor will review this with the class. Students can log in with their Discovery accounts (the same account you use to login to the VIU computers). For more information, you can go to the VIU Learn site here: [https://d2l.viu.ca](https://d2l.viu.ca).

CLASS FORMAT AND ASSIGNMENTS

An interactive approach will be used in this course. Students will have the opportunity to post in discussion forums and provide feedback to each other on course readings and other topics.

Quality of written English must be appropriate for academic work. If you need assistance and are nearby any campus of Vancouver Island University you can contact student supports here: [http://www.viu.ca/studentservices/](http://www.viu.ca/studentservices/)
It is recommended that you keep an academic journal of the insights you have gained through readings and discussion activities. You can reflect on the learning accomplished using your journal to strengthen the quality of work you submit in graded assignments.

**SOCIAL WORK CODE OF ETHICS**

Students enrolled in Social Work programs at Vancouver Island University are expected to comply with the social work Code of Ethics within the jurisdiction in which they are residing. In Canada, students are expected to have read and comply with the Canadian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics located here: [http://www.casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/CASW_Code%20of%20Ethics_0.pdf](http://www.casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/CASW_Code%20of%20Ethics_0.pdf)

Non-compliance with the Code of Ethics can result in discontinuation from your Social Work program.

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**

Attendance and participation in classes and seminars is mandatory. Students are required to contact the instructor in advance if they are unable to attend classes. If a student misses more than three classes, the instructor has the right to refuse to allow the student to finish the class.
**METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. SHORT REFLECTION PAPER</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose a topic that is in the newspaper or the media about an issue pertinent to mental illness, addictions, or concurrent disorders. THIS NEEDS TO BE PRE-APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTOR. Provide a link for the instructor to reference. Make it something that is of interest to you! You will write a short 4-5 page paper reflecting on the issue; how the ‘issue’ is presented; what the problem is perceived to be; and what solutions are inferred or suggested. Please integrate the readings as needed. The goal is for you to think critically how mental illness or addictions are constructed and presented to the general public. The final thing you will do is to recommend possible interventions that a social work practitioner could facilitate.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. MINI QUIZZES (3 X 10%)</td>
<td>Weeks 4, 7, 11</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will have three short quizzes that will reflect the content of the readings and class discussions from the previous weeks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CASE REVIEW</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will be given the choice between specific cases focusing on topics from the class. A more comprehensive outline will be provided to the students.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. PARTICIPATION</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in this class will be assessed by student’s participation in classroom discussion, consistent attendance, and through small group work. Students will submit a self-evaluation of participation at the end of the course.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HANDLING OF STUDENT WORK**

1. **Students are responsible for retaining a copy of all submitted work and for submitting all assignments by their due date.** See late policy on the course outline.
2. Every effort will be made to return assignments to students within two weeks.
3. Students can email the instructor to review and discuss their exams, assignments or course grade.
4. Final grades will be posted for each student to view in their VIU online student account.
LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS/MISSED EXAMS: CONSEQUENCES

All assignments are to be submitted by the due date and all tests are to be written on the date specified. If extenuating circumstances arise such as illness or emergency and assignment submission by the due date will not be possible, or completion of tests not possible on the scheduled date, please discuss this with the instructor prior to the date the assignment is due.

Penalties for Late Submission of Assignments:

1. Up to and including three calendar days past deadline, deduct ½ letter grade (e.g., B to B-). Four to seven calendar days past deadline, deduct one full letter grade (e.g. B to C+).
2. Any assignment more than seven calendar days late may not be accepted. If accepted, the late penalty will be determined by the instructor.

Missed Exams

1. Make up exams or assignments are at the discretion of the instructor.

GENERAL REGULATIONS AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are expected to review and adhere to the General Regulations and Student Conduct Code (Policy 32.05): http://www.viu.ca/calendar/GeneralInformation/generalregulations.asp

Students are expected to review and adhere to the Faculty of Health and Human Services Policies and Procedures listed here: https://www2.viu.ca/hhs/HHSPoliciesandProcedures.asp

It is an expectation that students will have read the BSW Student Handbook in its entirety and understand its contents. The student handbook can be located here: https://www2.viu.ca/bsw/BSWStudentHandbook.asp

Academic Integrity

*Academic integrity is expected of all students.* Please read through the Student Academic Code of Conduct policy (www.viu.ca/policies) to ensure that you are aware of VIU’s expectations. Violations of the academic code of conduct will be taken seriously and acted upon according to this policy.
STUDENT SUPPORTS

1. Vancouver Island University Calendar: http://www.viu.ca/calendar/
2. VIU Learning Matters: https://learningmatters.viu.ca/
3. VIU Writing Center: https://learningmatters.viu.ca/support-area/writing-centre
4. Student Affairs Department: https://www2.viu.ca/studentservices/
5. Vancouver Island University student information: https://www.viu.ca/students
6. Online APA style referencing sites provided under the APA style referencing link located here: APA Style Referencing Helpful Websites
7. VIU Learn/D2L course site: https://d2l.viu.ca/
8. Online access to Instructor through email
Grades will be assigned according to the Vancouver Island University GRADE SCALE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent age (%)</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
<th>Point Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>72-75</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>68-71</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>64-67</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failing work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Course passed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INC</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Continuing Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUD</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INP</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>No Grade Submitted yet; neither Pass nor Fail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students are expected to review the following policy with respect to grade appeals:

http://www.viu.ca/calendar/GeneralInformation/generalregulations.asp

**Note:** A grade of B- must be achieved for admission to the *Bachelor of Social Work* program at Vancouver Island University.