

Southeast Missouri State University

Department of Social Work

Course No. SW 356

Title: Social Work in Mental Health

New: Spring 2005

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of the Course:

Description of the roles, tasks, and methodology of social workers in field of mental health; also providing a basic understanding of diagnostic categories relevant to mental illness and introducing information about treatment strategies. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s): SW110 with a grade of C, or consent of instructor

III. Purposes and Objectives of the Course:

A. Purpose

The course is designed to provide students with information about mental health issues, diagnoses, and treatment strategies in a variety of social work settings. The course emphasizes generalist social work practice, social work values and ethics, and understanding differences due to diversity.

B. Objectives

By the end of the semester the student will be able to:

1. Understand basic information regarding the mental health system and treatment strategies in the United States, with emphasis on the on the role of social work in mental health.
2. Understand diagnostic categories and other terminology used in the field of mental health.
3. Apply empathy and compassion as well as professional knowledge when working with persons diagnosed as mentally ill.
4. Analyze how culture, ethnicity, race, economic class and sexual orientation interact with mental illness and impact access to appropriate treatment.
5. Synthesize information from the field of mental illness and use the information in class discussion and written assignments.
6. Evaluate information pertaining to mental illness in terms of relevance and appropriateness for required course assignments.

IV. Expectations of Students:

- A. Students are expected to attend class regularly.

- B. Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class and come to class prepared for discussion.
- C. Students are expected to complete assignments and examinations in a timely manner.
- D. Students' written work is expected to be well organized, clearly written, and grammatically correct. Students will be asked to rewrite assignments that do not meet this standard to receive credit.
- E. Students are expected to consistently participate in classroom discussions and activities.
- F. Students are expected to show respect and tolerance for the ideas of other students and for other students' participation in classroom activities.
- G. Students are expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty in all assignments and examinations.

V. Course Content:

- A. Introduction (3 hours)
Discussion of course expectations and assignments;
introduction to the field of mental health.
- B. Interventions with Clients (9 hours)
 - 1. Crisis Intervention
 - 2. Promoting Diagnostic Understanding
 - 3. Mediation Strategies
- C. Educational Activities with Clients (9 hours)
 - 1. Mental Health Education
 - 2. Skills Training
 - 3. Client Sponsored Advocacy Groups
- D. Client Monitoring and Support (9 hours)
 - 1. Case Management
 - 2. Medication Facilitation
 - 3. Client and Family Consultation
- E. Collaborative Agency and Community Interventions (4 hours)
 - 1. Interagency and Interdisciplinary Teamwork
 - 2. Community Organization Strategies
- F. Evaluation and Analysis (6 hours)
 - 1. Program Evaluation and Research
 - 2. Administration and Policy Analysis
- G. Future Trends in Mental Health (5 hours)
 - 1. Anticipating Clients' Future Needs
 - 2. Cultural Aspects of Mental Illness

VI. Textbook and other required materials:

Bentley, Kia J. (editor). Social Work Practice in Mental Health: Contemporary Roles, Tasks, and Techniques (1st ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Handouts will supplement course material.

VII. Basis of Student Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on class participation, examinations, and written assignments. All written assignments must be typed and should be proofread for correct spelling and grammar before they are submitted.

Abstract Assignment – Students will complete **three** brief (1-2 pages) abstracts of research articles in the field of mental health. These articles must be from professional journals. Professional journals are available on-line or in Kent Library. The assignment requires the following components: title page, photocopied or printed first page of the article, an abstract, and a reference page (one reference – the article).

Term Paper Assignment – Students will write a paper about a topic in the mental health field – perhaps one you have come across while writing the abstracts (which may be used for your paper). You will need at least five sources for your paper; the first page of each source must be photocopied or printed and handed in with the paper. Appropriate citations and an appropriate reference page are required. Further instructions will be given when the paper is assigned.

Film Assignment – Students will view four films pertaining to mental illness over the course of the semester. A reaction paper will be written for each film. Further instructions will be given when the paper is assigned.

Self-selected Text Assignment – Students will read a book about a person challenged by mental illness – their own or that of a friend or family member. The instructor will provide a list of suggestions. Students will write a paper specifically pertaining to symptoms and problems the character has and relate those to diagnostic categories which will be studied in class.

VIII. Basis of Student Evaluation

Class participation	50
Abstracts (2 @ 25 points)	50
Term paper	125
Film analysis (4 @ 25)	100
Self-selected Text	75
Quizzes (10 @ 10)	100
Exams (3 @ 50)	150
Comprehensive final	150
Total:	800

