

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA
PSY 3181: TRENDS AND ISSUES IN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
COURSE SYLLABUS
CREDIT HOURS: 4 UNITS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Identifies the special problems, issues and concern of modern living to which the helping professions address themselves. Focus will be on the social psychological dynamics of special population groups such as the aging, disabled, women, adolescents, children from alcoholic families. Development of skills to communicate effectively with members of diverse populations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will demonstrate and apply knowledge in the following areas upon completion of the course:

- Understand why people take drugs
- Trace the history of drug use
- List and describe the commonly abused drugs
- Explain general effects of drugs on the body
- Know psychoactive drugs abuse in special populations
- Understand risk factors in drug abuse: physiological, psychological and sociological
- Identify strategies for treatment and prevention
- Know the extent of Khat (miraa) and cannabis (bhang) use in Kenya and East Africa.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1

Introduction and course overview

Overview of drug abuse

* Historical perspective

* Drug abuse in contemporary world

Drug Addiction

Issues and problems with definitions

Classifications of psychoactive drugs

Dependence producing drugs

Week 2

Special population of the dual-diagnosis patient.

a) Substance abuse and depression

b) Substance abuse and schizophrenia

c) Substance abuse and psychopathy

Alcoholism and drug problem in women

a) Old attitudes and new knowledge

- b) Dual diagnosis

Week 3

- c) Treatment issues and prevention
- d) Barriers to chemical dependence treatment
- e) Codependence

Substance abuse problems of the elderly

- a) Risk factors; physiological social and psychological
- b) Abuse and misuse of:
 - i) prescribed drugs
 - ii) over-the-counter drugs

Week 4

- c) alcohol abuse and alcoholism in the elderly
- d) treatment and prevention

Week 5

MID-QUARTER EXAMINATION

Alcoholism in the black community:

- a) Factors contributing to alcoholism in the black community:
 - i) Historical
 - ii) Cultural and
 - iii) Psychological

Week 6

- b) Role of temperance movements
- c) Treatment strategies and prevention

Alcohol and drug use among Hispanics

- a) Cultural and historical factors
 - b) Risk factors: i) Physiological,
ii) Psychological and
iii) Sociological,
 - c) Treatment and prevention

Week 7

Alcoholic and drug use among adolescents.

- a) Epidemiology of adolescence substance use (ASU) and adolescence psychoactive substance use disorder (APSUD)
- b) Etiology and pathogenesis of ASU and APSUD
 - i) normative adolescent substance use
 - ii) Assessment of risk factors; physiological, psychological and sociological

Week 9

- c) Dual diagnosis
 - i) Relationship between comorbid disorder
 - ii) Specific substance of choice and comorbid psychopathology.

- d) Treatment and prevention
 - i) Treatment selection and modalities
 - ii) Current prevention approaches for ASU and (APSUD)

Week 10

Drug abuse in Kenya

Special case of Khat, Catha edulis (Miraa or Mairungi) and cannabis (bhang)

Student presentations

Week 11

FINAL EXAM

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures and Discussions

COURSE TEXT

Lawson, G. W. and Lawson A. W., *Alcoholic and substance abuse in special population* (Rockville: Aspen Publishers, Inc., 1989.)

READINGS

Kaminer, Y. *Adolescent substance abuse: a comprehensive guide to theory and practice* (New York: Plenum Medical Book Company, 1994.)

American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder*, 4th ed.. (Washington: D. C., American Psychiatric Association, 1994.)

COURSE EVALUATION

Mid-Quarter Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Term Paper	20%
Oral Presentation	5%
Quizzes	10%
Attendance	10%
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	100%