

George Mason University

Fall 2006

Psych 461 – Section 005

Psychology of Addictions

Robinson Hall A 245

Mondays 7:20pm – 10:00 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Bettina Kanitz, Ph.D.

OFFICE: Thompson Hall 131

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E-MAIL: BKASAMMY@AOL.COM

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 10am-11am

REQUIRED TEXT:

Levin, J.D., Culkin, J., & Perrotto, R.S. (2001). Introduction to chemical dependency counseling. New Jersey: Jason Aronson Inc.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

The aim of this course is for students to acquire advanced knowledge and understanding regarding the nature, causes, & treatment orientations for substance-related disorders including alcoholism and other drug addictions. A pan-theoretical approach will be utilized that considers biological, sociocultural, and psychological forces that shape substance-related problems. The course will attend to various models including: psychodynamic models, cognitive models, behavioral models, motivational interviewing models, the disease model, and twelve-step models.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to attend each class, complete assigned readings according to schedule, and contribute to discussions/critical analysis regarding the course material. All students are required to write a total of three (3) papers. For paper #1, students will receive a case profile. This paper will focus on drug use and related issues. The case will provide rich information pertaining to individual, familial, interpersonal, and sociocultural factors. The goal for the student is to demonstrate understanding and critical reflection regarding various etiological factors as well as potential treatment interventions. Students are to select two theories* and to conceptualize this case according to each of the two theories. **Due 10/30/2006.**

For paper #2, students will again receive a case profile. This case will be focused on issues with alcohol. The case will provide rich information pertaining to individual, familial, interpersonal, and sociocultural factors. The goal for the student is to demonstrate understanding and critical reflection regarding various etiological factors as well as potential treatment interventions. Students are to select two theories** and to conceptualize this case according to each of the two theories. **Due 11/27/2006.**

***Theories to choose from:**

- Motivational Interviewing Theory
- Cognitive Theory
- Behavioral Theory
- Psychodynamic Theory
- Family Systems Theory
- 12-Step Theory

For paper #3, students will write a Self-reflective paper. The aim of this paper is to critically examine one's own viewpoints and potential biases in understanding and working with alcoholics and drug addicts. Specific guidelines to be provided. **Due 12/11/2006.**

Each of the papers are potentially worth up to 50 points. **The papers must be at least 5 pages long and no longer than 10 pages. The paper must be double-spaced and written in accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition.** Papers will be graded according to:

- Level of responsiveness to instructions and any guiding questions
- Clarity shown in the understanding of selected theories/models
- Depth of specific content areas
- Organizational flow and logical consistency
- Spelling and grammar
- Incorporation and appropriate citation of sources

OVERALL GRADING CRITERIA

Final grades will be computed according to a 150-point scale. This results from a total of three papers, each worth up to 50 points. Specifically, 135-150 points earns an A; 134-120 points earns a B; 119-105 points earns a C; 104-90 points earns a D; 89 points and below earns an F. Participation in discussions will be considered in “borderline” cases for computing final grades.

****It is IMPERATIVE that you select different theories for each paper. Thus, neither of the 2 theories you use for paper 1 can be used again in paper 2. So, between these 2 papers, you will have applied a total of 4 different theories.**

HONOR CODE:

The Honor Code of George Mason University will be adhered to in this course. It is the responsibility of each student to know and abide by this code. Please refer to the current GMU Catalog to review this code.

DISABILITIES:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Please note that the last day to drop this course with no tuition penalty is 9/12/2006. The last day to drop it overall is 9/29/2006.

Course “Schedule”

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Overview of Addictive & Substance Related Disorders	Chapters 1,2,10	8/28 & 9/11
Diagnostic & Assessment/Co-Occuring Disorders	Chapters 3, 4, & 8	9/18 & 9/25

Causes & Etiologies **Chapters 5, 6, & 9** **10/2, 10/10**, &
10/16**

Models of Treatment **Chapters 12 & 13** **10/23 & 10/30**
***Paper 1 Due**
10/30

Treatment Interventions **Chapters 14 & 15** **11/6 & 11/13**

Alcoholism **Handouts** **11/20 & 11/27**
***Paper 2 Due 11/27**

Relapse Issues **Handouts** **12/4 & 12/11**
***Paper 3 Due**
12/11

Wrap-Up & Evaluations **12/18**

****DUE TO THE COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY ON MONDAY OCTOBER 9TH THIS
CLASS WILL MEET ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 10TH INSTEAD.**