

Mental Health and Mental Disorders of Children and Youth

Section 002 Winter, 2015

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Course Description

This course will present the state-of-the-art knowledge and research on mental disorders of children and youth, as well as factors that promote mental health and prevent mental disorders in children and youth. Biopsychosocial theories of resiliency, coping, etiology, the impact of mental health disorders on children and family members, and the relationship of ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender (including gender identity and gender expression) marital status, national origin, race, religion or spirituality, sex, and sexual orientation to mental disorders will be examined. Classification systems of child and youth functioning and disorders will be presented such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, DC:0-3 Diagnostic System of the National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families, and the Individuals with Disability Education Act. The impact of labeling and stigma will be explored in order to develop critical thinking about how mental disorders of children and youth are conceptualized.

Course Content

This course will examine psychological, behavioral, and developmental disorders of childhood and adolescence. The particular disorders will be considered in broader psychosocial and ecological contexts which promote mental health or create and maintain symptomatic functioning. These broader contexts will be presented through an overview of theory and research on the following issues: 1) a transactional and developmental perspective on the etiology of mental disorders; 2) parent-infant attachment and family dynamics; 3) risk and protective factors (including individual, familial, and socio-cultural factors) and resiliency; and 4) stress and trauma theory, including the impact of maltreatment and loss.

The following conditions will be reviewed in terms of presentation, etiology, prevalence, incidence, and assessment at different developmental stages and gender distributions: 1) relationship disorders; 2) stress-response syndromes, including post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress reactions; 3) depression, bipolar disorder, and other mood problems; 4) anxiety disorders; 5) developmental disorders; 6) disruptive behavior disorders including ADHD and conduct disorder; 7) communication and learning disorders; 8) eating disorders; 9) substance use disorders; and 10) childhood schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. Attention will be given to the analysis and assessment of strengths and adaptive functions that may coexist with disorders, as well as to issues in defining mental health and

mental disorders in cultural terms. Evidence-based interventions of a psychosocial and pharmacological nature will be reviewed across each of the mental health problems identified above.

Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify factors influencing the development, natural history, expression, and outcomes of mental health and mental disorders of children and youth at the individual, familial, cultural/ethnic, and social levels.
2. Describe the transactional processes among the above factors which influence the etiology and maintenance of mental disorders.
3. Describe and critique classification systems of mental disorders of children and adolescents, particularly the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA).
4. Identify and differentiate a number of disorders of children and adolescents and apply them to the evaluation of clients.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of comprehensive and systemic assessments and evaluations of children and youth.
6. Demonstrate empathic appreciation of the client's experience of disorders from the perspective of the client's inner world.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of the child's or adolescent's difficulties on parents and other family members.
8. Discuss common value and ethical concerns related to mental health and mental disorders of children and youth.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of important developmental, structural, and contextual theories, research findings, and core concepts related to normative development of children and youth and the development of mental health problems.
10. Assess and diagnose mental health problems in youth using widely applied rubrics such as DSM, DC: 03R, and Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act Criteria.
11. Demonstrate knowledge regarding similarities and differences between clinically-based definitions of psychiatric disorders and educational disabilities.
12. Based on assessment, select empirically-supported, evidence based prevention and intervention methods appropriate for use with children, youth, and families in individual and group settings.

Relationship of the Course to the Four Curricular Themes

Multiculturalism and Diversity will be addressed through discussion of incidence and prevalence of child and adolescent mental disorders, as related to persons differing in ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), marital status, national origin, race, religion or spirituality, sex, and sexual orientation, health status, and SES.

Social Justice and Social Change will be addressed through discussion of the misapplication of mental health diagnoses based on race, class, and gender bias, and the potential impact of poverty, discrimination, and disenfranchisement on the development of mental disorders and disorders of parenting.

Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation will be addressed through discussion of protective factors which promote resiliency and positive adaptation.

Behavioral and Social Science Research will inform the entire content of this course, which will draw especially on current research in the following areas: developmental psychopathology, attachment, risk, resiliency and coping, trauma and maltreatment, and studies of particular disorders.

Relationship to Social Work Ethics and Values

Ethical and value issues related to all course topics will be identified and discussed. Examples of these include: how views of the rights of children affect our understanding of child mental health, how societal values regarding child development affect judgments we make about the mental health of children, how the use social workers make of DSM can bias judgments of child mental health, what the value issues are in paying attention to the child's inner world, and how cultural and gender biases also affect professional views of child mental health. Issues related to person-centered mental health practice, client self-determination, confidentiality, dignity, HIPPA, duty to warn, and associated legal, ethical, and value concerns will also be addressed, particularly as they pertain to client services and intervention with youth with mental health problems.

Intensive Focus on Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice (PODS)

This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of theories, practice, and/or policies that promote social justice, illuminate social injustices and are consistent with scientific and professional knowledge. Through the use of a variety of instructional methods, this course will support students developing a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks and strengthen critical consciousness, self-knowledge and self-awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

Course Design and Attendance Expectations

This course will use a combination of lecture, class discussion, case material, role-plays, group discussion and video material as appropriate. Students are expected to attend **all** class sessions. **The instructor must be notified in the event of a possible absence due to illness or emergency.**

- **Attendance at each class session is expected.** The learning in this class is experiential. More than two absences will result in a reduction in the final grade (½ step from A to A-), and will be subject to decision by the instructor.
- Assignments are expected to be **on time**. Assignments that are turned in late will result in an automatic reduction in the grade for the assignment. **Written assignments are expected to be submitted electronically through CTools by midnight of the assigned date to be considered on time.** Class participation is strongly encouraged and is worth 10% of your final grade. If for personal reasons you find class participation to be difficult, please see me.

Grading

The requirements listed below are the minimal expectations for class assignments, and if followed precisely will result in a “B+” grade for the assignment. A grade higher than “B+” will be given to work that has gone above and beyond the minimal qualifications. **This would reflect more thorough, thoughtful and thought-provoking work on your part.** As effective social work practice involves the humanity of the social worker, excellent work will include thorough, thoughtful discussion and reflection. This will be discussed in detail in class. Feel free to ask questions about this policy!

Accommodations

Any Student who has a disability or condition that may interfere with your participation in this course, please feel free to contact me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations for your specific needs. This information will be kept strictly confidential. For more information and resources, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office at G664 Haven Hall, (734) 763-3000.

Writing Assistance

For further assistance with writing, you may go to the Writing Workshop 1139 Angell Hall 764-0429.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

All academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and misrepresentation will be treated seriously. You will find a discussion of plagiarism and other violations academic integrity. Please consult your Student’s Guide to the Master’s in Social Work Degree Program (online).

Class Requirements

Required Reading

TEXT: American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fifth Edition. Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association.

*this can be found online through Mirlyn

Other readings as assigned are available on CTools.

Assignments

Progress in this course will be assessed by three assignments. The purpose of the assignments is to develop and enhance your skills in working with children and youth.

1. Reflection on Working with Children– Due February 23

This Paper is worth 20% of your grade

Based on a youth you are currently working with or have worked with in the past, or a child of whom you have deep personal knowledge, write a 3-4 page paper that addresses the following:

- a. Brief introduction to the child including: demographic information, diagnostic information, and the context in which you work(ed) with/know them.
- b. What do you see as the child's strengths? What do you see as the child's challenges?
- c. What strengths do you possess that are/were/would be helpful to this child?
- d. What about working with this child is/was/would be challenging for you?
- e. What about this child or their story is/was/would be triggering for you?
- f. How does this child and their story affect your view of the role of the social worker in working with children and youth?

2. Group Project/Presentation – Due March 30 or April 6

This project is worth 30% of your grade.

Working with your chosen group, you will identify a mental health diagnosis not covered in class that affects children and youth. This may be a diagnosis with which you have experience, or one you'd like to learn more about.

- a. In a 30-45 minute presentation, your group will identify the following as it pertains to the illness you are studying:
 - i. Diagnosis – DSM 5 diagnostic criteria, prevalence in the population, age of onset, common signs and symptoms
 - ii. Common hypothesis regarding the development of the disorder, including psychosocial and biological factors
 - iii. In what ways would this illness affect a person's ability to live their daily life?
 1. i.e. impact on relationships, school, independent living for older adolescents, etc.
 2. How would this disorder affect an individual's view of self?
 3. How would receiving or living with this diagnosis impact the family?
 4. What supports would be important in recovery from this illness?
 - iv. Multi-level Interventions
 1. What evidence-based interventions would be useful in working with this diagnosis?
 2. What non evidence-based interventions might be helpful for this diagnosis?
 3. What mezzo- and macro-level interventions might be helpful for this diagnosis?
 4. What would mezzo- and macro-level social workers need to consider when working with this diagnosis
 - a. i.e. if planning programs around this diagnosis, what would be important to know?
 5. What might be barriers to intervention when working with this illness?
 - v. Differential diagnosis – what else does this diagnosis sometimes present as?

- vi. What should social workers know about the diagnosis or living with the diagnosis in order to provide effective services?
- b. Each group will turn in a hard copy of their presentation on the day of the presentation
 - i. Should be in the form of a PowerPoint/Prezi slide printout
- c. Each person will submit a one-page reflection discussing how learning about this illness, and interventions specific to it, will affect their personal social work practice. This paper will be submitted through CTools by midnight on the day of the presentation.

3. Clinical Case Study – Due April 20

This paper is worth 40% of your grade.

In a 7-9 page paper, you will identify a child or youth with which you are currently working, with whom you have worked in the past, or that you know in a personal context, and write a comprehensive case study about your selection. Case studies should cite at least six references from class readings as they relate to this case study, and a page with your citations should be included at the end of the paper. Case studies should include:

- a. Describe the context of your relationship with the child or youth, which includes:
 - i. presenting problem
 - ii. family circumstances
 - iii. demographic information
 - iv. psychosocial history
 - v. treatment history
 - vi. trauma history
 - vii. relevant developmental information.
- b. A DSM 5 diagnosis for the child, or hypothesis for a diagnosis if child has not been diagnosed.
- c. Describe the supportive environment of the child or youth, including risk and protective factors and your rationale for this determination.
 - i. Include discussion of the role of the family in treatment and effect of the illness on the family
- d. Intervention Plan – describe the theoretical approach or approaches that are likely to be most effective with this case, and the goals or desired outcomes of the interventions. If you are using more than one theoretical approach, describe how you would integrate these approaches theoretically or apply them sequentially to the case.
 - i. Discuss any barriers or resistance to client progress, and how these barriers or resistances would be addressed
- e. How would you evaluate the efficacy of your work with this client? What would make you think or feel like you have done a good job with this client?
- f. Personal reflections discussing:
 - i. Your own reaction to working or interacting with this person

- ii. In what ways are you uniquely equipped to be helpful to this person?
- iii. What about this person or their story was challenging for you?
- iv. What about this person or their story was triggering for you?
- v. How what you learned through working with this person will enhance or change your social work practice.

Course Schedule

Week 1: January 12, 2015

- Class Canceled

Week 2: January 19, 2015

- No Class, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Week 3: January 26, 2015

- Introductions, review of syllabus and class expectations
- Infant Mental Health

DSM 5 – Reactive Attachment Disorder – Page 265-268

Kennedy, Janice H. "Maternal Attributional Style and Infant Attachment." *Journal of Early Childhood and Infant Psychology* 6 (2010): 85

Laurent, H. K., & Ablow, J. C. (2012). The missing link: Mothers' neural response to infant cry related to infant attachment behaviors. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 35(4), 761-772.

Philippe, F. L., Laventure, S., Beaulieu-Pelletier, G., Lecours, S., & Leves, N. (2011). Ego-resiliency as a mediator between childhood trauma and psychological symptoms. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 30(6), 583-598

Planalp, E. M., & Braungart-Rieker, J. M. (2013). Temperamental precursors of infant attachment with mothers and fathers. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 36(4), 796-808.

Week 4: February 2, 2015

- Trauma
- Guest Speaker: Ellen Yashinsky Chute, LMSW

DSM 5 – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – Page 271-280

Kolk, Bessel A. van der, MD. (1994). *Childhood abuse and neglect and loss of self-regulation*. *Menninger Clinic Bulletin*, 58 (2), 145-168.

Teicher, M. (2002). *Scars that won't Heal: The Neurobiology of Child Abuse*. *Scientific American*, 286(3), 68-75.

Perry, BD, Pollard, RA, Blakley, TL, Baker, WL, Vigilante, D. (1995). *Childhood Trauma: The neurobiology of adaptation and "use-dependent" development of the brain: How states become traits*. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 16(4), 271-291.

Week 5: February 9, 2015

- Gender Socialization

Pollack, W., (1998). *Real boys*. Henry Holt and Co. New York. Chapters 2, 3, 12, 13 pages 20-64

Pipher, Mary, (1994) *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls*. Riverhead Books, New York, New York. Chapters 1-3 pages 17-44

Thomas, A., King, C., *Gendered Racial Socialization of African American Mothers and Daughters*. *The Family Journal* 2007 15:137

Week 6: February 16, 2015

- ADHD

DSM 5 – Neurodevelopmental Disorders – Page 59-66

Dillon, J. E., & Chervin, R. D. (2012). ADHD and Sleep Disorders in Children: A Quick Primer for Clinicians. *Psychiatric Times*, 29(6), 20-29.

Konofal, E., Lecendreux, M., & Cortese, S. (2010). Sleep and ADHD. *Sleep Medicine*, 11(7), 652-658.

Howe, D. (2010), ADHD and its comorbidity: an example of gene–environment interaction and its implications for child and family social work. *Child & Family Social Work*, 15: 265–275.

Anastopoulos, A. D., Sommer, J. L., & Schatz, N. K. (2009). ADHD and family functioning. *Current Attention Disorders Reports*, 1(4), 167-170.

Kohler, M., Christensen, L., & Kilgo, J. (2013). Cultural diversity and responsivity. *Childhood Education*, 89(6), 403

Week 7: February 23, 2015

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Guest Speaker: SunShine Adkins, LMSW

DSM 5 – Neurodevelopmental Disorders – Page 50-58

Geschwind, D. H. (2011). Genetics of autism spectrum disorders. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 15(9), 409-416.

Mandy, W., Chilvers, R., Chowdhury, U., Salter, G., Seigal, A., & Skuse, D. (2012). Sex differences in autism spectrum disorder: Evidence from a large sample of children and adolescents. *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*, 42(7), 1304-1313.

Dababnah, S., Parish, S. L., Turner Brown, L., & Hooper, S. R. (2011). Early screening for autism spectrum disorders: A primer for social work practice. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(2), 265-273.

Week 8: March 2, 2015 – No class, Spring Break

Week 9: March 9, 2015

- Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders

DSM – Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders – Page 462-475

Conner, B. T., & Lochman, J. E. (2010). Comorbid conduct disorder and substance use disorders. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, 17(4), 337-349.

Rowe, R., Costello, E. J., Angold, A., Copeland, W. E., & Maughan, B. (2010). Developmental pathways in oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 119(4), 726.

Baker, K. (2009). Conduct disorders in children and adolescents. *Paediatrics and Child Health*, 19(2), 73-78.

Mizock, L., & Harkins, D. (2011). Diagnostic bias and conduct disorder: Improving culturally sensitive diagnosis. *Child & Youth Services*, 32(3), 243-253.

Week 10: March 16, 2015

- Anxiety Disorders

DSM 5 – Anxiety Disorders – Page 189-226

Rockhill, C., Kodish, I., DiBattisto, C., Macias, M., Varley, C., & Ryan, S. (2010). Anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care*, 40(4), 66-99.

Kodish, I., Rockhill, C., & Varley, C. (2011). Pharmacotherapy for anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. *Dialogues in clinical neuroscience*, 13(4), 439.

Connolly, S. D., Suarez, L., & Sylvester, C. (2011). Assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. *Current psychiatry reports*, 13(2), 99-110.

Week 11: March 23, 2015

- Eating Disorders

DSM 5 – Feeding and Eating Disorders – Page 339-354

Robinson, A. L., Dolhanty, J., & Greenberg, L. (2013). Emotion-Focused Family Therapy for Eating Disorders in Children and Adolescents. *Clinical psychology & psychotherapy*.

Le Grange, D., Lock, J., Loeb, K., & Nicholls, D. (2010). Academy for eating disorders position paper: The role of the family in eating disorders. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, 43(1), 1-5.

Quiles Marcos, Y., Quiles Sebastián, M. J., Pamies Aubalat, L., Botella Ausina, J., & Treasure, J. (2012). Peer and family influence in eating disorders: A meta-analysis. *European Psychiatry*.

Treasure, J., Claudino, A. M., & Zucker, N. (2010). Eating disorders. *The Lancet*, 375(9714), 583-93.

Burns, E. E., Fischer, S., Jackson, J. L., & Harding, H. G. (2012). Deficits in emotion regulation mediate the relationship between childhood abuse and later eating disorder symptoms. *Child abuse & neglect*, 36(1), 32-39.

Week 12: March 30, 2015

- Group Presentations

Week 13: April 6, 2015

- Group Presentations

Week 14: April 13, 2015

- Issues in Adolescence

Guest Speaker: Spectrum Center Panel Discussion

Dvir, Y., Denietolis, B., & Frazier, J. A. (2013). Childhood Trauma and Psychosis. *Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*.

Sadowski, M. (2012). From adolescent boys to queer young men: support for and silencing of queer voice in schools, families, and communities. *Thymos*, 6(1), 76-96.

Clark, M. S., Jansen, K. L., & Anthony Cloy, J. (2012). Treatment of childhood and adolescent depression. *American Family Physician*, 86(5), 442.

Week 15: April 20, 2015

- Wrapping up and Conclusion