SW 799 Addictions: A Global Perspective  
Winter Term 2015 Mini Course  
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Method Area:  
Interpersonal Practice, Social Policy and Evaluation  
Community Organizing, Cross-Cutting (both micro/macro)

Five Days Format, Meeting Days:  
- Wednesday March 11: 5-8pm  
- Monday March 16: 5-8pm  
- Monday March 23: 5-8pm  
- Wednesday March 25: 5-8pm  
- Monday March 30: 5-8pm

Course Description:

This mini-course focuses on the experiences many individuals and families have with a wide range of compulsive behaviors that are maintained despite negative consequences such as alcohol consumption, tobacco and other drug use, sex, gambling, exercise, work, internet use, tanning, and even texting, among others. The mini course will allow for a discussion of the unique and shared aspects of addictions people worldwide experience with an overview of prevention and treatment alternatives, including policy options. Students in this course will (1) acquire the skills to screen and assess for addictions, (2) acquire a general understanding of prevention, treatment, and policy options aimed at dealing with the problem of addictions, and (3) acquire a general understanding of the ways by which different countries and cultures attempt to address addictions.

Course Objectives:

Students will:
- Describe unique and common aspects of a variety of addictions
- Identify screening and assessment tools for various addictions
- Describe treatment alternatives for at least one addiction
- Identify and describe a policy that is aimed at addressing at least one addiction
- Demonstrate skills to account for global and cultural differences in screening, assessment and treatment of addictions

Requirement for Academic Credit:

(1) Students will select an addiction (or behavior that maybe considered addictive) of interest (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, gambling, sex, internet, exercise, work, texting, any other) and will prepare a 10-minute presentation describing what the addiction (behavior) looks like, who is affected by it, and what are the best screening, assessment and treatment options, including a brief discussion of a policy(ies) associated with the selected addiction. The purpose of the presentation is for the entire class to benefit from the information acquired by students on different addictions.
(2) Students will also turn in a 1-2 pages self-assessment of a behavior that could be an addiction or any behavior you desire to modify, whether this is to increase or decrease it, or eliminate it altogether. This self-assessment will describe prior attempts to change and future steps needed to take to succeed.

Significance:

This class is based on current knowledge of neuroscience, psychosocial behavior, and policies that exist in an attempt to address behaviors that can damage the lives of individuals, their families, and communities at large. Nearly all social workers, no matter what their concentration, will work with or have exposure to people suffering from addictions. This class will allow social work students to gain knowledge of addictions and effective prevention, assessment treatment, and policy alternatives from a global perspective.

General Course Outline and Topics:

- Describe unique and common aspects of a variety of addictions
- Identify screening and assessment tools for various addictions
- Describe treatment alternatives for at least one addiction
- Identify and describe a policy that is aimed at addressing at least one addiction
- Demonstrate skills to account for global and cultural differences in screening, assessment and treatment of addictions

Day 1 (Wednesday March 11)
- Definition(s) of addictions
- Overview of screening and assessment tools
- The neuroscience of addiction.
- Physiological, psychological, sociological and cultural aspects.
- Behaviors to be discussed: Alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs (ATOD) use

Day 2 (Monday March 16)
- Epidemiology of addictions: A global perspective
- Drug policy in the US and worldwide

Day 3 (Monday March 23)
- Continue with substance use patterns worldwide
- Culturally responsive skills for screening, assessing and treating addictions
- Behaviors: Gambling, sex, texting, tanning, exercising, working, etc.

Day 4 (Wednesday March 25)
- Discuss treatment options
- Begin students’ oral presentations on assessment, treatment and policy on one addiction

Day 5 (Monday March 30)
- Conclude students’ oral presentations on assessment, treatment and policy on one addiction

Grading:
The course is graded on an S (Satisfactory) / U(Unsatisfactory) dichotomy.