Course Description
This course teaches practice models and methods of intervention for effective social work practice in mental health care, including the promotion of mental health, the prevention of mental illnesses (with special emphasis on relapse prevention), and the delivery of psychosocial treatments and rehabilitation services. A major focus is on enabling individuals with mental health problems to increase their functioning in the least restrictive environments, with the least amount of ongoing professional intervention, so these individuals maximize their success and satisfaction. This course has a specific emphasis on services to individuals who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness, substance abuse in conjunction with mental illness (dual-diagnosis population) and/or who are recovering from the effects of severe traumatic events. Interventions relevant to these conditions help individuals develop/restore their skills and empower them to modify their environments so as to improve their interactions with their environments. A second major focus is on culturally competent and gender-specific interventions and special issues for groups who have been subject to oppression. Privilege and social justice concerns will be a major emphasis of the course. Mental health disparities will be considered in relation to diagnoses, treatment options and case disposition within the mental health system.

Course Content
The course will present practice methods for carrying out functional assessments, resource assessments, establishment of client preferences, development of plans to meet service needs, services to enhance client skill development, and the development and modification of relevant community and agency environments. The emphasis of the course is on approaches that enhance problem-solving and coping strategies and are empowering and supportive to consumers, both individually and in groups and families.

This course will provide students with models and methods for the promotion of mental health, the prevention of mental illness, the provision of effective treatment of psychiatric disabilities, with an emphasis on promotion of optimal adaptation when psychiatric disabilities are long lasting. Assessment and intervention strategies will be included for use at the individual, family, group, organizational, community, and societal levels. A special issue is the integration of services for individuals with multiple
problems. The course, therefore, will emphasize the integration of micro and macro methods through which students learn to make social, behavioral, environmental, organizational, administrative, and policy assessments, with an emphasis on risks/strengths assessment and capacity-building. Students will develop knowledge of empirically-based interventions and will be able to select and implement appropriate methods based on assessments and service plans. A major focus of this course will be gender specific and culturally competent interventions with and for groups who have been subject to oppression, such as people of color, women, lesbian/gay/bi/transgendered people, the aged, and people with disabilities.

Course Objectives
Students who complete this course will be able to:
1. Assess the risks and strengths of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and/or communities for the purposes of promoting mental health, early intervention, treatment, and continuing service, with an emphasis on problems faced by people who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness, substance abuse, and/or who are recovering from the effects of severe traumatic events.
2. Plan or plan and conduct culturally competent, gender-specific individual, family, group, organizational, and community-based capacity building and preventive interventions
3. Identify and demonstrate understanding of the many components of the mental health system as team member, advocate, broker, community organizer, and program planner, in order to interact productively with the many components of the mental health system.
4. Build partnerships with key neighborhood and self-help organizations and institutions for the purpose of mental health promotion and disease prevention.
5. Incorporate social work values and ethical standards in practice in mental health.
6. Plan or plan and engage in advocacy at both micro and macro levels to help individuals overcome oppression, discrimination, and other barriers to access and quality of mental health services.

Relationship of the Course to the Four Curricular Themes
- **Social Science and Behavioral Research** is presented throughout the course and includes findings from evaluation studies and intervention research in social work, psychiatry, psychology, anthropology, and sociology.
- **Multiculturalism and Diversity** are integrated throughout the course especially in view of the fact that mental health problems are experienced very differently in various cultures, each of which has its own indigenous responses to healing. In addition, the stresses associated with mental health problems and access to appropriate services are differentially affected by gender, poverty, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation. The students must be aware of these issues and helped to develop culturally competent and gender-specific interventions and interventions to overcome oppression and discrimination as barriers to access to and quality of care.
- **Social Justice Issues** have special relevance to the processes of psychosocial rehabilitation. Persons with psychiatric disabilities are often discriminated against with respect to access to education, employment, housing, and financial assistance. Health insurance plans often discriminate against persons with mental as opposed to physical disabilities. Social justice issues are often seen with respect to the processes of commitment, the rights of people in mental institutions, the rights to treatment (such as in the criminal justice system), access to attorneys, and the determination of competence to stand trial or when mental illness is offered as a
defense in a criminal proceeding. The student will learn about these issues in the course as well as the role of social work in fighting for these and other rights.

- **Promotion/Prevention/Treatment/Rehabilitation** are addressed throughout the course. Mental disabilities often occur or are exacerbated as a result of stressful environmental conditions and the ways of seeking changes in these conditions or preventing them will be stressed.

**Relationship to SW Ethics and Values**
Virtually every topic of this course is related to issues of social work values and ethics, and these issues will be dealt with in this course. Examples of these issues are priorities assigned to various services and populations by mental health agencies and the role of social workers in molding these priorities, recognition of the right of Self Determination of consumers of mental health services, the principle of the utilization of the least restrictive environments for treatment of mental disorders, the values placed on preventive services, an understanding of the responsibility of workers to strive for less stressful environments in relationship to preventing mental problems, the creation of community respect for individuals in the community whose behavior, while lawful, departs from community norms, and promoting community awareness of the “not in my back yard” phenomenon.

**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 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 stigma, 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 Overview**
The course will be guided by four important themes:
1. Understanding people with mental illness from multiple perspectives (including gender, race, ethnicity, culture, privilege, oppression, social justice)
2. Understanding the mental health practitioner roles of social workers
3. Understanding the best evidence practice methods for our work with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness
4. Developing intolerance for poor practices or treatment of mentally ill persons and their families and to acquire the skills and muster the courage to “do things differently” if it will aid these courageous persons to have better lives (Mary Ann Test)
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.

- **Attendance at each class session is expected.** The learning in this class is experiential. More than one absence will result in a reduction in the final grade (½ step from A to A-). If a student misses more than three classes, their grade will drop a ½ step for each class missed.

- **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 on Canvas 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

Please use bullet points illustrating required information as headings within your papers.

Progress in this course will be assessed by four assignments. The purpose of each assignment is to develop and enhance your skills in mental health practice. Each assignment is to be submitted electronically through Canvas by midnight on the due date.

1. Ongoing Case Study

For this ongoing assignment, you will select a person you are currently working with, have worked with in the past, or know personally. If you are not serving clients, you may select an organization, process, or situation, instead. There will be three individual parts to this assignment, which will result in submission of multiple papers examining the same subject. Please always respect confidentiality, and disguise any identifying information.

a. Paper 1 – 3-5 pages - Due 6/6/16 – worth 20% of your total grade
   i. Introduction to the object of the case study.
      1. The context of your relationship with this subject.
      2. Demographic information
      3. Presenting Problem/why you chose this person
      4. Mental health history
      5. Trauma history
      6. Current engagement with services
         a. If not engaged with services, circumstances/your thoughts about why
     ii. Why you are writing about this person – what are your thoughts about their mental health history, trauma history, etc.
   iii. The extent to which mental health issues affect this person’s daily life. Where is this person/subject in their recovery journey?
   iv. Your initial hypothesis about what micro-, mezzo-, and macro-level interventions would be helpful/need to be considered for your chosen person/subject

b. Paper 2 – 4-6 pages – Due 6/27/16 – worth 30% of your total grade
   i. Describe what you see to be this person’s exiles.
      1. Use quotations to illustrate what you think the exiles actually say to this person – what words/messages is this person hearing from their exiles every day?
      2. Include your thoughts on where these exiles stem from/the connection to the person’s trauma and schemas
     ii. Describe the managers (behaviors) that this person uses to function on a daily basis.
        1. Include your thoughts about why they developed these particular coping strategies in light of their history.
2. Include your thoughts about how these managers actually manage for this person/calm their exiles.
   
   iii. Describe this person’s firefighters, and what you perceive to be the triggers that ignite them.
   
   1. Include your thought about the ramifications of the presence of these behaviors in this person’s life

c. **Paper 3 – 7-9 pages – Due 8/1/16 – worth 40% of your total grade**

   i. Select three topics covered in class (other than Internal Family Systems)

   1. Each topic you write about can be a separate section, discussing the following points for each topic

   ii. Write a 7-9 page paper discussing:

   1. Your chosen person/subject and how each topic applies to them/why you chose to write about this topic as it relates to your chosen subject.

   2. How will each topic:

      a. Play a role in this person’s recovery?

      b. Inform service delivery?

      c. Affect your role/actions as the social worker?

   3. If this topic has already been used as part of providing services to this person, what has been the outcome thus far? How has this topic affected the person, their daily life, their recovery process?

   iii. Include a LOCUS assessment of the individual

   1. Provide rationale for why you chose each score in the various LOCUS dimensions, as well as a composite score
Course Schedule

Week 1: May 9, 2016
- Introductions, Review of Syllabus, Course Expectations
- Mental Health Care in the US: Past, Present, Future


Week 2: May 16, 2016
- Understanding Severe and Persistent Mental Illness


**Week 3: May 23, 2016**

- Trauma and Trauma-informed Care


**Week 4: May 30 – No Class – Memorial Day**

**Week 5: June 6, 2016**

- The Person in Mental Health Practice
  
  Guest Speaker: Ellen Yashinsky Chute, LMSW


Week 6: June 13, 2016

- Stigma, Social Justice, Suicide, and Mental Illness
- Guest Speaker Panel: The Spectrum Center


Week 7: June 20, 2016 – Class Canceled

Week 8: June 27, 2016

- Service Delivery in Mental Healthcare, Recipient Rights, Assessments, Recovery Enhancements, Peer Services


Helpful Information:
Assertive Community Treatment EBP Kit
http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Assertive-Community-Treatment-ACT-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA08-4345

Supported Employment EBP Toolkit
http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Supported-Employment-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA08-4365

Week 9: July 4 – No class

Week 10: July 11, 2016
- Substance Use Disorders, Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment, Motivational Interviewing

Integrated Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders
http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Integrated-Treatment-for-Co-Occurring-Disorders-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA08-4367


**Week 11: July 18, 2016**

- Borderline Personality Disorder and Dialectical Behavior Therapy
  
  Guest Speaker: Mark Mitchell, LMSW


**Week 12: July 25, 2016**

- Family Psychoeducation


Family Psychoeducation EBP toolkit
http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Family-Psychoeducation-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA09-4423

**Week 13: August 1, 2016**

- Practicing Social Work in Mental Health – Wrap up and conclusions