Social Work 790-010: Working with Individuals with Dementia and Their Families

Credit Hours: 1

Instructors: Leslie Dubin, LMSW

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Course Description:
This course introduces students to the world of dementia care for older adults and family caregivers. Demographic data regarding increased incidence of dementia in all ethnic/racial and socioeconomic groups will frame examination of intervention research with individuals with dementia and family caregivers.

Course Content:
This course will include an overview of the most common causes of dementia in older adults, with a particular focus on the progression of Alzheimer’s disease. Research-based interventions will be examined for early, middle, and late stage dementia, both for the individual and family caregivers. The instructor will introduce observational and assessment tools for both populations and discuss their use in practice.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the major causes of dementia in older adults and the progression of Alzheimer’s disease.
2. Demonstrate at least one effective way of assessing and intervening with individuals with dementia and caregivers at different stages of illness.
3. Offer an example of the impact that dementia has on: communication, family relationships, self-esteem.
4. Discuss at least one policy implication of the growing dementia population.
5. Address at least one ethical dilemma that occurs in dementia practice.
6. Understand the impact of diversity and socio-economic status on the dementia journey.
**Relationship to the Four Curricular Themes:**

*Multiculturalism and Diversity* will be addressed through the readings, case studies, and course discussion, particularly in terms of different definitions and values regarding dementia, and different patterns of decision with regard to long term care.

*Social Justice and Social Change* will be examined with regard to the long term care payment structure and how it impacts lower income families, decreased choices, barriers to health care and services.

*Promotion, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation* will be addressed during lectures through discussion of dementia prevention research and current treatment, as well as the concept of “excess disability”: treatment and rehabilitation that addresses functional limitations caused by factors other than organic dementia.

*Behavioral and Social Science Research* will be incorporated throughout the course in discussions of addressing interventions with caregivers and the individual with dementia.

**SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1 from any cell phone or campus phone.

All University of Michigan students, faculty and staff are required to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and protocols for both inside and outside of the classroom. In the event of possible building closure (i.e. severe weather conditions, public health notices, etc.) you may contact (734)764-SSWB(7793) for up-to-date School closure information.

Be Prepared. Familiarize yourself with the emergency card posted next to the phone in every classroom/meeting room. Review the information on the emergency evacuation sign (located nearest the door) and locate at least (2) emergency exits nearest the classroom.

If you are concerned about your ability to exit the building in the case of an emergency, contact the Office of Student Services and/or email ssw-ADAcompliance@umich.edu (Links to an external site.)

Office of Student Services School of Social Work | Room 1748 734-936-0961 For more information view the annual Campus Safety Statement at http://www.dpss.umich.edu/ (Links to an external site.) Register for UM Emergency Alerts at http://www.dpss.umich.edu/emergency-management/alert/ (Links to an external site.)
Readings:  Readings are available through the Canvas site.

Grading:  This course will be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis.  Letter grades will not be assigned. Class attendance for the entire day on BOTH days is required and factored into the grading. A pass grade indicates successful completion of all assignments. In addition, attendance and ACTIVE participation is expected during the course. If there is an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss options for credit.

Assignments:

- Participation in all course activities, including assigned readings, small group discussions, and final paper
- Ethics case study
- Final paper to be submitted via Canvas by June 15, 2018 by 11:59pm

June 8, 2018:  9:00 am – 5:00 pm

9:00 am – 10:30 am

- Introduction to the Course
- Person-Centered Principles in Early Stage of Dementia (Grace Video)

10:30 am - 10:45 am

- Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

- Person-Centered Principles in Middle and Late Stage Dementia (Grace Video)

12:00-12:45  Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

- Cognitive Changes and Dementia Overview

  How to determine what is going on?

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm

- break

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

- Recognizing Delirium
- Emergency Room, Hospital Care and Transitions for People with Dementia
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

- Wrap-Up: Discussion of course paper assignment and ethics case study

June 9, 2018: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

9:00 am – 10:30 am

- Understanding the Big Picture: Policy and Advocacy Efforts
- Connecting to Community Resources

*Guest Speaker:* Jennifer Howard, LMSW, Executive Director of Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter

10:30 am-10:45 am

- Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

- Introduction to Personalized Practices for Responding the Behavior Change
- Evidence-Based Interventions with Caregivers

12:15 pm-1:00 pm

- Lunch

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

*Guest lecturer:* Samantha Guyah, MSW – Michigan Medical Clinical Social Worker

- Ethical case study discussion
- Putting Intervention into Practice: Case Vignettes and Video Discussion

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

- Wrap-Up