

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

Department of Social Work

SW 641: ADVANCED PRACTICE IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH I

Fall, 2010

WebCT Course

Robert Mejia MSW, LCSW
Office: DDH A119
Phone: 654-6043
E-mail: rmejia3@csub.edu
Website: www.csub.edu/~rmejia

Office Hours:
Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Other hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online course provides information and skills necessary for the practice of social work with people who have problems of functioning that are commonly treated in mental health settings. The course is designed to provide a better understanding of the service delivery system and ideas for how to work effectively in it. Issues related to ethics, diversity, and social justice is incorporated in the course. The values that community mental health professionals must consider include cultural competence, empowerment, and the ethical concerns unique to helping agency-affiliated individuals in the community.

Linkages: This course builds on the generalist foundation of social work practice, SW540 and SW541, and on the foundation human behavior course, SW 520. It links horizontally with the advanced practicum series (SW650) and with the advanced human behavior course, SW 620.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the contribution of cultural, ethnic, racial, and gender variables to problems in assessment, planning, and intervention.
2. Analyze ethical dimensions of social work practice in mental health settings.
3. Define evidenced-based practices.
4. Describe the community mental health systems approach.
5. Describe the ecological perspective as it applies to the community mental health system, child development, education deinstitutionalization, and other important areas.
6. Identify the three levels of prevention of mental illness.
7. Compare and contrast different models used to categorize prevention programs.
8. Understand the concept of resilience and identify character traits that might contribute to resilience.
9. Understand the community mental health approach to crisis theory.

10. Describe different types of brief therapy interventions.
11. Understand how consultation fits into the ecological perspective.
12. Identify needs assessments techniques.
13. Identify political, organizational, and personal aspects of change.
14. Identify important aspects of effective interventions targeted to the older generation; including how ethnic and gender considerations impact the structure of elder care.

Students will demonstrate these objectives through the following activities:

Weekly discussion questions

Reflection papers

Tests

TEXT:

Teed, E & Scileppi, J. (2007). *The Community Mental Health System: A Navigational Guide for Providers*. Boston: Pearson Education.

The following texts are recommended:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING

1. **Professional Conduct.** The mission of the CSUB Department of Social Work is to prepare competent and ethical social work practitioners who possess the knowledge, skills, and values required to prevent social problems, intervene in problem areas, and improve the social conditions of the region through culturally sensitive practice. Personal responsibility is a necessary part of the professional practice of social work. Participation is a necessary component of personal responsibility. Professional participation requires familiarity with the assigned readings. Assignments are to be turned in when they are due. Late assignments will be accepted only in the event of major life disruptions such as significant illness, injury, childbirth, or natural disasters. Problems of unprofessional conduct will be addressed through the advisement and student status review procedures outlined in the student handbook.
2. **Academic Honesty:** Rigorous honesty is necessary for the practice of professional social work. The statement on academic honesty in the university catalog is the minimum standard that will be applied in this course. See also the *NASW Code of Ethics* and the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. This instructor will refer students who display dishonesty to the

Student Status Review process and will recommend discharge from the department.

3. **Writing Standards:** The ability to communicate using Standard Written English is a necessary component of professional practice. All assignments are to use Standard Written English. You cannot pass this class unless you demonstrate the ability to use Standard Written English. Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, which is the stylebook required for theses in this department. For additional information on usage and style, refer to *A Dictionary of Modern American Usage*, which I will use as the authority for all matters of usage and style.
4. **Discussion Questions:** After each chapter there is a series of discussion questions. Be prepared to answer all of these questions. Weekly online student discussions provide students with an opportunity to analyze the content of the assigned readings and videos. Active student participation throughout the week is expected, with reduced points for infrequent postings on the discussion board or posting initiated late in the week. Weekly points are awarded using the following grading rubric:
 - **15 points** – Originality of thought, quality of reflections, and relevance to key concepts from readings/videos.
 - **10 points** – Ongoing and timely participation.
 - **5 points** – Collaboration demonstrated by building upon contributions of others and deepening of the discussion.

A total of 150 points can be earned by these discussions.

5. **Papers:** The text utilized in this course is divided into three parts. After each section has been completed, you will be required to write a reflection paper. This paper is to reflect your thorough analysis of the section. What are the merits/deficits of the information presented and what recommendations would you make for the areas you find lacking merit. This paper should be a minimum of 5 pages in length. These papers can be submitted electronically and are due midnight on the following dates: **Paper #1 due October 8, 2010; Paper #2 due November 5, 2010; Paper #3 due November 19, 2010.** Each paper is worth 50 points.
6. **Tests:** There will be two tests. The first test is worth 30 points and will be taken the 5th week of the quarter. The final is worth 50 points. This test will be taken during final week.
7. **Late work and make-up tests:** Weekly online learning modules as well as required reading assignments, videos and tests are posted each Monday and should be completed by midnight on the following Sunday prior to the

introduction of the subsequent module.. Late work will not be accepted. Make-up tests will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

8. **Grading:** All written work will be graded for both form and content. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 00% - 59%

9. **Grievance Procedure:** A graduate student who is dissatisfied with the course evaluation or grade should first discuss the issue with the instructor. If the student still feels unsatisfied and wishes to address the issue further, the student should then consult with, in sequential order, the Program Director, the appropriate School Dean, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and finally the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

10. **Students with Disabilities:** If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible (654-2171). If you need this syllabus in a different medium, notify us at the address and telephone number below. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Department of Social Work
California State University, Bakersfield
Bakersfield, CA 93311
(661) 654-3434

Course Outline

Module #1: September 13 – September 19, 2010 (Part I: Introduction and Guiding Philosophy)

- **Read: Chapters 1 and 2 (An Overview of the Community Mental Health System; Deinstitutionalization)**
- **Video: “Diverting the Mentally Ill from Jail”**
- **Discussion Questions**

Module #2: September 20 – September 26, 2010

- **Read: Chapters 3 and 4 (The Ecological Model; Prevention)**
- **Video: “The Bonnie Tapes”**

- **Discussion Questions**

Module #3: September 27 – October 3, 2010

- **Read: Chapters 5 and 6 (Crisis & Coping; Social Support & Self Help)**
- **Video: “Non-violent crisis intervention”**
- **Discussion Questions**

Module #4: October 4 – October 10, 2010 (Part II: The Values of the Community Mental Health Professional)

- **Read: Chapters 7 and 8 (Cultural Competence; Empowerment and Ethical Issues in Community Mental Health)**
- **Video: “Professional Choices: Ethics at Work”**
- **Discussion Questions**
- **Reflection Paper # 1 Due (midnight October 8, 2010)**

Module #5: October 11 – October 17, 2010

- **Mid- Term Exam (Chapters 1 – 6)**

Module #6: October 18 – October 24, 2010

- **Read: Chapters 9 – 10 (Consultation; Outcome Measurement & Program Evaluation)**
- **Video: “Making the numbers work for You”**
- **Discussion Questions**

Module #7: October 25 – October 31, 2010

- **Read: Chapter 11 (Leading and Managing Institutional and Organizational Change)**
- **Discussion Questions**

Module #8: November 1 – November 7, 2010 (Part III: Looking Toward the Future: Expected Trends in Community Mental Health)

- **Read: Chapter 12 (A Focus on Gerontology: Community Mental Health Services for the Growing Elderly Population)**
- **Video: “Complaints of a dutiful daughter”**
- **Discussion Questions**
- **Reflection Paper # 2 Due (midnight November 5, 2010)**

Module #9: November 8 – November 14, 2010

- **Read: Chapter 13 (Evolution/Revolution in Behavioral Managed Care: An Insider's Reflection)**
- **Discussion Questions**

Module #10: November 15 – November 19, 2010

- **Discussion Questions**
- **Submit Reflection Paper # 3 (midnight November 19, 2010)**

Finals Week: November 20 & 22-24

- **Final Exam (Chapters 7 – 13)**