



Adolescents & Substance Abuse
West College of Education and Professional Studies
COUN 4033
Spring 2026
Online

Contact Information

Instructor: **Dr. Daniel E. González, Ed.D., CSC**
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Instructor Response Policy

During the week (Monday – Friday), I will respond to emails within 48 hours. Do not expect a response from me on holidays and weekends. As professionals, it is important that we implement boundaries around home and work and model good self-care. Please try to ask your questions before the weekend.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Essau, C.A. & Delfabbro, P.H. (Eds.). (2020). Adolescent Addiction: Epidemiology, Assessment, and Treatment (2nd ed.). Elsevier Academic Press.

Course Description

Examines therapeutic approaches and techniques for counseling adolescents with addictions.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

1. Students will understand the correlation between adolescents and addiction.
2. Students will understand the principles and treatment of adolescents with substance abuse issues.
3. Students will explore the connection between substance abuse and social media.
4. Students will understand the terminology that goes into substance abuse counseling.
5. Students will be able to create a case study on an adolescent client regarding substance abuse issues.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). **Additional information regarding academic misconduct, plagiarism, Artificial Intelligence (AI) policies, and the like can be found in the *Instructor Class Policies* section of this course syllabus.** Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading/Assessment

****ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA D2L AND ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED USING THE LATEST APA EDITION STYLE.**

Online Discussion Posts and Comments: (16 points) Students are required to answer questions or complete assignments regularly related to the weekly reading. Every week students will be required to answer

questions about the reading or be asked to reflect on a particular topic for that week. Students may also be required to engage in short creative projects instead of questions about the readings. If there is a discussion, students are required to participate and comment on at least one other person's thread. **You will be required to post at least three academic paragraphs made up of 5 sentences each in each week's discussion board post (at least 200 words).** You are also required to reply to at least one other student's discussion board post (at least 150 words).

It is expected that you reflect on your peer's discussion post and that you make a thoughtful response that responds to the post they have written.

***You should not be copying and pasting each week's post, and doing so will result in a grade of ZERO. Each original post should include at least three academic paragraphs. An academic paragraph consists of a paragraph with at least five sentences in it. *The assignments and weekly comments are due by Sunday at 11:59 pm at the end of the week. Follow directions to get full points each week. Late work will not be accepted for discussion question responses; this includes your initial discussion question posts and your responses to classmates.**

Midterm Exam (20 points): Students will complete their mid-term exam covering Chapters 1 through 6 on D2L Brightspace. Students may attempt the exam twice with their highest grade being kept. Students will have 120 minutes to take the exam. Students will only be able to access the exam while it is open. There is NO late work for exams. Exams feature multiple choice, and true/false questions.

Final Exam (20 points): Students will complete their final exam covering Chapters 7 through 12 on D2L Brightspace. Students may attempt the exam twice with their highest grade being kept. Students will have 120 minutes to take the exam. Students will only be able to access the exam while it is open. **There is NO late work for exams. Exams feature multiple choice, and true/false questions.**

Adolescent Recovery Toolkit (22 points): Students will design a practical recovery toolkit for adolescents overcoming substance use challenges. The purpose is to combine creativity with practical application and to highlight the importance of accessible resources. Students will research recovery tools, strategies, and resources for teens. They will create a physical or digital toolkit that includes coping skills worksheets, a list of support groups and hotlines, mindfulness or relaxation activities, and inspirational quotes or stories of hope. Students will deliver their toolkit presentation through a

combination of audio and video. Students can submit their assignment through D2L and/or share it through google drive with

Professional Consultation and Supervision Simulation (22 points): In small groups, students will create a podcast episode discussing key topics in adolescent substance abuse. The purpose is to encourage collaboration, creativity, and communication skills while exploring the subject in depth. They will choose a specific topic, such as peer pressure, family dynamics, media influence, or recovery stories. Students will research evidence-based information and interview a licensed mental health professional with adolescent substance abuse experience (LCDC, LPC, LCSW, etc.). Students will record a 10-to-15-minute podcast and submit a written summary of key points and resources mentioned in the podcast. Students will submit their podcast, written summary, and peer evaluations through D2L and/or share it through google drive with Daniel.Gonzalez@msutexas.edu.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Points Breakdown

Assignments	Points
Online Discussion Posts and Comments	16
Midterm Exam	20
Final Exam	20
Adolescent Recovery Toolkit	22
Group Podcast Project	22
Total Points	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or Below

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

Late Work

Any late work results in a lowering of 10% per day of your grade for the late assignment. The cutoff time for said incremental deductions is 11:59PM each day. Once the late work threshold reaches a grade of zero, no further submissions will be accepted for credit.

The late work policy **DOES NOT** apply to discussion question responses; this includes your initial discussion question posts and your responses to classmates. These assignments are due by the designated due dates that are delineated in D2L. **Quizzes, midterms, final exams, and other exams CAN NOT be made up.** All due dates are posted in D2L.

Make-Up Work/Tests

Please review the late work policy for clarity.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: **23 January 2026**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: **16 February 2026**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" **29 April 2026**. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.

***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests,**

or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your me immediately should you experience issues with course content. **If you have technical difficulties in the course, contact the university help desk at helpdesk@msutexas.edu. D2L issues can be addressed at D2Lhelp@msutexas.edu.** The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

1. **Be present in the online learning environment.** The learning environment must be conducive to learning for all students. Your participation in weekly activities is imperative.
2. **Weekly Participation.** Your best chance to do well in this class is to participate in each weekly activity/assignment and submit all weekly activities/assignments on or before their designated due dates. You may visit with fellow classmates to acquire notes and other pertinent information missed or make an appointment with your instructor for further direction. **This is an online class so your participation each week is critical.**
3. **Be diligent.** In order to be prepared for class, you are expected to complete the weekly readings, assignments, quizzes, exams, projects, and the like, by their designated due dates. Records of class attendance and participation are kept by faculty. When an accumulation of absences reaches the point of endangering your academic status, the faculty member can report this situation to the Early Alert and Intervention team.
4. **Plan ahead for quizzes.** A grade of a zero will be recorded for every quiz missed. Quizzes are to be taken in D2L when scheduled and cannot be made up. D2L will automatically stop the quiz or examination when the allotted time has been reached; therefore, be vigilant of your testing time. **Once you begin a quiz, you may not stop the quiz and continue later. You must complete the quiz once you begin.**
5. **Plan ahead for exams.** A grade of a zero will be recorded for every exam missed. Exams are to be taken in D2L and cannot be made up. D2L will automatically stop the examination when the allotted time has been reached; therefore, be vigilant of your testing time. **Once you begin an exam, you may not stop the exam and continue later. You must complete the exam once you begin.**

6. **Submit assignments on-time.** Late work of any kind may or may not be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. **Individual assignments are reduced by 10% for each day late; the cutoff time for said incremental deductions is 11:59PM each day. Once the late work threshold reaches a grade of zero, no further submissions will be accepted for credit.**
7. **Plagiarism, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Like.** The use of ChatGPT, Dall-E2, Perplexity, and **ANY OTHER** generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool at all stages of the work and writing processes, including preliminary assignments is strictly **PROHIBITED**. You are expected to complete each assignment **WITHOUT** assistance from others, which includes, but is not limited to, automated tools, having others complete work on your behalf, and the like.
 1. Violations of this policy will be considered academic misconduct, deemed a violation of TSC's Academic Integrity policy, and considered plagiarism. **A grade of ZERO (F) will be assigned for ANY work effort determined to be plagiarized, AI generated, and/or the like.**
 2. Different classes at Northwestern State University may implement different AI policies, and it is your responsibility to conform to the expectations specifically designated for each individual course.
 3. All work turned in for this course is required to be your own individual work. **For times when collaborative work is assigned, the assignment must list all team members who participated and ONLY those who participated. ***If you do not participate in group assignments, you will not be awarded credit and your score will be a grade of ZERO (F).***** Students who participate in group assignments are graded individually based on his/her/their contributions to the group assignment/s.
8. **Demonstrate respect in the physical and virtual classroom.** Each student is expected to demonstrate respect for the instructor, fellow classmates, and external learning experience site personnel (if applicable).

Inclement Weather

Inclement Weather- In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, key decision-makers will monitor weather projections and communicate with local news agencies and WFISD leadership to make a delay or cancellation decision. Notification occurs through official campus channels and in communication with the local news networks. MSU channels include MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster, and

website headers. MSU Police and the Office of Marketing and Public Information. Information for all channels can be found at MSU Ready. This online course will continue as scheduled, but if assessment deadlines coincide with the closure dates, deadline will be delayed until after the campus reopens. The timeline is as follows:

Event	Time	Day	Decision
Inclement weather occurs during regular work/class day	3:30 PM	Day of inclement weather	Cancel classes/events after 5 PM
Overnight inclement weather expected	8 PM	Day before inclement weather	Close campus or delay opening
Delay called the day before but change to closure due to the extent of weather impact	6:15 AM	Day of delay	Close campus
No cancellation or delay decision made the night before	5:30 AM	Day after no decision made the night before	Close campus or delay opening

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)"

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the
Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may
be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Introductions• Review Syllabus• Foundations of addictive problems in adolescence: Developmental & social factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post• Read Chapter 1 – Foundations of addictive problems in adolescence: Developmental & social factors
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundations of addictive problems in adolescence: Neurobiological factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post• Read Chapter 2 – Foundations of addictive problems in adolescence: Neurobiological factors
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol in adolescence• Create groups for group project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post• Read Chapter 3 – Alcohol in adolescence• Create groups for group project

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent cannabis use disorders • Work on toolkit project due next week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Read Chapter 4 – Adolescent cannabis use disorders • Work on toolkit project due next week
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent Recovery Toolkit Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Adolescent Recovery Toolkit Due
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicotine & e-cigarettes addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Read Chapter 5 – Nicotine & e-cigarettes addiction
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent gambling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Read Chapter 6 – Adolescent gambling
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indulge in self-care during Spring Break 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break!

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term Exam • Work on group project due next week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Mid-term Exam • Work on group project due next week
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Podcast Project Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Group Podcast Project Due
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video game addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Read Chapter 7 – Video game addiction
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smartphone addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Read Chapter 8 – Smartphone addiction
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post • Read Chapter 9 – Sexual addiction

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post Read Chapter 10 – Exercise addiction
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comorbidity of addictive problems: Assessment & treatment implications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post Read Chapter 11 – Comorbidity of addictive problems: Assessment & treatment implications
Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political & policy issues in adolescent addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post Read Chapter 12 – Political & policy issues in adolescent addiction
Week 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do Discussion Board Post & Comment on a Peer's Post Final Exam