Course Syllabus: Substance Abuse & Addiction

West College of Education and Professional Studies
COUN 4233 X10
Fall 2026 Part of Term B
Online

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Hall, FT LPC-S
Office: Online
Office hours: Tuesdays 9-10 AM
E-mail: michelle.l.hall@msutexas.edu

Course Description

Explores the best practices for addictions treatment in substance abuse counseling.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Online OER Materials provided in D2L Shell.

Instructor Response Policy

During the week (Monday – Friday), I will respond to emails and D2L messages within 24 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.

Attendance:
This is an online course; therefore, traditional in-person attendance is not required. You will be required to post at least three academic paragraphs on each week's discussion board. You are also required to reply to at least one other student's discussion board post. This is seen as your weekly attendance in class. Failing to post, reply, or both each week results in loss of points and would be the same as if you did not attend class that week. Please note that an academic paragraph needs at least five sentences in it. Discussion board posts are not accepted late.

Inclement Weather:

Because this course is conducted online, inclement weather will not affect class activities or assignments.

Late Work:
All papers and assignments must be turned in the day they are due. ***No exceptions*.** If you have an emergency, please let me know in advance, and/or email me your assignment. Any late work will be lowered ***10%*.** Please observe that your assignments are worth a considerable number of points and skipping even one assignment will significantly lower your grade. Late discussion board posts are not accepted. Please begin planning your semester schedule accordingly.

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.
Office of Student Conduct

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this Moffett Library webpage to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Learning Objectives:

1. Research local treatment & recovery resources.

2. Learn about the effects of substance use, risk and protective factors, warning signs, and prevention strategies.

3. Explore the importance of ethics and professional competencies in substance abuse and addiction counseling.

4. Examine the potential consequences of continued substance use and explore appropriate evidence-based treatment options, recovery supports, and potential barriers to seeking treatment.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	**Points**
Discussions (6 @ 100 pts each)	600
Addiction Treatment and Recovery Resource Exploration	100
Substance Use Education and Prevention Project	100
Ethics and Competencies Paper	100
Addiction Case Study and Treatment Recommendations	100
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	**Points**
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Discussions

Each student brings a unique perspective and life experience to the learning environment and is expected to actively and thoughtfully participate by making pertinent contributions. You are expected to read through course modules and the course textbook, and to actively participate by completing discussions, and these need to be fully completed to the best of your ability following all instructions in D2L.

Assignments

Addiction Treatment and Recovery Resource Exploration

Students will research three different substance use treatment or recovery resources in their local area. These could include inpatient treatment facilities, outpatient programs, peer support groups, medication-assisted treatment

programs, or community recovery organizations. Then students will complete a comparison chart.

Substance Use Education and Prevention Project

Students will develop an educational resource, such as a brochure, infographic, fact sheet, or presentation, designed to increase awareness and promote the prevention of substance use and addiction among a specific target population. The project will address the effects of substance use, risk and protective factors, warning signs, prevention strategies, and available support resources. Students will apply course concepts and research-based information to create an informative, engaging, and audience-appropriate resource.

Ethics and Competencies Paper

Students will explore the importance of ethics and professional competencies in substance abuse and addiction counseling. In a 3-4 page paper, students will also examine common ethical challenges, identify essential professional competencies, and discuss how these principles apply to real-world situations.

Addiction Case Study and Treatment Recommendations

Students will analyze a case study involving an individual experiencing substance use challenges, applying course concepts to identify patterns of substance use, risk factors, and biological, psychological, and social influences. Students will examine the potential consequences of continued substance use and explore appropriate evidence-based treatment options, recovery supports, and potential barriers to seeking treatment. This assignment will encourage critical thinking and the application of course knowledge to real-world situations involving substance use and addiction.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on Academic Calendar.
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on Academic Calendar.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"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 which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. 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**.**

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission***. Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

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 a100% 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.

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

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 WATC. 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 MSUReady – Active Shooter. 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."*

Title 9

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 10/19	Read through Syllabus and Calendar Introductions	OCT 25 11:59 PM Week 1 Discussion Board Question
Week 2 10/26	Dare, P. S., & Begun, A. (2020). Introduction to substance use disorders. MSL Academic Endeavors. Chapter 1 Introduction Chapter 2 Biological Models of Substance Misuse	NOV 1 11:59 PM Week 2 Discussion Board Question
Week 3 11/2	Dare, P. S., & Begun, A. (2020). Introduction to substance use disorders. MSL Academic Endeavors. Chapter 9 Opioids Chapter 10 Alcohol Chapter 11 Stimulants Chapter 12 Introduction to Cannabinoids and other Hallucinogenic and Dissociatives Chapter 13 Introduction to Sedative Hypnotics Chapter 14 Inhalants, Steroids, Over the Counter and Prescription Medication Misuse.	NOV 8 11:59 PM Week 3 Discussion Board Question NOV 8 11:59 PM Addiction Treatment and Recovery Resource Exploration - Due
Week 4 11/9	Addiction Counseling Competencies – Section 1 pgs 5-34	NOV 15 11:59 PM Week 4 Discussion Board Question - Due

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
		NOV 15 11:59 PM Substance Use Education and Prevention Project - Due
Week 5 11/16	Polites, A., Sewick, B., Florin, J., & Trytek, J. (2024). Addictions counseling essentials. College of DuPage Digital Press. II. Unit Three: Core Attitudes 10. Addiction and the Brain: Development, Not Disease 18. Case Management and Counseling Ethics IV. Unit Four: Professional Development 25. Addiction Counseling Competencies	NOV 22 11:59 PM Week 5 Discussion Board Question NOV 22 11:59 PM Ethics and Competencies Paper - Due
Week 6 11/23	No Assignments Thanksgiving Break	N/A
Week 7 11/30	Twelve Core Functions and Global Criteria of Substance Abuse Counseling	DEC 6 11:59 PM Week 6 Discussion Board Question DEC 6 11:59 PM Addiction Case Study and Treatment Recommendations - Due
Week 8 12/7	Make Up Week – Submit Any Missing Assignments and/or Resubmissions	DEC 11 11:59 PM ALL MAKEUP WORK DUE