



Course Syllabus: Family Systems and Substance Abuse
College of Health Sciences and Human Services
SOWK 4363
Fall 2020 August 22-December 10, 2020

Contact Information

Instructor: Catherine Earley

Office: Centennial Hall #450F

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8:30-11:00 or by appointment

Office phone: (940) 397-4319

E-mail: catherine.earley@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course focuses on the family life cycle and family development. The origins of family intervention are deeply rooted in the profession of Social Work. The tradition of viewing the person and the presenting problem in a contextual framework is congruent with the theoretical adherence of social work to an ecological approach. Interpersonal and societal transactions are seen as equally vital areas of both assessment and intervention in social work practice. The family is the basic unit of social analysis in this approach. Different theories regarding improvement of family functioning are covered such as structural, problem solving, communication, solution focused, and intergenerational systems theory. Specific attention to the effects of drugs and alcohol on the family is addressed in the textbook.

Program Objectives

Graduates demonstrate the ability to:

Objective 1 Apply critical thinking skills, and empirical knowledge of a generalist social work practice in the initial assessment through goal setting, implementation, evaluation and termination.

Objective 2 Practice with the values, ethics and principles of the social work profession.

Course Objectives:

- 1 Demonstrate understanding of the different family therapies and their application with regard to working with families.
- 2 Distinguish the theoretical basis and techniques of different family therapy approaches used in treating chemical dependency.
- 3 Explain why some people misuse substances while others stop or control use without negative consequences.
- 4 Describe the stages of change and debate the importance of the social work motto "start where the client is" when responding to the unique needs of each addicted client.
- 5 Apply strengths perspective for assessment and intervention.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Fisher, G. L., & Harrison, T. C. (2018). *Substance abuse: information for school counselors, social workers, therapists, and counselors* (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Recommended:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the [MSU Writing Center](#), located off the second floor atrium of Prothro-Yeager. The MSU Writing Center is committed to serving the university's academic mission. It provides trained writing tutors and facilitates writing workshops. Students are invited to bring any kind of writing to the Writing Center. They do not provide an editing service; instead, they offer feedback and support to help writers develop into more effective communicators.

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.

Grading

Table 1: The student's achievement will be evaluated on the basis of discussion board assignments and exams.

Assignments	Percentage
Discussion board assignments & discussion thread participation	40%
Required Project-Documentation of a recovery group meeting	10%
Quizzes	30%
Final Exam	20%

Table 2: Weighted average will be used to calculate final grade.

Grade	Percentages
A	90-100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Social Work Program Grade Policy

A course grade of below a C or an average of below 70% will be considered a failing grade. ***Students must repeat social work courses in which they receive a grade of D or F.***

Discussion Board Participation:

As indicated in the course schedule, the instructor will post question(s) on D2L for the class. Unless specified otherwise, everyone should post an initial response to the question(s) and should also respond to at least two peer's posts. The discussion board is a mandatory component. Students are expected to read all discussion board instructions and rubrics and to participate actively throughout the semester. Students are expected to write formally (no shorthand or text messaging abbreviations) and use APA format and referencing where appropriate. There will be general questions relating to the chapter(s), case vignettes, current events, and/or watching a video and posting your response. Thoughtful responses, constructive critique of fellow students, and meaningful participation are expected. Please keep in mind the discussion board is a formal assignment and part of your grade.

Discussion Thread Participation:

As stated earlier, the discussion board is a mandatory component. Discussion questions will be posted on the discussion board. Typically, your initial post to the discussion assignments are due by 11:30 pm Thursdays and your response to at least two peers' posts (you may respond to as many peers' posts as you want) are due by 11:30 pm on Saturdays. Due dates will change at times during the semester (especially during holiday weeks) so it is the responsibility of the student to follow the due dates listed in each weekly post assignment.

If anyone fails to do the initial posts and fails to respond to peers' posts for any three discussion threads he or she may be dropped from the course.

I will review your posts and responses and give individual feedback when grading posts. I may respond in the discussion thread to a select few posts and/or responses or respond collectively to the class. This does not mean only the posts and/or responses of those to whom I respond are good and other posts and/or responses are not good.

Note: If needed, changes will be made in the syllabus while the sessions are on.

Quizzes

Students will complete weekly quizzes by 11:30 pm on Fridays based on the required book chapters and unit notes as indicated in the class schedule. The quizzes are open book and notes, but there will be only 30 minutes to complete them. **Quizzes cannot be made up if missed, and a grade of zero (0) will be recorded.**

Project Required

Due **Oct. 22nd**: Documentation of an AA/NA/Al-Anon, CODA, or ACOA meeting:

Attend and document what occurs at an **open** AA/NA/Al-Anon, CODA, or ACOA meeting. The meeting must be one that you attend during the current semester. Write a 1-2 page summary (not including your cover page). Include at least 1 scholarly citation in your summary (use APA manual 6th ed. Guidelines) and a final page for your reference(s). Use these headings:

Demographics: Describe the demographics of the group (such as age, gender, socioeconomic status).

Culture/Atmosphere: Describe the culture of the meeting (friendly, formal, rigid, chaotic?).

Structure/Format: Describe the structure of the meeting (how was it conducted?).

Effective Components: List and describe things you thought were effective or healing about the meeting.

Room for Improvement: List and describe things you thought were ineffective or counterproductive about the meeting.

You will be expected to use appropriately cited and referenced professional or scholarly information when presenting your observations and recommendations.

This project is due by 11:30pm. Your paper will be uploaded to the assignment drop box and the text and reference portions of your paper will be posted in the Week 9 discussion board for peer review and class discussion.

Final Exam

Due **Dec. 4th**: The cumulative final exam will be posted in D2L. The final will be 20% of the final course grade.

Late Work

Students who fail to post required assignments on time will receive a lower grade, and the ones who do not complete the assignments will receive a grade of zero (please review the time submission criteria on the rubrics for each assignment). If anyone fails to post an original post or replies for 3 or more assignments, they will be dropped from the course or will be given a failing grade. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Make Up Work/Tests

Missed assignments & exams cannot be made up if missed. A grade of zero (0) will be recorded.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 24-26

Deadline to file for graduation: September 28 for December Graduation, October 5 for May Graduation

[Last Day to drop](#) **with a grade of "W:"** October 26

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.

Attendance

Students are responsible for checking emails and logging onto D2L regularly to ensure that messages from the instructor and fellow students are received in a timely manner. Students who wish to meet with me face to face or by Zoom should schedule an appointment in advance via email catherine.earley@msutexas.edu.

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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

All students registered for courses in the Social Work Department are expected to adhere to the responsibilities, and behavior as articulated in both the [Student Handbook](#) and the NASW (National Association of Social Workers) [Code of Ethics](#). An essential feature of these codes is a commitment to maintaining intellectual integrity and academic honesty.

Students are expected to display professional decorum at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, respecting classmates and the instructor.

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) exist 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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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 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 prohibit 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.

Grade Appeal Process

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

Notice

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

Course Schedule:

Online delivery with asynchronous interactions between students and students and teacher, interactive discussions, and assignments.

D2L will be used throughout the semester. The course materials (syllabus, discussion board, and other course items) will be posted onto D2L. Power points will consist of materials from the textbook and other sources.

Family Systems & Substance Abuse Course Schedule

(The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus schedule as needed.)

Week & Dates	Topic	Reading & Assignments
Week 1 August 22 – August 28	Self-Introduction & Role of the Professional	- Introduction - Chapter 1 - Discussion 1
Week 2 August 29 – September 4	Classification of Drugs & Models of Addiction	- Chapters 2 & 3 - Discussion 2 - Quiz 1
Week 3 September 5 – September 11	Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Populations	- Chapter 4 - Quiz 2
Week 4 September 12– September 18	Confidentiality and Ethical Issues	- Chapter 5 - Discussion 3 - Quiz 3
Week 5 September 19– September 25	Screening, Assessment, and Diagnosis	- Chapter 6 - Quiz 4
Week 6 September 26– October 2	Motivational Interviewing and Brief Interventions	- Chapter 7 - Discussion 4 - Quiz 5
Week 7 October 3 – October 9	Treatment of Alcohol and Other Drugs	- Chapter 8 - Quiz 6

Week & Dates	Topic	Reading & Assignments
Week 8 October 10 – October 16	Co-occurring Disorders and Other Special Populations	- Chapter 9 - Discussion 5 - Quiz 7
Week 9 October 17 – October 23	Relapse Prevention and Recovery Twelve Step and Other Support Groups	- Chapters 10 & 11 - Meeting Observation - Discussion 6 - Quiz 8
Week 10 October 24 – October 30	Children and Families & Adult Children and Codependency	- Chapters 12 & 13 - Quiz 9
Week 11 October 31- November 6	HIV/AIDS	- Chapter 14 - Discussion 7 - Quiz 10
Week 12 November 7- November 13	Gambling and Other Behavioral Addictions	- Chapter 15 - Quiz 11
Week 13 November 14- November 20	Prevention	- Chapter 16 - Discussion 8 - Quiz 12
Week 14 November 21- November 27	Thanksgiving Break- No Assignments Due	
Week 15 November 28- December 4	Final Exam	- Final exam (due by 11:30 pm on Friday, December 4 th)

Bibliography

- Brown, S. (Ed.), & Yalom, I.D. (General Ed.). (1995). *Treating alcoholism*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass.
- Doweiko, H.E. (2009). *Concepts of chemical dependency* (7th ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Inaba, D.S., & Cohen, W.E. (2007). *Uppers, downers, all arounders* (6th ed.). Medford, CT: CNS Publications.
- Miller, W., & Rollnick, S. (2002). *Motivational interviewing: Preparing people to change addictive behavior*. New York: The Guilford Press.
- Van Wormer, K., & Davis, D.R. (2008). *Addiction treatment: A strengths perspective* (2nd ed.). Thomson Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.