



Course Syllabus: **Family Systems and Substance Abuse**

College of Health Sciences and Human Services

SOWK 4363

Fall 2021

Contact Information

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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.

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 an 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](#).

MSU Counseling Resources

The MSU Counseling Center recognizes that during this time of change, many may feel uncertainty and fear along with a host of other emotions. We are committed to helping our campus community through this difficult time.

The Counseling Center has counselors working remotely to help students. Therapy sessions are conducted through the Therapy Assist Online (TAO) video conferencing platform. Students at home or on-campus can have a telephone or video conference session using this platform. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Call to schedule 940-397-4618. We are not scheduling in-person sessions in the center in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. [Click here to access additional counseling resources](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#).

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

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.

Professional Expectations of Student Behavior

Midwestern State University Department of Social Work is mandated by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to foster and evaluate professional behavioral development for all students in social work courses. The Department of Social Work also bears a responsibility to the community at large to produce fully trained professional social workers who consciously exhibit the knowledge, values, and skills of the profession of social work. The values of the profession are codified in the [NASW Code of Ethics](#). Given this context, all students taking classes in the social work program will be expected to exhibit the following ethical standards of behavior.

1. **Accountability:** Complete reading assignments, participate in class discussions, and submit assignments on time.
 - a. *Participate in group activities and assignments at a comparable level to peers.*
 - b. *Complete work in a timely fashion and according to directions provided.*
2. **Respect:** Treat all your peers, your instructors and all those you come in contact with, with dignity and respect at all times.
 - a. *Give feedback to peers in a constructive manner.*
 - b. *Approach conflict with peers or instructors in a cooperative manner.*
 - c. *Use positive and nonjudgmental language.*
3. **Confidentiality:** Treat any personal information that you hear about a peer or an instructor as strictly confidential.
 - a. *Maintain any information shared in class, dyads, or smaller groups within that unit.*
 - b. *Use judgment in self-disclosing information of a very personal nature in the class. (Class time should not be used as therapy or treatment. If students feel the need to talk about issues they are struggling with, they may consult with their instructor to receive a referral for counseling.)*
 - c. *Never use names of clients or disclose other identifying information in the classroom.*
4. **Competence:** Apply yourself to all your academic pursuits with seriousness and conscientiousness, meeting all deadlines as given by your instructors. Constantly strive to improve your abilities.
 - a. *Seek out appropriate support when having difficulties to ensure success in completing course requirements.*
 - b. *Take responsibility for the quality of completed tests and assignments.*
 - c. *Strive to work toward greater awareness of personal issues that may impede your effectiveness with clients.*
5. **Integrity:** Practice honesty with yourself, your peers, and your instructors. Constantly strive to improve your abilities.
 - a. *Academic: Commit yourself to learning the rules of citing others work properly.*
 - b. *Do your own work and take credit only for your own work.*
 - c. *Acknowledge areas where improvement is needed.*
 - d. *Accept and benefit from constructive feedback*

Submission of Papers: Students will submit their written assignments on paper and electronically. Electronic copies will be subject to plagiarism analysis and will be kept in an electronic file for future reference. A student may not submit the same paper, or essentially the same, paper, project, assignment, or finished project to an instructor, which has been submitted to another instructor, unless specifically authorized by both instructors to do so.

6. **Diversity:** Strive to become more open to people, ideas, and creeds that you are not familiar with. Embrace diversity.
 - a. *Maintain speech free of racism, sexism, ableism, heterosexism, or stereotyping.*
 - b. *Exhibit a willingness to serve diverse groups of persons.*
 - c. *Demonstrate an understanding of how values and culture interact.*
7. **Communication:** Strive to improve both verbal and written communication skills as these skills are used heavily in interactions with clients and peers and also with creating client records.
 - a. *Demonstrate assertive communication with peers and instructors.*
 - b. *Practice positive, constructive, respectful, and professional communication skills with peers and instructor: (body language, empathy, listening)*
8. **Social Justice:** Strive to deepen your commitment to social justice for all populations at risk.
 - a. *Demonstrate an understanding of how institutional and personal oppression impede the experience of social justice for individuals and groups.*
 - b. *Strive to learn about methods of empowering populations and enhancing social justice at micro, mezzo, and macro levels.*

Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior

The Department of Social Work may terminate a student's participation in the program on the basis of professional non-suitability if the Department's faculty members determine that a student's behavior has constituted a significant violation or pattern of violations of the NASW Code of Ethics, the MSU of Social Work Student Manual, or the MSU Academic Policies and Regulations. Examples of violations that may lead to termination include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Failure to meet or maintain academic grade point requirements as established by the University and the Social Work program.
2. Academic cheating, lying, or plagiarism (turnitin.com will be used to check the originality of the text).
3. Behavior judged to be in violation of the NASW Code of Ethics.
4. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of professional conduct, personal integrity, or emotional stability requisite for professional practice.
5. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior toward colleagues, faculty, or staff (at the department or in the field placement).
6. Consistent failure to demonstrate effective interpersonal skills necessary for forming professional relationships (for example, unable to demonstrate nonjudgmental attitude or unable to allow client self-determination).

7. Documented evidence of criminal activity occurring during the course of study.

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 Policy

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.

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](#).

Grading

Table 1: Student achievement will be evaluated on the basis of written assignments, class exams, class participation, and class presentation.

Assignments	Due	Percentage
Discussion board assignments & discussion thread participation	weekly	40%
Required Project-Documentation of a recovery group meeting	October 22	10%
Quizzes	weekly	30%
Final Exam	December 3	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 Thread/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 by Friday @ 10:00 pm. The discussion board is a mandatory component. Students are expected to read all discussion board instructions 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.

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.

Quizzes

Students will complete weekly quizzes by 10:00pm 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.

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. 3rd: The cumulative final exam will be posted in D2L. The final will be 20% of the final course grade.

Course Schedule:

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

Week and Dates	Chapters/Readings	Exams and Discussions Due: Fridays @ 10:00pm
Week 1 due Aug. 27	Introductions Role of the Professional	- Introduction - Chapter 1 - Discussion 1
Week 2 due Sept. 3	Classification of Drugs & Models of Addiction	- Chapters 2 & 3 - Discussion 2 - Quiz 1
Week 3 due Sept. 10	Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Populations	- Chapter 4 - No Discussion - Quiz 2
Week 4 due Sept. 17	Confidentiality and Ethical Issues	- Chapter 5 - Discussion 3 - Quiz 3
Week 5 due Sept. 24	Screening, Assessment, and Diagnosis	- Chapter 6 - No Discussion - Quiz 4

Week 6 due Oct. 1	Motivational Interviewing and Brief Interventions	- Chapter 7 - Discussion 4 - Quiz 5
Week 7 due Oct. 8	Treatment of Alcohol and Other Drugs	- Chapter 8 - No Discussion - Quiz 6

Week 8 due Oct. 15	Co-occurring Disorders and Other Special Populations	- Chapter 9 - Discussion 5 - Quiz 7
Week 9 due Oct. 22	Relapse Prevention and Recovery Twelve Step and Other Support Groups	- Chapters 10 & 11 - Discussion 6 - Meeting Observation due and posted - Quiz 8
Week 10 due Oct. 29	Children and Families Adult Children and Codependency	- Chapters 12-13 - No Discussion - Quiz 9
Week 11 due Nov. 5	HIV/AIDS	- Chapter 12-14 - Discussion 7 - Quiz 10
Week 12 due Nov. 12	Gambling and Other Behavioral Addictions	- Chapter 15 - No Discussion - Quiz 11
Week 13 due Nov. 19	Prevention	- Chapter 15, 16 - Discussion 8 - Quiz 12
Week 14	<i>Thanksgiving Break - no class or assignments</i>	
Week 15 due Dec. 3	Final Exam	- Final exam posted 11/19-12/3

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.