Course Title:
Understanding Addictions

Course Number:
HR 5110-107

Course Description:
This course will explore the biopsychosocial model of addiction and will provide an understanding of the complex interactions among the biological, psychological and social variables. It will present a comprehensive overview of the contributing issues and factors associated with the evolution of chemical dependency and other addictive substances/behaviors. We will conduct a mock intervention, as one of the strategies to penetrate addictive denial. The impact of addictions on families, including issues relating to codependency and children from addictive homes will be addressed.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: December 2-4 & 9-11, 2011
Location: OCCE, Norman, Oklahoma. Classes are held at the Thurman White Forum Building, 1704 Asp Avenue.
Hours: Fri 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 3, 2011

Site Director:
Cathy Yeaman. Assistant: Jan Plavchak. Phone: 405-325-3333; Fax: 405-325-9148; email: apnorman@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Ellen Donaldson, M.H.R., LMFT, LADC
Mailing Address: Midtown Plaza,
330 W. Main, #100-6C
Norman, OK 73069
Telephone Number: 405-360-3191
Fax Number: 405-360-0085
E-mail Address: ellen.donaldson@cox.net
Website: www.ellendonaldson.marriage-family.com
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- be able to understand and discuss the biopsychosocial model of alcohol/drug dependence and other addictions
- have a thorough understanding of specific chemical and behavioral addictions, including their physical, psychological, and social consequences
- be able to describe the impact of addictive behaviors on family members
- be able to identify and knowledgeably discuss the commonalities found in a variety of addictive substances and behaviors
- be able to describe the ways in which various physical and psychological states impact the risk of addiction and the role conditioning plays in the addictive process
- be able to list and describe the treatment levels of care available as well as other treatment options and relapse prevention strategies
- understand and be able to utilize the five step process for relapse prevention.

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

1. **Book Summary -- Due the first day of class.** Use 12 font with 1.25 margins, double-spaced. 8 – 10 pages (35 points)

   You are asked to read *The Addictive Personality* and write a comprehensive summary, highlighting the key information presented in each of the five parts of the book.
   
   ♦ If you are comfortable doing so, please feel free to interject your personal experiences, opinions, insights and/or observations into the narrative, as they pertain to the main points addressed in the book.

2. **Class Presentation: Schedule to be assigned.** These presentations will take place during class time, the second weekend of the class. 15 – 20 minutes (25 points)

   NOTE: (Please email me as soon as you enroll in the class and I will assign you the addiction you will use for this presentation. Ellen.donaldson@cox.net)

   You are asked to prepare a 15 – 20 minute presentation to the class, using class texts, current research, and/or articles...whatever you can find. There will be time for questions and discussion, depending on the size of the class. I will cover alcoholism during class lectures so this topic will not be assigned for a student presentation.

   Include pertinent information that would educate class members about your topic. Provide information about the addiction (what is it?) and the biological, psychological and social factors that influence its onset and progression. This is an overview of your findings. Bring with you enough copies of your typed bibliography for distribution to class members.
3. Term Paper: A Hypothetical Case Study -- Due on the last day of class. 10-15 pages (40 points) –
For this paper: Use 12 font with 1.25 margins, double-spaced.

Note: You may use the addiction you were assigned for your class presentation, or you may choose a different addiction. Write a paper which applies the biopsychosocial (biological, psychological, social) model of addiction to a hypothetical, imaginary “client” whose “story” you develop as a case study. You are writing as the counselor.

Please include:

• Presenting problem: (why he/she is seeking services):

• Pertinent information about the “client;” (age, gender, geographical location, etc.);

• For example, you would begin the paper summarizing: “John is a 38 year old Caucasian male, who came for counseling services with the complaint that his gambling had caused him to lose his business and his mounting debts caused him to steal money from his current employer, who pressed charges. He is court-ordered to be here.” (Then you describe his attitude… admits there’s a problem, in denial there’s a problem, angry and resistant, etc.):

• Client History: The evolution of his/her addiction based on family of origin, (how this “client” grew up) and describe the genetic, cognitive (thought process), behavioral, psychological, physiological and social factors which contributed to the onset and progression of the addiction. You tell the story of the “client’s” life; including the above elements and end with the reason he/she is referred to you for counseling.

• Assessment results: Not all addictions have formal assessment instruments or self-assessment questionnaires to help identify if an addiction exists, but you can check your texts or research this online. Note: Do not include the actual assessment in your narrative…just the results.

• Current life situation: What is this person’s life like today? Describe the “client’s” current relationships, employment/student status, etc. and who, in this person’s life is supportive of recovery and who is trying to get him/her back into the addiction.

• Recommendations: What are your short-term goals to stabilize this client?

• Relapse Prevention Plan: Use the following 5 step process, to outline a plan for your “client” to avoid relapse.

THE FIVE STEP PROCESS

Relapse prevention is a matter of continuing to do what you have already successfully begun after starting a recovery program. It’s just more systematic.

What will your “client” need to learn to improve his/her skill at stopping the relapse process at any of the following five steps, before the final return to using the chemical or the addictive behavior?

You can:

1. Stop something from happening — Identify the “client’s” high-risk situations and come up with a plan for avoiding them. OR plan ways to handle them without relapsing, if they can’t be avoided. Give the “client” concrete steps and strategies to use to not relapse. (For example, a food addict has to eat; a workaholic has to work, etc.)

2. Redirect action — Alternate activities…what else can the “client” do when he/she gets a craving? What would you put on a short, written plan that this “client” could carry with him/her to have access to it wherever they are?

3. Contradict permission thoughts — What does your “client” tell him/herself to challenge the thoughts to use the drug or behavior? Example: “I deserve to have one beer after the day I’ve had.” Or, “I just want to go to the casino to be around my friends but I won’t gamble.” Help
the “client” identify challenges to “talk back” to these kinds of irrational thoughts before they act on them.

4. Cope with cravings -- What can the “client” do differently? What can they do instead? (A person stopping smoking is told to chew gum or advised to not be around smokers.) What can your “client” do?

5. Come up with a “mantra”. This is a short phrase or statement that the “client” can use when feeling the urge to engage in the addiction.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Missed Deadlines: Any assignment not completed by the due date will result in a loss of five points, unless documentation is provided regarding medical or other emergency issues which caused you to miss the deadline.

Attendance: Since this is an interactive class, attendance and participation will be an important component. If you miss class for non-medical, non-emergency reasons, five points will automatically be deducted from your total point score, unless you provide medical or other supporting documentation.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA


Education

- 1980  University of Oklahoma, B.A. in Social Work
- 1984  University of Oklahoma, Master of Human Relations

Current Positions

1995 – Present, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Human Relations, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- HR 5110  Understanding Addictions
- HR 5113  Stress Management
- HR 5153  Human Emotions
- HR 5100  Basic Counseling Skills in Human Relations

Representative Publications and Presentations

1986 – Present, State and national workshop presentations

Major Professional Affiliations

- Clinical Member, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- Full Member, EMDRIA, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, (EMDR) International Association
- National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors
- Board Member – Oklahoma Drug & Alcohol Professional Counselor Certification Board