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Meyer 302

Psychology of Addiction, Spring 2009
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(Draft)

Office hours by appointment

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Overview:

This course will focus primarily on: (1) the nature of commonly used and abused substances; (2) the psychological and biological understandings of substance use, abuse, and addiction and the treatments that are informed by the cognitive, psychodynamic, behavioral, person-centered, and experiential traditions; (3) relevant insights from the various self-help movements; (4) scientific perspectives derived from social psychology/sociology and behavioral pharmacology; (5) different views on drug policy; and (6) other addictions.

Textbook: Instead of using a book, I will provide you with a list of resources – both internet-based and published – that cover the various topics under examination.

Exams: There will be three exams. All of the questions will be based on the concept sheets that will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

The course will include lectures, films, and a few in-class activities.

Please note: the words “drugs” or “substances” always includes alcohol.

Exam Dates: 3/23, 4/13, & 5/4

Foundations:

Why do people use drugs?

Risk and Protective Factors

Diagnosis and Assessment

Neurobiology of Drug Use

Methods of Use

Genetic Factors in Drug Use and Addiction

The Prefrontal Cortex

Motivation

Heroin and Alcohol

The Seven Revolutions in Addiction Treatment

1. Alcoholics Anonymous
2. The Therapeutic Community
3. Methadone Maintenance
4. Relapse Prevention/Motivational Interviewing
5. Contingency Management
6. Harm Reduction: Public Health and Psychotherapy Approaches
7. Entheogenics

Psychodynamic Views

*Marijuana and Cocaine, Amphetamine, and other Stimulants,
Psychedelics/Hallucinogens*

Other Topics

Biological Treatments:

- Detoxification
- Contemporary Pharmacotherapy
- Vaccines

Trauma

Family Models:

- Co-dependence,
- Children of Alcoholics
- Behavioral Couples Therapy/Other family models

Intervention Models:

- Johnson Institute
- CRAFT
- ARISE

Moderation Approaches:

- Moderation Management

Other Contemporary Self-Help Groups

Religious Treatments

Natural Recovery and Identity Theory

The Recovery Movement

Drug Policy:

- Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, and the War on Drugs

Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Approaches/Drug Courts

Prevention

Drugs and Creativity

The Addiction Treatment Roundtable

Nicotine, Prescriptions Drugs, Steroids, Inhalants,