SOW 5604.01 - Medications and Social Work Practice

Course Description: The study of the effects that psychotropic medications can have within the counseling/helping relationship.

Course Summary: Social work and other professionals who work in the counseling environment often help to address the needs of adult clients who are currently taking prescribed medications. These professionals do not prescribe medications; however, they must be aware of the therapeutic effects and possible problems that can result from medication intervention. In this era of Managed Care less emphasis is being placed on interpersonal practice as the "sole" treatment modality. Understanding psychotropic medication usage has become a practice reality. This course is designed to provide students with a bio-psycho-social-cultural understanding and current knowledge base of psychotropic medications used in the health care environment.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of:
1. The current societal and environmental pressures that can result in medication being utilized as the primary way to address mental health treatment;
2. Medication uses as a tool toward creating oppression in women, elderly, minority, and poor and under-served populations;
3. Important "societal myths" often associated with the use of "tested" medications with adult clients;
4. Current information that describes what “tested medications” generally mean and the implications it has for other groups (i.e., minorities and elderly);
5. The different effect individuals may experience or report about medications based on cultural, race or ethnic perceptions;
6. Problems that can occur with multiple prescription use;
7. The basic rules to follow when trying to monitor medications as a professional member of the health care delivery team;
8. The similarities and differences between generic and brand name medications.
9. The types of psychotropic medications most often prescribed and the classifications in which they fall;
10. The side effects which may result from use of these medications.

Prerequisites
Graduate standing, post-baccalaureate status, senior in BSW program, or permission of course instructor.

Required Texts

*Additional supplemental or recommended readings are placed on reserve for student access.
**Major Areas of Content**
A. Overview of societal concern and response to medication use and how different groups of individuals can be affected
B. The environmental context and societal pressures, which affect the use of prescription medications with different groups
C. An introduction to terminology used in prescribing medications
D. Problems areas that need to be addressed when multiple prescriptions are used including the role of the social worker as a professional member of the health care delivery team and social and cultural factors related to compliance
E. Understanding the differences between generic and brand name medications
F. Classifications and side effects of mental health medications used in the counseling environment
G. Special issues in regard to application and treatment considerations when utilizing medications in the health care environment

**Evaluation 5000 level course:**
Grading will be based on performance of the following:
1. Medication Analysis Paper 100 points
2. First Exam (Multiple choice & short answer) 40 points
3. Final Exam (Multiple choice) 40 points
4. Internet Exercise 20 Points

In the medication analysis review the student will be expected to examine one mental health medication and/or herbal product that clients can take and (describe the medication, possible regime issues, side effects and counseling issues), describing how this medication relates to social work practice with the client. In the medication analysis each student will be expected to reference and use recent articles (both empirical and popular literature) that deal with the medication as an intervention modality.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100 (4.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94 (3.75)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86 (3.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83 (2.75)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76 (2.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73 (1.75)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66 (1.00)</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63 (.75)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69 (1.25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79 (2.25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89 (3.25)</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less (0.00)</td>
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**Policy for Make-up Exams and Assignments**
Make-up exams will be given ONLY in extreme circumstances. These circumstances include exceptional health EMERGENCIES (that require that the student bring in medical documentation), and the make up exam will be an essay exam. Out-of-town vacations, trips, mild colds, and other similar circumstances do not qualify as extreme.

All assignments must be turned in to the instructor at the beginning of the class period or delivered to the instructor’s mailbox before class starts on the due date. It is the student’s responsibility to see to it that her or his assignment is stamped with the date by the social work staff member who then places the assignment in the instructor’s mailbox. No assignments will be accepted by fax or email unless the instructor has given explicit prior approval. Late assignments will lose 10 points for each week that they are late. An assignment is considered late if handed in 10 minutes after class has begun. No assignment will be accepted after the last day of class. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor regarding late assignments. There will be no extra credit assignments at any time during the semester.

Effective written communication skills are essential to professional social work practice. Thus, students are expected to present their ideas clearly and properly and to adhere to APA standards of writing. Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are to be correct in all written materials submitted and will be
considered in grading written assignments. All written assignments must be typed in a 12-font print, and all margins must be one inch. The cover page of a paper is not considered to be a page of text. Work not conforming to these standards or demonstrating serious deficiencies in common English usage will be returned ungraded.

Attendance Policy
Student attendance and participation are integral parts of this course. Students are expected to attend each class, arrive on time, and remain for the duration of the class. Students who are absent from 3 or more classes will have a reduction of one letter grade (e.g. B+ to a B). Students are also expected to assume responsibility for their own learning and to actively involve themselves in class discussions and exercises. Students must be prepared for class (i.e., complete readings and other assignments prior to class); it is also expected that students will be attentive and respectful in class (e.g., no off-task behavior, no talking amongst themselves).

Academic Integrity
Social workers must demonstrate high standards of integrity. Every student is expected to do his or her own work and all of the work produced will be expected to be completed in its entirety by the student who turns it in. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any acts of plagiarism, including not acknowledging sources of information appropriately and in accordance with APA guidelines, may result in a failing grade in the course. School and University policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students found to have cheated or plagiarized will receive no credit for the exam or assignment and may also receive a failing grade for the course. Students who observe others violate this policy are expected to report this to the instructor.

Audio Taping of Lectures: Students are prohibited from audio taping any part of the course lectures, unless the student is registered with the university's Student Disability Office and requires such arrangement for learning purposes. Students with special needs that require this accommodation must discuss this personally with the instructor at the beginning of the course.

Student Disability Services
UCF and the School of Social Work are committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the instructor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the instructor.

MEDICATION USE IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
Course Outline

January 15, 2005 Session 1
• Course housekeeping
• Introduction to Medication
• Role of social work
• Environmental and Societal Concerns
• Interdisciplinary Team Work

Required Readings:

January 22 & 29 2005 Session 2 & 3
- Use, Management and Medical Terminology
- How medications work

**Required Readings:**
Chapter 2 Dziegielewski & Leon textbook "Understanding How Medications Work".
Chapter 3, Interpreting and Using Medication Information

February 5, 2005 Session 4
- Complementary/Alternative/Herbal Medications

**Required Readings:**


February 12, 2005 Session 5
- Internet Exercise Due
- Internet Exercise Discussion
- Review for Exam

February 19, 2005 Session 6: First Exam

February 26, 2005 Session 7
- Major Depression and Psychopharmacology
  - Diagnostic Impression
  - Special Issues
  - Documentation
  - Medications

**Required Readings:**
Chapter 4 Dziegielewski & Leon textbook, "Treatment of Major Depression: Social Work Intervention".

March 5, 2005 Session 8

- Bipolar Disorder and Psychopharmacology
  - Diagnostic Impression
  - Special Issues
  - Documentation
  - Medications

**Required Readings:**
Chapter 5, In Dziegielewski & Leon textbook, "Bipolar Disorders: Social Work Intervention".

March 12, 2005 Session 9

- Anxiety Disorders and Psychopharmacology
  - Diagnostic Impression
  - Special Issues
  - Documentation
  - Medications

**Required Readings:**
Chapter 6, In Dziegielewski & Leon textbook, "Treatment of Anxiety Disorders".

March 19, 2005 SPRING BREAK

March 26, 2005 Session 10

- Schizophrenia and the Psychotic Disorders and Psychopharmacology
  - Diagnostic Impression
  - Special Issues
  - Documentation
  - Medications

**Required Readings:**
In Dziegielewski & Leon textbook, Chapter 7, "Schizophrenia and the Psychotic Disorders".

April 2, 2005 Session 11

- Medication Analysis Paper Due
- Intervention Concerns with Special Populations
  - Children
  - Older Adults
  - Culturally Diverse
  - Gender
  - Dual Diagnosis
  - Pregnancy

**Required Readings:**
Chapter 8 Dziegielewski & Leon textbook, "Medications and Special Populations"


**April 9, 2005 Session 12**
- Adherence/Compliance/Refusal
  - Ethical/Legal issues
  - Theoretical basis
  - Current Trends

**April 16, 2005 Session 13**
- Documentation, Record Keeping, Treatment planning

**Required Readings:**
In Dziegielewski & Leon textbook, Chapter 10.
Review the DSM-IV Multi-Axis Diagnostic System

**April 23, 2005 Session 14**
- Review for Exam
- Film

**Final Exam: April 30, 2005**
Supplemental Bibliography

  


