

*******SPRING SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVES*******



**SW492- 01 - Mental Health and Mental Illness in the 21st Century
– 3 Credits**

This course will explore the concepts of mental health and mental illness including the history of the care and treatment of individuals with mental illness. Students will be introduced to multiple perspectives on the meaning of mental illness as well as a variety of treatment modalities including therapeutic communities, strengths perspective, and the clubhouse model. The course will include presentation from mental health professionals in the community working with individuals with chronic and persistent mental illness.

Monday and Wednesday 10:30AM - 11:45AM

Instructor – Eleanor Downey

Web Enhanced



SW492- 61 Working with Clients on Psychotropic Medication

This course will focus on providing services to clients being treated with psychotropic medication and their families. Course content includes the nature of psychotropic medication in the treatment of mental illness, behavioral disorders, and substance abuse. Legal and ethical issues and alternative treatments will also be presented.

This course is designed to meet the needs of students planning to work in the areas of mental health and substance abuse. The course will address a range of psychotropic medication, their benefits and side effects, their misuse, and the manner in which the body metabolizes the drugs. The course will also focus on the role of the social worker in treating and educating clients and their families, as well as the role of the social worker as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Content is also included on alternative treatments such as herbs and vitamins.

Distance Learning – On-line

Instructor: Pam Thompson, MSW & Licensed Clinical Social Worker

SW365-60 Aging in the 21st Century



This course looks at how as the American population ages, millions of people referred to as “baby boomers” have begun to retire. However, unlike any time in our history, that population will not be like the stereotypes of old people sitting quietly in rocking chairs. In fact, they will be a population to be reckoned with as they make increasing economic, political and social demands and will expect to have those demands addressed. The purpose of this course is to create an holistic and positive understanding of older people and how they expect to live in the 21st Century. Their physical, psychological, social, philosophical, ethical and spiritual dimensions will be infused into on-line discussions and class assignments.

Distance Learning- On-Line

Instructor: Brian Christenson,

SW 492-61 Social Work with Families

This course focuses on the family as the client system. For generalist practice social workers who will have the need to serve families as a unit, this course will help students to gain a firm understanding of the family as a system. In addition students will understand the roles, functions, communication patterns, and relational patterns that can be center of family problems as well as resources for better functioning. This course will also emphasize the strengths perspective in helping families make changes that will allow them to cope with issues impeding their functioning. Ethical issues that arise in work with families will also be addressed. Finally, all issues will be referenced through a cultural lens.

Distance Learning- On-Line

Instructor: Chris Ahlman

