SW 612 Mental Health and Mental Disorders of Children and Youth

Winter 2005  Instructor:  Steven Foley MSW PhD
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I. Course Description

The focus of this course will be on mental health and mental disorders of children and adolescents. Topics will include the nature of diagnosis and the social, political, environmental, and historical influences that have shaped and mis-shaped thought on the topic. Treatment issues will be discussed including counseling and family interventions, school-based interventions, the role of psychopharmacology, and opportunities to impact the environmental factors that may initiate or maintain a disorder. The course will explore the benefit and limitations of the DSM IV TR as a classification system. Factors involving disability, race, social-economic status, ethnicity sexual orientation, and gender and the concept of mental disorders will be discussed.

II. Textbooks

Required texts: May be obtained at Shaman Drum Bookshop, 311-315 S. State St.


Optional texts that may be helpful:


Other useful references will be discussed in conjunction with topics presented in the lectures.
III. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and understand the factors that contribute to making a diagnosis of common disorders of children and adolescents
- Understand the use and limitations of the current mental health classification systems
- Understand and be able to use interventions and strategies appropriate to particular disorders and adjustment problems.
- Understand the influence of prejudice, institutional processes, and social and cultural bias on the perception of, or intervention with, child and adolescent disorders.
- Recognize the distortions in judgment that can occur as a result of agency goals, societal and cultural influences, and gender, racial, social, economic, and personal history factors.
- Recognize and understand the interactional factors that contribute to the onset or maintenance of disorders or dysfunctions.

IV. Course Design and Format

The objectives of this course will be pursued through lectures, discussions, readings, case presentations. The examinations and optional paper will be intended as further exercises in learning the material as well as tools for evaluation. There will be two examinations, a take-home midterm and an in-class final exam. Class attendance and participation is important and will be considered a factor in determining final grades. Absences require that the professor be notified as to the time and nature of the absence.

V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Mid-term exam 40%
2. Final exam 40%
4. Participation in class discussion 10%
5. Attendance 10%
6. Term paper (Optional)

NOTE: Requirements #1 through #5 are required activities to be in the E through B+ range. To have an opportunity to receive a grade in the A range you must also complete requirement #6. Completing #s 1 through #6 does not insure a grade in the A range, it only provides an opportunity for a grade in the A range. Receiving a grade in the A range for the course will be determined by a review of requirements 1-6. For those who elect to do the paper, the due date is April 4th.
VI. Relationship of Course to Four Curricular Themes

- **Multiculturalism and Diversity** will be highlighted in the course through discussions of the incidence and prevalence of mental disorders and its relationship to gender and social class, and through discussion of culture, ethnicity, race, gender, and class as factors influencing mental health and mental disorders.

- **Social Justice and Social Change** will be addressed through discussion of the misapplication of mental health diagnoses and placements based on race, class, and gender bias, and the potential impact of poverty, discrimination, and disenfranchisement on the development of mental disorders and disorders of parenting.

- **Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation** will be addressed through discussion of factors that promote resiliency and positive adaptation.

- **Behavioral and Social Science Research** will be considered a foundation for the course concepts as the material presented will represent the current research on issues related to diagnostic distinctions, social and environmental influences, and biological predispositions, and behavioral, cognitive, and pharmacological interventions.

VII. Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values

Ethical and value issues will be considered in every aspect of the course particularly as they relate to issues of personal, social, and institutional bias, the potential for ethical conflicts in making clinical decisions, and the conflicts inherit in dealing with the constraints of limited time or resources. Other issues discussed in the course will be the interface between the rights of children and the rights/responsibilities of their parents, issues of advocacy with and for children and adolescents, and understanding the limitations of the DSM IV TR and the medical model in understanding the whole child.

VIII. Schedule of Class Topics and Required Readings

#1 - January 10
- Overview of course including course expectations
- Nature of mental health and mental disorders
- Utility and limits of categorical/dimensional diagnostic systems
- Critical thinking as an exercise and as a tool
- Relationships between assessment, treatment, and the therapeutic relationship

Texts:  
- *DSM IV-TR* - pgs. xxiii-xxxvii, 1-37
- Mash & Barkley - Chap. 1 pgs. 3-51
Reading on Reserve:


-"Toward Valid Understanding of Mental Disorders: Multicausal, Biopsychosocial Theories", in Kiesler, D.J. (1999). *Beyond the Disease Model of Mental Disorders.* Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers.

January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. (Holiday)

#2 - January 24

- Assessment, differential diagnosis, and treatment
- Assessment, differential diagnosis, and treatment
- Role of child management, social effects, and psychopharmacology and implications for school environment

Texts: Mash & Barkley – Chap. 2, pgs. 55-110

*DSM IV TR* pages 85-93, and intro.to childhood section, pgs. 39-41

#3 - January 31

- Conduct disorders, oppositional defiant disorder
- Delinquency
- Assessment, differential diagnosis, and treatment
- Role of environment, “status offense”, economic status, social role theory, and pathology models

Texts: Mash & Barkley – Chap. 3, pgs. 111-207

*DSM IV TR* pages 93-103

#4 – February 7

- Anxiety disorders (general anxiety disorders, separation anxiety, phobias, “school phobia”, OCD, selected mutism)
- Assessment, differential diagnosis and treatment
- Role of biological predisposition and environmental etiology, parenting, clinical and school interventions

Texts: Mash & Barkley – Chap. 5, pgs. 249-337

*DSM IV TR* pages 121-127, 429-484

#5 - February 14

- Depression and bipolar disorder
- Assessment, differential diagnosis, and treatment
- Suicide intervention and lethality assessment
- Role of biological predisposition and environmental etiology, parenting, clinical and school interventions
#6 - February 21
- Developmental disorders
- Cognitive impairment
- Neurological disorders and head trauma
- Role of government services, working with family adjustment, and special education services

Texts:  Mash & Barkley – Chap. 7, 369-415
        *DSM IV TR - pgs. 41-56*

February 28 – WINTER BREAK

#7 - March 7 **Midterm Take-Home Exam Handed Out**
- Learning disorders, learning disabilities, dyslexia
- Role of early stimulation
- Effective school and classroom environments
- Learning theory: Orton Gillingham, Reading Recovery
- Phonics verses language experience.
- ESL issues, non-standard English

Texts:  Mash & Barkley – Chap. 9, pgs. 468-498
        *DSM IV-TR, - pgs. 49-56*

#8 – March 14 **Midterm Take-Home Exam Turned In**
- Autism, Aspergers, PDD
- Assessment and intervention
- Role of families, school systems, medication, speech therapy, behavior treatment, and social skills

Texts:  Mash & Barkley - Chap. 8, pgs. 416-467
        *DSM IV TR - pgs. 69-84*

#9 - March 21
- Encopresis and enuresis: assessment and intervention
- Tic and tourettes disorder: assessment and treatment
- Communication disorders, elective mutism
- Motor skill disorders
- Sensory Integration Dysfunction

#10 - March 28
- Adolescent issues including: age typical behavior and thought, role of peer influence, parents and family, identity, and instrumental competence
- Delinquency, substance abuse, sexual orientation, and eating disorders
- “Leaving home”, individuation issues.
Readings: Mash & Barkley – Chap. 12, pgs. 601-646

#11 – April 4 **Optional Papers Due**
- Role of environmental stressors in child mental health
- Role of socioeconomic factors in child mental health
- Stress, abuse, trauma factors
- Minority issues related to assessment
Text: Mash & Barkley - Chap.10, pgs. 501-544
  Chap. 11, pgs. 545-597
Reading on Reserve:

#12 – April 11
- Role of the family and family systems theory in influencing mental health/illness.
- Family based intervention strategies for children and adolescents
- The clinical management of home-school interactions.
- Child management and parenting approaches/programs (Dinkmeyer, Fay, Barkley)
Readings:  Handouts

#13 - April 18
- Working in clinical and host settings
- Clinical social work and school social work as careers.
- The "vision" thing. Connecting with the core meanings of our profession.
- COURSE EVALUATIONS
**Final Exam Completed in Class**