

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

3/0/3

PS 4244 PSYCHOLOGY OF ADDICTION-LEVEL 6
credits: 15

UK

(Updated Fall 2015)

PREREQUISITES:

BI 1000 Introduction to Biology I-Level 4
PS 3130 Biopsychology – Level 5

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The course aims at providing a model for understanding the psychological and biological aspects of addiction and addictive behaviors. It covers, the neurobiological mechanisms associated with consciousness altering substances, the social, cultural and psychological perspectives on addictive behaviours. Students will be familiarized with diagnostic criteria for alcohol and substance use disorders utilizing the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Fifth Edition (DSM-5) as well as to more continuum models of assessing addictions. The course focuses also on other non substance related forms of addiction, like gambling, sex addiction, internet addiction and the addictive features of feeding and eating disorders. Other factors that may contribute to the development of addictive behaviors, like personality traits or family characteristics, are also examined.

RATIONALE:

Overview of the field of substance abuse and dependence. The course is intended for students who plan to pursue graduate studies in the areas of clinical/counselling and addictions, and all other students with an interest in the bio-psychological issues underlying addictive behaviors.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Articulate a theoretical understanding of substance use, abuse, misuse and addictions, and how these phenomena affect individuals, families, groups, and communities.
2. Identify the stages, characteristics and process of addiction and the development of characteristics of personality related to addiction

3. Compare and contrast between the different psychotropic drugs and describe their structure, effects and actions.
4. Describe the effects of different abusive drugs and differentiate between theories of addictive behaviors
5. Demonstrate an understanding of major preventive and treatment approaches to drug addiction.
6. Critically evaluate the application of biological, psychological and sociocultural intervention on drug addiction and prevention
7. Recognize the relationship between the substance use of individuals and broader structures in society, including culture, discrimination, and laws regulating/prohibiting certain types of use.

METHODS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures, class discussions, video presentations, and demonstrations of the material presented
- In class discussions of case studies and relevant articles
- Use of Blackboard site
- Office hours

ASSESSMENT:

Informal report -formative	0%	Small group informal report on other addictive behaviors, i.e. gambling, food, work, internet and leading discussion on similarities and differences with drug addiction.
Critical review paper -summative	50%	Critical review on recent biological and psychosocial research on controversial medical, social, and ethical issues related to drug addiction. (3,000 words)
In-class final examination (2 hours) -summative	50%	Essay questions (choice: 3 out of 5)

The critical review paper assesses learning outcomes 1, 2, 6, and 7.

The final exam assesses learning outcomes 2,3,4,5 and 6. with an emphasis on 3, 4 and 5.

READING LIST:

1. Required Material:

Carl L. Hart & Charles Ksir (2013). *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior*, (15th edition). McGraw-Hill Companies Inc [e-book].

2. Further Reading

Fields, R. (2013). *Drugs in Perspective: Causes, Assessment, family, Prevention, Intervention and Treatment*, (8th Edition). McGraw-Hill Companies Inc.

Galanter M & Kleber HD (Eds.) (2004) *Textbook of Substance Abuse Treatment, 3rd edition*. Washington DC: American Psychiatric Press

McCraedy BS & Epstein EE (Eds.) (1999) *Addictions: A comprehensive guidebook*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Additional journal articles will be assigned.

WWW RESOURCES:

Entrez - PubMed

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi

Psychopharmacology Links

www.ncpamd.com/psychopharm.htm

Psychopharmacology Resources

www.psychwatch.com/psychopharm_page.htm

- INDICATIVE CONTENT:**
1. Dependence and addiction
 2. Neurobiology and brain reward systems
 4. Substance Abuse as a Social Problem
 5. Drug Policy
 6. Addictive Substances
 7. Theories of Addiction and Prevention
 8. Treatment and Prevention Schemes
 9. Disorders co-occurring with substance abuse
 10. The role of family systems in the development of addictive behaviours
 11. Non substance related addictive behaviors: Gambling, internet addiction, sex addiction
 - 12 Addictive features in the context of feeding and eating disorders: binge eating, bulimia & anorexia nervosa, food addiction