THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

SW 537 - Introduction to Psychopathology and Social Work Practice
Section 010
3 credit hours
Spring Semester, 2019

Instructor: Steve Brown LCSW
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Class Time: Wednesday 3:35 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.
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Office Hours: To be announced

[Note: It is strongly suggested that this syllabus be read extremely carefully, as it contains information about the timing and content of assignments that will have an effect on grading. It is also suggested that each student use a calendar and mark not only when various assignments are due, but time to work on them; organization is one of the keys to doing well in this class. Please ask questions when needed to clarify matters.]

Code of Conduct
It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct Code that is in the College of Social Work MSSW Handbook (www.csw.utk.edu). Students are also expected to sign and adhere to the Social Work Field Placement Code of Conduct.

The Honor Statement
An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity. (Hilltopics).

University Civility Statement
Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: http://civility.utk.edu/

Disability
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if
Dimensions of Diversity
The College of Social Work and the University of Tennessee welcome and honor all people. In accordance with the U.S. National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the U.S. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement), “the dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including” age, class, color, culture, mental or physical disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, national origin, political ideology, race, regionality, religion and spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. The College values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and academic freedom and integrity. “A person’s diverse life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim” (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement). The College of Social Work promotes social justice and social change, and strives to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.

Course Description
This is a required concentration course. The course examines psychopathology and mental disorders from an ecological perspective. Emphasis is placed on understanding biopsychosocial influences on the incidence, course and treatment of the most commonly presented mental disorders and the differential effect of these factors on diverse populations. The course emphasizes the acquisition of diagnostic skills as they relate to comprehensive social work assessment and the development of social work interventions. Ethical issues, collaboration with families, knowledge of psychopharmacology and the varied roles social workers play in mental health settings will be stressed.

The Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM 5) is used as an organizing framework for reviewing major mental disorders. Discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of this system, the role of social workers in psychiatric diagnosis, the relationship of diagnosis to social work assessment and practice, and issues of ethical practice, and an emphasis on diagnosis, assessment, ethical issues in practice with diverse/multicultural clients/client systems are a critical part of the course. The course emphasizes the acquisition of diagnostic skills as they relate to comprehensive social work assessment of adults, adolescents, and children. Knowledge of psychopharmacology and the roles social workers play regarding medication with clients as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team will be covered.

Course Rationale
The course examines psychopathology and mental disorders from a systems and ecological perspective. Emphasis is placed on understanding biopsychosocial and cultural influences on the incidence, course, and treatment of the most commonly presented mental disorders and the differential effect of these factors on diverse populations at risk. Current research from biological psychiatry and sociological work regarding the impact of poverty, race, class, social
causation and labeling theories and the stress, coping, social support model are highlighted. Special attention is also placed on understanding the human experience of mental illness through the study of subjective experience of clients and the experience of family burden on families.

**Course Competencies**

By the completion of this course, the students are expected to be able to demonstrate:

1. Using multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks, describe different approaches for the study of psychopathology. 7.2 (Content: *perspectives of psychopathology; the public health model and social justice; understanding the global burden of mental illness; overview of diagnosis and classification; ecological and strengths perspectives*).

2. Identify the components of comprehensive assessment with individual clients including collection of relevant environmental data and symptomatology, to formulate a differential diagnosis and comprehensive psychosocial evaluation. 7.1, 7.2 (Content: *psychopathology for diverse populations; mental health disparities across diverse populations*).

3. Employ research evidence to identify, describe, and distinguish the major types of psychopathology including symptomology, etiology, and coping mechanisms. 4.3 (Content: *introduction to diagnostic criteria; The role of adverse childhood experiences in the development of psychopathology*).

4. Identify and critically analyze theories of human growth and development using practice experience and research evidence, to inform and improve understanding of psychopathology. 4.3, 4.1 (Content: *neurobiology, risk and resilience, attachment, trauma, diversity assessment models; Biology of stress as it relates to psychopathology and the trauma response cycle*).

5. Use research evidence to describe the interaction of biological, sociological, psychological, risk and resiliency factors in the development of psychopathology. 4.3 (Content: *neurobiology, risk and resilience, attachment and trauma; ACE score as risk factor for development of behavioral health disorders; Two generation intervention approach for preventing and mitigating adverse childhood experiences*).

6. Identify the effects of ethnicity, race, culture, economic status, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability, and vulnerability on maladaptive behavior. 2.1, 2.3, 6.1 (Content: *diversity assessment model; ecological and strengths perspective; psychopathology for diverse populations; mental status examination; psychological testing*).

7. Apply knowledge of psychopathology to formulate differential diagnosis and identify the implication of diagnosis when selecting and implementing evidence-based social work interventions. 8.1, 8.2 (Content: *specific mental illness/disorders, such as those pertaining to childhood and adolescence, delirium, dementia, psychotic disorders, mood and adjustment disorders*).
8. Explicate an understanding of the ethical issues encountered in assessment and intervention with clients with psychopathology and demonstrate the ability to engage in supervision and consultation when analyzing ethical dilemmas. 1.1, 1.5 (Content: NASW Code of Ethics, ethical principles, ethical dilemma analysis, ethical dilemma resolution strategies, and legal considerations and parameters in mental health assessments and interventions).

**Dimensions**

*Cognitive and affective processes* (includes critical thinking, affective reactions, and exercise of judgment)

Critical thinking is an intellectual, disciplined process of conceptualizing, analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing multiple sources of information generated by observation, reflection and reasoning. Affective reactions refer to the way in which our emotions influence our thinking and subsequently our behavior.

**Knowledge** is based on scientific inquiry, awareness of facts, history, concepts, theories etc and information derived from lecture or reading content.

**Values** pertains to the code of ethics and the personal and professional values and any conflict resolution methods around these concepts.

**Skill-** demonstration of the ability to apply theory into practice. (consistently measured in field practice)

**Texts and Materials**


**Readings (required)**

Articles are available on Canvas

*Readings may be added or substituted by instructor as necessary.*


**Supplementary Readings (not required)**


**Note: All tests and assignments turned in as paper documents and not on canvas so as to include instructor feedback.

**Supplementary Readings (not required)**


CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%) [competencies 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8; dimension: cognitive and affective processes]

Class participation includes actively participating in class discussions and participating in working case studies in small groups, as well as providing topic related, relevant, thoughtful commentary and critiques, utilizing readings and experience to move the class further in their understanding of course content, without dominating discussions. This will involve the student in applying assessment skills and differential diagnosis, as well as identifying types of psychopathology, discussing biological, cultural, social, and psychological factors, and considering interventions and ethical dilemmas. **Two percentage points will be deducted from participation grade for any absence**, unless MD note provided. **Students will complete a one paragraph self-evaluation of their participation due during the last class**

4/24/19 Self-Evaluation of Class Participation Due

ASSIGNMENT 1 Tests (35%) [competencies 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7; dimensions: knowledge]

There will be 7 in-class tests. The purpose is to develop competency in differential diagnosis and review content of the course.

1/23 /19 Test 1: Will cover different theoretical approaches to psychopathology and diagnosis from DSM and Andreasen & Black, chapter 1, symptom presentation during interviewing and assessments from DSM and Black and Andreasen, chapter 2 as well as lecture notes

2/6/19 Test 2: Will cover diagnosis and the symptoms, etiology, coping skills, interaction of biology/social/psychology, differential diagnoses, diversity/culture/ethnicity, course and evidenced-based treatment of Personality Diagnoses/Defense Mechanisms from McWilliams, DSM and Black and Andreasen chapter 17 as well as lecture notes

3/6/19 Test 3: Will cover diagnosis and the symptoms, etiology, coping skills, interaction of biology/social/psychology, differential diagnoses, diversity/culture/ethnicity, course and evidenced-based treatment of Childhood Diagnoses (Neurodevelopmental disorders) from DSM and Black and Andreasen chapter 4 as well as lecture notes

3/27/19 Test 4: Will cover diagnosis and the symptoms, etiology, coping skills, interaction of biology/social/psychology, differential diagnoses, diversity/culture/ethnicity, course and evidenced-based treatment of Mood (Bipolar and related disorders, Depressive disorders) and
Adjustment Diagnoses from DSM and from Black and Andreasen, chapters 6, 7 and 9 as well as lecture notes

**4/3/19 Test 5:** Will cover diagnosis and the symptoms, etiology, coping skills, interaction of biology/social/psychology, differential diagnoses, diversity/culture/ethnicity, course and evidenced-based treatment of Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive and Trauma and Stressor related disorders from DSM and Black and Andreasen, chapters 7, 8, and 9, as well as lecture notes

**4/10/19 Test 6:** Will cover diagnosis and the symptoms, etiology, coping skills, interaction of biology/social/psychology, differential diagnoses, diversity/culture/ethnicity, course and evidenced-based treatment of Psychotic Diagnoses from DSM (schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders) and Black and Andreasen, chapters 5 as well as lecture notes.

**4/24/19 Test 7:** Will cover diagnosis and the symptoms, etiology, coping skills, interaction of biology/social/psychology, differential diagnoses, diversity/culture/ethnicity, course and evidenced-based treatment of Substance-Related and Addictive Diagnoses, Psychiatric Emergencies, and legal issues from DSM and Black and Andreasen, chapters 15, 18 and 19 as well as lecture notes.

**ASSIGNMENT 11 (5%) [competencies 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8; dimensions: knowledge/cognitive and affective processes]**

**Individual Presentation of Articles with a Bibliography**

Each student will be responsible for presenting 2 articles pertaining to diversity and/or cultural competency (race, religion, gender, ethnicity, poverty, sexual orientation and so on) as it applies to psychotic disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders and substance use disorders, etc. and psychopathology. All possible ethical concerns should also be discussed as well as any interaction between biological, sociological, and psychological aspects and appropriate evidenced-based treatments (if found in the articles).

This informal presentation is meant to be brief (not more than 5 minutes), in which a concise summary will be expected and 3-5 main points of each article to be discussed by the presenter. The presenter will complete a bibliography for the articles, and email this to the instructor (prior to the presentation date of 3/13/19), so that this can be posted on Canvas. The articles are to be chosen by the students from a peer reviewed journal article and cannot be older than 10 years. **The student must write notes for the presentation on a separate sheet of paper and must not read from the articles.** This assignment serves three goals: 1) to keep the class up on current research in psychopathology; 2) to explore traditional social work concerns (cultural aspects/diversity/social justice/person-in-environment) in regards to psychopathology; and 3) encouraging students to explore topics of particular interest. **Presentations occur on 3/13/19**

**ASSIGNMENT III Diagnostic Presentation of Mental Disorders (15%) [competencies 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7; dimensions: skill/knowledge]**

The purpose of this assignment is to work in depth in an area of psychopathology not covered in class discussions in an effort to enrich your own understanding as well as that of your classmates. In addition to your textbook and the DSM 5, students will research journals, internet materials and other texts. Students will work in small groups to create 1) a power point presentation that will last approximately 30 minutes and 2) a research paper with the following information **(in this order using bold headings):**

- provide definition of disorder, discuss...
symptoms, etiology, prevalence, differential diagnosis (please explain here HOW to differentiate – not just a list of disorders to differentiate), evidenced based interventions (see Black & Andreasen chapter 20), medication usage (see Black & Andreasen chapter 21), diversity and impact on family. [Of course, a bibliography with much use of articles outside class texts is expected].

**Each group MUST cite the research in your paper at appropriate places (each paragraph at least once and perhaps more depending on the size of the paragraph) as well as using extensive research in addition to class text (papers mostly using just class texts will not do well).**

**Please specify each individual student’s contribution to the presentation and, of course, include a bibliography.**

**This is a group project and students will be graded as a group. Therefore, collaborate and check each others’ work – this will entail communicating and organizing together outside of class time.**

**Please pay particular attention to impact on family, diversity, and cultural issues surrounding the disorder. The citations must be from peer-reviewed journals or from authoritative internet sites (Mayo Clinic, NIMH, Harvard School of Medicine, etc.). The differential diagnosis section is important so that students can discuss how they would be able to differentiate the diagnosis (or diagnoses) from other and similar diagnoses.**

**The students will act, during their presentations, as if they are presenting this information at a professional conference (dress, speech, overall personal presentation, etc.).**

**Please don’t just read the power point slides. Also, learn how to pronounce any words you will say in the power point presentation.**

**The class and your instructor will be taking notes, as some of this material will be on the tests. Each group must email the power point presentation to the instructor by the day of the presentation.**

**Also, each group is responsible for preparing the technology and making sure the technology will work before the class power point presentation. Please time your presentations before the due date to ensure the group does not go over 30 minutes.**

I. Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Conduct Disorder are the main focus, with some coverage of other disruptive impulse-control disorders (Intermittent Explosive D/O, Pyromania, and Kleptomania). DSM and Chapter 14 Black and Andreasen [presented on 2/27/19]

II. Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders (with a focus on Somatic Symptom D/O, Illness Anxiety D/O, Conversion Disorder, and Factitious D/O). DSM and Chapter 10 Black and Andreasen [presented 3/6/19]

III. Feeding and Eating Disorders (focus on anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorder (but give basics of the other disorders). DSM and Chapter 11 Black and Andreasen. [presented on 3/27/19]

IV. Dissociative Disorders . DSM and Chapter 10 Black and Andreasen [presented 4/3/19]

V. Neurocognitive Disorders (focus on delirium, definitions and differentiation of major and minor neurocognitive D/Os, with a special emphasis on Alzheimers, Vascular, TBI, Parkinson’s, and HIV; cover the others minimally). DSM and Chapter 16 Black and Andreasen [presented on 4/10/19]
VI. Psychiatric Emergencies (suicidality and homicidality - signs, symptoms, and histories and assessments of clients for each including SAD PERSONS) and Legal Issues (involuntary treatment, confidentiality, duty to warn, informed consent, malpractice). DSM and Black and Andreasen Chapter 18 and 19 [presented on 4/17/19]

VII. Sexual Dysfunctions, Gender Dysphoria, and Paraphilic Disorders Cover all the sexual disorders and Gender Dysphoria and minimally cover all the paraphilic disorders. DSM and Chapter 13 Black and Andreasen [presented on 4/24/19]

ASSIGNMENT IV (35%). [competencies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 ; dimensions: cognitive and affective processes/knowledge/values/skill] The complete assignment will be due the last day of class (4/24/19), although most of the assignment will be divided as indicated below, and will cover material from most of the course content. A study guide and format will be provided

1/23/19 Mental Status Exam Due
2/13/19 Ecological Evaluation Due
2/27/19 Cultural (ADDRESSING) Evaluation Due
3/13/19 Life Span Developmental History Due
4/10/19 Diagnostic Formulation Due

Any late completion of the above will result in a point loss from the final grade for each day late

Grading Scale
A (94-100) Outstanding/Superior: Exceptional performance that consistently exceed expectations.
B+ (89-93) Above average: student consistently meets and occasionally exceeds normal expectations.
B (84-88) Average: Student consistently meets normal expectations for the course.
C+ (79-83) Below average: There is unevenness in grasping course content. Student is inconsistent in meeting normal expectations for the course.
C (70-78) Poor: There is a lack of understanding of course content.
D (60-69) Very Poor. There is a lack of attendance and/or incomplete assignments. Course expectations are not met with regularity.
F (59 and below) Failing. Course expectations not met.

Completing assignments and incompletes:
Assignments are due in class on the date assigned. Any late completion of the any assignment will result in a point loss from the final grade for each day late. While incompletes are discouraged, the instructor recognizes that sometimes factors prevent a student from completing a course on time. Those students who are unable to complete the course on time must negotiate an incomplete with the instructor pursuant to the university policy.

SESSION PLANS:
1/9/18 Session 1: Introduction and syllabus review
Introduction to psychopathology: What this class is about.
Classification systems and use of the DSM; (categorical and dimensional approaches)
Perspectives on psychopathology: Nested Holonic Systems
Both/And - Either/Or; continuums of functioning; considerations of the possible functions and meanings of symptoms, behavior, beliefs, and cognitions
Discuss a strengths and resilience perspective

**Form Groups for Diagnostic Presentations**

**Required Readings**
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 1 (Diagnosis and Classification) and Chapter 2 (Interviewing and Assessment)
Jonathan Shedler on Canvas
Corcoran, Jacqueline and Walsh, Joseph. (2010)
Kalkoff and Burke (2007)
Kroska and Harkness (2008)
Lopez and Guarnaccia (2000)

**1/16/19 Session 2: Mental Status, Interviewing, and Assessment**
Critical thinking and the DSM

**Required Readings**
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 1 (Diagnosis and Classification) and Chapter 2 (Interviewing and Assessment)
Kernberg, Otto F. and Yeomans, Frank E. (2013)
Other suggested readings:

**Discuss the Mental Status Examination and Assessment Techniques and Content**
**Review for Test 1**

**1/23/19 Session 3: Personality Dynamics, Structures and Related Defense Mechanisms**

**Required Readings**
Readings to be made available by instructor on Canvas
DSM p.321
Other suggested readings:

**Test 1**
**Mental Status Exam due**
1/30/19 Session 4: Personality Dynamics, Structures and Related Defense Mechanisms
(continued)
Required Readings
Readings to be made available by instructor on Canvas
DSM p.321
Other suggested readings:
**Review for Test 2

2/6/19 Session 5: Personality Disorders
Required Readings
McWilliams on Canvas
DSM p.321
Black and Andreasen; Chapter 17
DSM 5
** Test 2
** Ecological Assessment discussion including a strengths and resilience perspective

2/13/19 Session 6: Biopsychosocial Factors and Neurobiology and Developmental Contributions
Required Readings
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 3 (The Neurobiology and Genetics of Mental Illness) and Chapter 21 Psychopharmacology
Development information and Psychopharmacology documents on Canvas
** Dr. Glen Farr to present
** Ecological Self-Assessment due

2/20/19 Session 7: Cultural Competence in Assessment and Diagnosis
Required Readings
Andreason and Black (2014) chapter 14
Canino and Alegrai (2008)
James and Prilletensky (2002)
**ADDRESSING Cultural Evaluation Discussed

2/27/19 Session 8: Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Disorders first seen in Childhood
Required Readings
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 4 and Chapter 14
Development information on Canvas:
Erikson, Erik. The Stages of Psychosocial Development Chart
Fonagy, Peter. (2001)
From Kaplan and Saddock Synopsis of Psychiatry: Erikson’s Stages Chart
From Saddock and Saddock’s Synopsis of Psychiatry: Mahler Stages Chart
Seigel, Daniel. (2010).
**Review for Test 3
**Diagnostic Presentation I. ODD and CD
**ADDRESSING Cultural Evaluation Due

**3/6/19 Session 9: Depressive Disorders, Bipolar and Related Disorders, Adjustment Disorders
Required Readings:
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 6 (Mood Disorders), Chapter 9 (Adjustment Disorders)
DSM 5 p. 65-92; 94-114;151-152
Cutcliffe and Lakeman (2010)
Fox and Jones (2012)
** Test 3
**Diagnostic Presentation II. Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders
**Life Span Developmental History discussed
**Discuss article presentation next week

**3/13/19 Session 10: Anxiety Disorder/Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
Required Readings:
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 7 (Anxiety Disorders), Chapter 8 (OCD)
DSM 5 p. 116-128; 129-140
**Review for Test 4
**Life Span Developmental History due
**Individual Presentation of Articles
(Social Work Day on the Hill???)

**3/20/19 Spring Break
No class

**3/27/19 Session 11: Mood and Anxiety disorders (continued); PTSD
**DSM 5 p. 141 Black and Andreasen chapter 16
**Diagnostic Presentation III. Feeding and Eating Disorders (anorexia and bulimia and binge eating disorders)
**Review for Test 5
** Test 4
**Individual Presentation of Articles Continued**

**4/3/19 Session 12: Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders**

**Required Readings**
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 5 (Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders)
DSM 5 p. 45-64

**Diagnostic Presentation IV. Dissociative Disorders.**
**Review for Test 6**
**Diagnostic Formulation discussed**
**Test 5**

**4/10/19 Session 13: Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders and Dual Diagnosis**

**Required Readings:**
Black and Andreasen: Chapter 15 (Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders) and DSM 5 p. 227-283
Iasenza (2010)


**Complete Assignment IV Discussion**
**Diagnostic Presentation V. Neurocognitive Disorders**
**Test 6**
**Diagnostic Formulation Due**

**4/17/19 Session 14: Differential Diagnosis Case Studies**
**Review for Test 7**
**Diagnostic Presentation VI. Psychiatric Emergencies and Legal Issues** Black and Andreasen Chapter 18 and 19

**4/24/19 Session 15: Differential Diagnosis Case Studies**
Differential Diagnosis Case Studies
**Test 7**
**Diagnostic Presentation VII. Sexual Dysfunctions, Gender Dysphoria, and Paraphilic Disorders.**
**Class participation self-evaluation due**
**Complete Assignment IV Due**

Please specify one of two choices – 1. Ask to pick up the paper, when graded, from the instructor’s private practice office (or) 2. Ask that the paper be shredded
**Please fill out a class evaluation online. Students who show evidence of doing so before the end of the last class will receive extra credit.**