

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Syllabus: SW-540 – General Topics in Social Work: Substance Abuse  
Policy and Practice**  
Summer 2004

**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 (<http://www.csw.utk.edu/mssw/>).

**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, 2003*).

**Disability:**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library (865-974-6087). This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to prepare students to practice in the field of substance abuse. The course will present an ecological perspective and an integrative biopsychosocial model for the understanding of substance abuse policy and practice. Course content includes an overview of the history of substance abuse policy, a review of models of addiction, a review of current issues in substance abuse policy, a multidimensional model of the addiction process, the physiological affects of commonly abused substances, assessment and diagnosis of substance abuse disorders, an examination of treatment effectiveness, and specific clinical skills and treatment strategies for individual adult clients, adolescents, and families.

**Course Rationale:**

Substance abuse is epidemic at this time in our culture. Social workers, regardless of practice setting, encounter the individuals and systems impacted by substance abuse. In order to respond to the needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities affected by substance abuse it is essential that social workers understand the multicausal nature of the phenomenon. This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and sensitivity to practice in the area of substance abuse.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

1. Understanding of the sociopolitical-history of substance abuse in the United States;
2. Understanding of the physiological aspects of substance abuse, including overdose, craving, tolerance, withdrawal, and other adverse effects on health in relation to the treatment process;
3. Understanding of the etiology and epidemiology of substance abuse;
4. Understanding of the theories/models of substance abuse and its treatment;
5. Becoming skillful in clinical assessment and diagnosis of substance abuse;
6. Understanding of treatment effectiveness for substance abuse;
7. Becoming skillful in ethical use of specific clinical skills and treatment strategies for individuals, groups, and families
8. Understanding of the special treatment needs of at-risk populations;
9. Understanding of the processes of recovery, relapse, and relapse prevention;
10. Understanding of the role and application of prevention models in substance abuse treatment;
11. To recognize policies and practices relevant to cultural diversity, gender differences and discrimination.