



COURSE OUTLINE: SSW102 - CONCURRENT DISORDERS

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Approved: Martha Irwin, Chair, Community Services and Interdisciplinary Studies

Course Code: Title	SSW102: INTRODUCTION TO CONCURRENT DISORDERS
Program Number: Name	1203: SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Department:	SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER
Semesters/Terms:	21F
Course Description:	This course introduces students to the mental health and substance abuse fields of practice. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interplay between mental health, substance abuse and trauma. Students will be able to identify signs and symptoms of common concurrent disorders and their impact on individuals, families and communities. Students will learn strengths and recovery oriented approaches along with further knowledge of community resources and relevant legislation. Core to the course is an anti-oppressive framework that promotes understanding of diversity, equity, and social justice and recognizes the impact of systemic practices on diverse individuals, families, and communities.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	45
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
This course is a pre-requisite for:	SSW205
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	1203 - SOCIAL SERV WORKER
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Develop respectful and collaborative professional and interpersonal relationships that adhere to professional, legal, and ethical standards aligned to social service work.
	VLO 2 Record information accurately and communicate effectively in written, digital, verbal and non-verbal ways, in adherence to privacy and freedom of information legislation, in accordance with professional and workplace standards.
	VLO 3 Integrate a practice framework within a service delivery continuum, addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities at micro, mezzo, macro and global levels, and work with them in achieving their goals.
	VLO 4 Plan and implement accessible and responsive programs and services, recognizing the diverse needs and experiences of individuals, groups, families and communities, and meeting these needs.
	VLO 5 Examine current social policy, relevant legislation, and political, social, historical, and/or economic systems and their impacts for individuals and communities when delivering services to the user/client.
	VLO 6 Develop strategies and approaches that support individual clients, groups, families and communities in building the capacity for self-advocacy, while affirming their

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dignity and self-worth.

- VLO 7 Work from an anti-oppressive, strengths-based practice, recognizing the capacity for resilience and growth of individuals and communities when responding to the diverse needs of marginalized or vulnerable populations to act as allies and advocates.
- VLO 8 Develop strategies and approaches to implement and maintain holistic self-care as a member of a human service profession.
- VLO 10 Develop the capacity to work with the Indigenous individual, families, groups and communities while respecting their inherent rights to self-determine, and to identify and address systemic barriers that produce ill-effects, developing appropriate responses using approaches such as trauma informed care practice.

Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:

- EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
- EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
- EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
- EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
- EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.
- EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
- EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
- EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
- EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
- EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

General Education Themes: Social and Cultural Understanding

Course Evaluation: Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Define and describe mental health, concurrent disorders and the continuum of substance use	1.1 Differentiate between substance use, misuse, abuse and dependency related to alcohol and drugs 1.2 Describe signs and symptoms of mental health disorders, substance abuse disorders and concurrent disorders 1.3 Describe the neurophysiological approach to understanding and addressing concurrent disorders 1.4 Discuss factors related to positive mental health and resiliency
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between	2.1 Describe the relationship between trauma, mental health and substance abuse issues 2.2 Describe principles of a trauma-informed approach as

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	trauma, mental health and substance abuse	<p>applied to concurrent disorders field.</p> <p>2.3 Demonstrate understanding of the types of behavioural and psychological responses resulting from trauma</p> <p>2.4 Discuss the importance of using a trauma-informed approach when working with marginalized populations and Indigenous peoples and communities</p> <p>2.5 Identify risk and protective factors related to mental health, substance abuse or concurrent disorders</p> <p>2.6 Describe common stereotypes, myths and the harmful impact of stigma on individuals, families and communities and the importance of acting as advocates and allies</p> <p>2.7 Recognize and discuss social justice and diversity factors related to gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, and culture impacting on mental health and substance use</p> <p>2.8 Describe the historical context of trauma and colonization on mental health and substance use in Indigenous populations</p>
	<p>Course Outcome 3</p> <p>3. Describe approaches to treatment of mental health, substance abuse and concurrent disorders</p>	<p>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3</p> <p>3.1 Describe anti-oppressive, strengths based and recovery based approaches to understanding and addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities</p> <p>3.2 Describe the principles of harm reduction and abstinence based models</p> <p>3.3 Describe the principles of integrated treatment</p> <p>3.4 Describe the importance of incorporating a neuropsychological approach in treatment</p> <p>3.5 Describe the principles of the recovery model</p> <p>3.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the role of integrated service continuums to address needs at micro, mezzo, and macro levels for individuals, families and communities</p> <p>3.7 Describe the importance of building support systems (formal and informal) in the recovery process to facilitate positive change</p>
	<p>Course Outcome 4</p> <p>Describe beginning levels of professional social service worker skills and knowledge required to assist individuals with mental health, substance abuse and/or concurrent disorders.</p>	<p>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4</p> <p>4.1 Describe the importance of working with individuals, families and communities to identify sources of resilience and self-determination</p> <p>4.2 Identify professional, evidence-based and culturally informed resource material related to mental health, substance abuse and concurrent disorders</p> <p>4.3 Demonstrate non-judgmental, strengths-based attitudes and approaches when supporting individuals, groups and communities</p> <p>4.4 Discuss culturally competent approaches to understanding and addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities in relation to concurrent disorders</p> <p>4.5 Describe the boundaries, roles and scope of practice of a social service worker</p> <p>4.6 Demonstrate belief in the fundamental right to respect, dignity and self-determination of all individuals</p>

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	4.7 Describe awareness of self related to beliefs, values and attitudes to determine their impact on relationships with others 4.8 Demonstrate understanding of self-care and its relationship to professional practice
Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
Demonstrate beginning knowledge of relevant services, policies, and legislation related to mental health and substance abuse	5.1 Identify key local/provincial/Canadian organizations and their programs 5.2 Demonstrate ability to use credible resources for research and information relevant resources 5.3 Demonstrate knowledge of the Mental Health Act and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Case studies/application	30%
Positive mental health assignment	15%
Research assignment	15%
Tests/exams	40%

Date: July 27, 2021

Addendum: Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

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