I. Course Description

This foundation course prepares social work students to recognize major mental health concerns across the lifespan. The course includes an introduction to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental disorders (DSM) as the organizing framework for reviewing major mental disorders and critique of the current "medical model" approach to mental health in the United States. The course considers mental health issues from a generalist perspective.
including the role of the social environment, culture and stigma in mental health services, access and policy.

**Attributes & Designations:** For undergraduates this course counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S. For graduate students this course counts toward the 50% graduate coursework requirement.

**Requisites:** Senior standing and declared in Bachelor of Social Work program (for undergraduate students)

**How Credit Hours Are Met:** The credit standard for this course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit), which include time in online lectures, reading, writing, studying, discussion, preparation for any of these activities, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

II. **Course Overview**

This generalist course prepares social work students to recognize major mental health concerns across the lifespan. The course includes an introduction to The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5 (APA, 2013) as the organizing framework for reviewing major mental disorders and a critique of the current "medical model" approach to mental health in the United States. The course considers mental health issues from a generalist perspective including the role of the social environment, culture and stigma in mental health services, access and policy.

This generalist course aims to convey a knowledge base in, and orientation to, psychopathology, as preparation for advanced social work practice. A focus on the identification and description of mental disorders, and what is known (and not known) about their social context and etiology (biological, psychological and socio-cultural factors) will be a major component of the course. In addition, exploration of issues of diversity related to diagnosis and treatment of specific mental disorder categories as well as how this material impacts and impinges on mental health policies and services.

As part of this class, we will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our current "medical model" approach to mental health in the United States, controversies relating to the DSM-5, the strengths and weaknesses of this diagnostic system, and the role of social workers in addressing mental health concerns across areas of social work practice. We will also explore issues pertaining to ethical practice. This class will not provide in-depth, skill-based learning in specific clinical interventions, but we will review what is known about effective treatments for specific classes of disorders.

III. **Learning Outcomes: Competencies, Practice Behaviors, and Assignments**
Social Work Education is framed by a competency-based approach to curriculum design. At the conclusion of their education, social work students are expected to be competent in 9 core areas. Competency is achieved through mastery of course content as measured through course activities, readings, assignments and behaviors learned in field experiences, and which are derived from social work knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes. The objective of this course is to help students to demonstrate understanding and mastery of the knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes relevant to the competencies described in Appendix A.

IV. Course Content

Below is an outline of topics and required readings that will be covered in this course, in order of their presentation.

Please note: Discussion regarding specific diagnoses listed in Modules 3 through 8 will consist of assessment, intervention, and social work considerations.

Module One (June 25–July 1)

Topics

1. The Mental Health Care System, Access to Care, and Social Work Values in Mental Health
2. The Impact of Mental Health Stigma and Stigma Reduction
3. Mental Health Recovery

Readings & Media


Discussion Prompts

- Where and how do people access mental health care? What societal factors influence this?
- How will you encounter mental health needs in your social work career?
- How do our social work values inform our responses to these parents’ situations and other concerns identified in these pieces of assigned media?
- What role does stigma play in your own beliefs about and reactions to mental illness?
- What must we, as social workers, do both personally and politically to address the public health concern of stigma?
- What local efforts in the Recovery Movement are you aware of in Dane County?

Module Two (July 2-July 8)

Topics

1. Biopsychosocial and Societal Risk and Protective Factors in Mental Health
2. Diagnosis and the Social Work Profession and Introduction to the DSM and Limitations
3. Cultural Considerations in Mental Health and The Cultural Formulation Interview
Readings & Media


2. *Read this article before the Kutchins and Kirk article*

3. *Read this article after the Williams and Spitzer article*


7. *I strongly recommend you follow along using the interview questions found in the DSM-5 Cultural Formulation Interview and watch the Q&A portion at the end.*


Discussion Prompts

- What are the implications of the current ideology that mental illnesses are medical disorders, meaning they are the result of an internal dysfunction? Are all mental health disorders brain disorders? How does social work’s ecological model contrast with this ideology?

- Should DSM be the basis for teaching social work practice in mental health? Why or why not?
• What are your thoughts about the cultural formulation interview after seeing it utilized in the demonstration video?

• How might we incorporate some of these questions into broader social work practice with individuals, families and groups?

• Following the role-play, Dr. Lewis-Fernandez mentions the "overculturalization and underculturalization" of understanding client distress. What is meant by each of these things?

Module Three (July 9-15)

Topics

1. Neurodevelopmental Disorders Across the Lifespan: Autism Spectrum Disorder
2. Autism in Marginalized Populations
3. Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
4. Disruptive, Impulse Control, and Conduct Disorders: Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Conduct Disorder

Readings & Media


7. *Please note this video includes descriptions and images of violent behavior.*
   Recommended: Jeff Schwartz. (2013, September 13). *Conduct disorder* [Video file].
   Retrieved from https://youtu.be/THsIP7pM9Oc (5:00)

Discussion Prompts

- What are your reactions to the White article in The Atlantic? Were you aware of the co-occurrence between gender variance and autism spectrum disorder? In what ways is the gender binary problematic for people with ASD?
- Prior to preparing for this topic, what were your beliefs about the causes of ADHD? Did the BBC documentary impact your beliefs in some way? If so, how?
- Children with ODD and CD are at increased risk for being labeled as delinquent or "bad." In what ways do social workers have important and unique roles in helping these children?

Module Four (July 16-22)

Topics

1. Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders Across the Lifespan
2. Racial Disparities in the Diagnosis of Schizophrenia
3. Social Work, Psychopharmacotherapy, and the Five Classes of Medications

Readings & Media

Discussion Prompts

- How were you impacted by the video "A Look into Auditory Hallucinations"? Did you make any new discoveries?
- How do we make sense of the racial disparities in the diagnosis of schizophrenia, particularly among African American males? How is this a social justice issue?
- What are the main points Kia Bentley argues in her interview about psychopharmacotherapy and social worker? Do you agree with these points?
- What are the five classes of medications discussed in the Bentley and Walsh chapter? What else do social workers need to know about psychopharmacotherapy to best serve our consumers?

Module Five (July 23-29)

Topics

1. Depressive Disorders Across the Lifespan
2. Suicide Risk Among Marginalized Populations
3. Bipolar and Related Disorders

Readings & Media

Discussion Prompts

- Your text acknowledges that many older adults view depression as a normal part of aging and offers a case example highlighting this. What are your beliefs about depression and aging? Do you agree with this assumption?
- The podcast interview with Mark Meier identifies risks for depression among social workers. In small groups, we will discuss your reactions to this podcast.
- What are the alarming trends discussed in the Uchegbu and Tannehill articles? Were you aware of these trends? How might we explain these trends and what can social workers do to respond to this problem?
- Bipolar Disorder is considered a severe and persistent mental illness along with schizophrenia, yet there are many high functioning (and famous) people living with bipolar disorder. How is this possible given the severity of the illness?

Module Six (July 30–August 5)

Topics

1. Anxiety Disorders Across the Lifespan
2. Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders
3. Trauma and Stressor-related Disorders Across the Lifespan
4. Historical Trauma

Please note: The content for this topic includes references to a variety of traumatic experiences as well as the causes, symptoms and effects of trauma and PTSD. Given that half of all adults will have experienced at least one traumatic event in their lifetime, discussing trauma and PTSD can be difficult for many of us. Please use your best judgment as you move through the assigned reading and media for this topic, and remember to engage in the self-care practices you know work best for you. If you have concerns about this content, please let me know.

Readings & Media


Discussion Prompts

- What does your text identify as a concern regarding DSM-5’s expansion of former anxiety disorders into their own separate categories? What are your thoughts about this?
We sometimes hear someone referred to as being "so OCD." After viewing today's media, how can this be harmful and grossly inaccurate in the face of legitimate OCD?

While many people will experience a traumatic event, most of them will not go on to develop PTSD. What do you make of this? Why is it that two people can experience the same traumatic event and one may develop PTSD while the other does not?

What were your reactions to the materials on PTSD and historical trauma?

Module Seven (August 6-12)

Topics

1. Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Across the Lifespan
2. Racial and Class Disparities in America’s Response to Addiction
3. Eating Disorders

Readings & Media


Discussion Prompts

- How does Johann Hari’s TED talk push us to reconsider the causes and treatment of addiction?
- What are the pros and cons of no longer distinguishing between substance abuse and substance dependence?
- Why is there a link between prescription drug abuse and heroin?
- What is different about society’s current responses to heroin addiction compared to the heroin epidemic of the 1970s and 1980s? How is this a social justice issue?
- The Weiss online article provides a feminist perspective on eating disorders. How might sexism and misogyny contribute to the development of an eating disorder, as well as the way loved ones, providers and the larger society react to eating disorders?

Module Eight (August 13-19)

Topics

1. Gender Dysphoria and the Pathologization of Diverse Gender Identities and Expressions
2. Neurocognitive Disorders: Major Neurocognitive Disorder (Dementia); Alzheimer’s Disease

Readings & Media


Discussion Prompts

- Do you see Gender Dysphoria as a valid, necessary and/or helpful diagnosis? Why or why not?
- What concerns surround the new diagnosis of mild Neurocognitive Disorder in DSM-5?

V. Texts and Reading Materials


Text is available online for purchase. All other readings can be found within the online Canvas course site.


If you anticipate you will be pursuing a mental health focus, you are encouraged to purchase this book. UW students have access to the online version while on campus at http://dsm.psychiatryonline.org/doi/book/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596

You are expected to have read, viewed and listened to all assigned material prior to the class date under which the readings are listed. Reading and critically evaluating what you have read is necessary so that you can learn, actively participate in class discussions, and successfully complete written assignments. All readings and video clips listed are required, unless otherwise specified below; additional recommended readings or guest lecturers throughout the semester will be announced on the online Canvas course site.

VI. Evaluation: Assignments, Grading and Methods

**Grading Scale & Standards**

The grading scale in this course is based on points earned and is as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Classroom Course Expectation/Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94–100</td>
<td>94–100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding; surpasses expectations in all areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88–93</td>
<td>88–93</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Surpasses expectations in most areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82–87</td>
<td>82–87</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Meet expectations in all areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76–81</td>
<td>76–81</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Meets expectations in some areas, below in others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70–75</td>
<td>70–75</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Below expectations in most areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64–69</td>
<td>64–69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below expectations in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 or below</td>
<td>63 or below</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fails to meet minimum expectations in all areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades are not assigned on a curve. There is no extra credit.

**Composition of Grade**

Grades reflect your timely completion and performance on all graded components as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (7 total x 2 points each)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1: Mental Health in the Media</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #2: Reflection Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #3: Critical Thinking Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Important: In order to achieve the competencies, timely completion of assignments is expected. Students needing assistance with written assignments are expected to use available resources (e.g., the Writing Lab at 6171 Helen C. White Hall).*
Discussion Posts

Due: By the end of each module, which end on Sundays at 11:59 P.M., starting with Module 2, which ends on July 8.

Length: 4 original discussion posts (of at least 200 words) and 3 responses (of at least 50 words) to classmates’ original discussion posts; your 4 original posts and 3 response posts should all be in different Canvas Discussions; i.e., for different topics’ prompts.

The goal of discussion posts is to create dialogue between students in a format that, to some degree, recreates the many challenging and fulfilling aspects of in-class discussion in the online format used for this class. Each module offers discussion prompts for most topics to promote critical thinking regarding the material presented. You can find these in the Course Content section of the syllabus as well as on the online Canvas course site in the Discussions tool.

A couple of ground rules for posting on the discussion board:

- In order to create a climate of open and honest dialogue, it is important to treat classmates with respect in discussion posts. Name-calling, accusations, verbal attacks, sarcasm, and other negative exchanges are not permitted.
- Use full and grammatical sentences for your posts. This is not Twitter.
- Use person-first language in your discussion posts.
- Use a strengths-based perspective when discussing people with mental health conditions and in responding to your classmates.

Assignment 1: Mental Health in the Media

Due: By the end of Module 8, which ends August 19 at 11:59 P.M.

Length: One-page paper to accompany 15-minute spoken presentation to small group

Mental health is frequently discussed in the news. Topics include: changes in mental health policies; healthcare coverage for mental health; community crises related to addiction; safety and mental illness (i.e., gun control; forced treatment; violence); and many more. The purpose of this assignment is to increase awareness of popular discourse and current events surrounding mental illness through engaging your peers in a discussion about a recent piece of media.

Students will be organized into small groups of two or three. Each group member will present a newspaper article or other form of media from the recent past (2-3 months) that discusses a mental health issue in the news to their small group. I highly recommend a major national news source—The New York Times, The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, NPR—versus a blog. Local papers are acceptable if the article you have chosen is about a local issue. The article can be about policy or practice, and you are especially encouraged to share media that touches on mental illness stigma, disparities in access to mental health care, and the roles oppression and poverty play in mental illness in communities.

Students will use Ultra Conference in the course site to meet with their small groups for a live interaction during the course. It is up to your group if you will meet more than once; e.g., once
per group member presentation. You will need to determine with your small group members when these meetings will be. Be prepared to provide a brief overview of your article to your small group followed by facilitating a critical discussion of the article. Students will have a total of 15 minutes to present the article and engage in discussion. You will need to generate three critical thinking questions for use during the small group discussion you’ll facilitate. You will need to provide a copy of a one-page paper via email to your group members and the instructor that includes:

1. A reference for the article so group peers and the instructor can know where to find it
2. A two to three paragraph summary of the article’s main points as well as why you selected this article
3. Three critical thinking questions for use during the small group discussion you’ll facilitate

A cover page, introduction and conclusion are not required for this one-page paper. Students will be graded by the instructor on their article summary and the level of critical thinking demonstrated in their small group discussion questions.

Assignment 2: Reflection Paper on Personal and Professional Beliefs, Values and Reactions Surrounding Mental Health

Due: July 22 at 11:59 P.M.

Length: 2–3 pages (does not include title page and reference page)

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage critical thinking and exploration of personal and professional beliefs, values and reactions related to mental illness and deepen understanding about how our professional values and principles influence our responses to mental health.

In this paper, students are asked to organize their thoughts, reflections, questions and concerns in a brief, two to three-page paper. You are expected to integrate information from at least two of the required materials into a cohesive discussion. You are required to critically evaluate, not just summarize, what you have read, watched or listened to and apply it to your own beliefs, values, experiences and reactions. Think beyond the information presented and write about further insights and ideas you believe are important. Discuss additional questions that arise for you after reflecting on this topic.

While this reflection paper does ask you to write about yourself, it is never necessary to share information you are not comfortable disclosing. The amount of self-disclosure, in the form of revealing information about your lived experiences, is completely at your discretion and the amount or level of detail will not impact your grade. I am most interested in seeing depth and critical thinking in the discussion of your beliefs, values and reactions to mental illness. In addition, your grade will not be negatively impacted if you share a belief that might be viewed as biased, judgmental or less than desirable. We all have conscious and unconscious biases, and have all been influenced by stigma. If we try to ignore, deny or avoid these parts of ourselves, we are at risk of causing harm in the future.

This paper should be written as an academic paper with proper spelling, grammar and APA citations, reference list and formatting. You should begin the paper with an introduction and end with a conclusion. Grading will be based on evidence of thoughtful consideration of assigned
course material, class discussion and personal/professional experience and also on attention to grammar, spelling, organization, clarity. Do not approach this reflection paper as you might a journal entry in which you compose your thoughts in the paper as they come to you. This must be a polished, sophisticated and cohesive paper. In a cohesive essay, your discussion flows smoothly with transitions from idea to idea and is well edited. It is not acceptable to use the assignment questions as headers. Papers should be submitted in the course site to the appropriate assignment.

In your paper, please reflect on all the following questions:

- What are some of your personal beliefs about mental illness? Reflect on what has influenced and shaped these beliefs. Where do these beliefs come from? How have they changed over time?

- How has exposure to mental health stigma influenced and shaped your beliefs about mental illness? Consider messages you have received from various sources in your life, including the media (TV, movies, Facebook, news, etc.), family, friends, school, etc.

- What are your affective and cognitive reactions to mental illness in various spheres of your life, including professionally? You might consider family, friends and peers, co-workers, clients and strangers. What comes up for you? How do you feel and how does this influence the interaction (or lack thereof)?

- As you move forward in social work, what can you do to address some of the beliefs and reactions you have described above, including the effects of stigma, on a micro and macro level?

Rubric for Assignment 2: Reflection Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical reflection on own beliefs, values, experiences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical reflection on the influence of stigma in your beliefs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical reflection on affective and cognitive reactions when encountering mental illness</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploration of ways to address beliefs and reactions, including stigma, on the micro and macro levels</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct grammar, spelling and APA formatting</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct citations and reference list and sophisticated integration of required material into a cohesive discussion</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall writing, including an introduction and conclusion, paper organization</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assignment 3: Critical Thinking Paper: Identity and Cultural Considerations in Mental Health

Due: August 12 at 11:59 P.M.

Length: 6–7 pages (does not include title page and reference page)

The purpose of this paper is to deepen learning and understanding of the ways in which culture and a person’s various identities impact their experience with and response to mental illness. It asks you to consider the roles oppression and discrimination play in accessing and receiving mental health care. The paper also challenges you to briefly summarize the presenting problem for this client and consider the benefits of using a cultural formulation interview versus a traditional psychiatric interview. You are expected to integrate information from at least three of the course materials into a cohesive discussion.

This paper should be written as an academic paper with proper spelling, grammar and APA citations, reference list and formatting. You should begin the paper with an introduction and end with a conclusion. Grading will be based on evidence of thoughtful consideration of assigned course material, class discussion and also on attention to grammar, spelling, organization, and clarity. This should be a polished, sophisticated and cohesive paper. In a cohesive essay, your discussion flows smoothly with transitions from idea to idea. It is not acceptable to use the assignment questions as headers. Papers should be submitted to the course site.

Using the YouTube video with the role-play between Dr. Lewis-Fernandez and the Latina woman illustrating the cultural formulation interview, students will write a brief paper about responding to the following prompts:

1. Briefly write a client introduction and summarize the presenting problem. A recommended format for this is:
   - This client (or name) is a ____ year-old married, divorced, single, never married (race) (gender identity, sexual orientation) who currently resides (housing/type of residence, town) with (others in household).
   - Other info: any children and their ages; vocational status (unemployed, working FT, student, etc.); legal status; religious or spiritual affiliation; other relevant information
   - Referral source and summary of the presenting problem

   Example (not at all related to the client for this assignment): Mr. Jones is a 45-year-old never married Caucasian heterosexual cisgender male who currently resides in his own home with his dog, Sparky, and his adult daughter and her one-year-old son. He is the father of two adult children and is currently unemployed due to disability. He receives SSDI for his MS, which has left him unable to work and requires the use of a wheelchair. Prior to his illness, Mr. Jones worked as a computer technician. He reports no current or past legal history and identifies as a practicing Lutheran. Mr. Jones is referred by his PCP for a mental health assessment due to concerns of a depressed mood as evidenced by increases in sleeping and eating, anhedonia and beliefs that his life is worthless. At the time of his primary care appointment, Mr. Jones was
denying suicidal ideation. (Your discussion of the presenting problem will likely be more in-depth than this)

2. Reflect on the use of the cultural formulation interview with this client. Comment on how it was different and, perhaps, more effective than a traditional psychiatric interview? What questions from the cultural formulation interview did you find to be especially effective and relevant in talking with this person about their mental health concerns and why? Without the use of the cultural formulation interview, how might her presenting concerns have been misunderstood or misconstrued as a specific mental illness?

3. Based on her responses to questions, how did this client’s various identities impact her beliefs about and responses to her mental health concerns? Consider factors such as age, class, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, race, religion/spirituality, and sexual orientation if they are relevant.

4. How might societal factors such as oppression, poverty, marginalization, privilege, and power influence the way this person accesses support and receives mental health care and services?

Rubric for Assignment 3: Critical Thinking Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the client and presenting problem</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear discussion of how the cultural formulation interview was utilized</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in talking with this client about their mental illness and most relevant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and effective questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-depth discussion of the impact of various identities on her beliefs</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about and responses to mental illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical reflection on the role of oppression, poverty, marginalization,</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>privilege and power in accessing support and mental health care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct grammar, spelling and APA formatting</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct citations, reference list and sophisticated integration of</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>required material into a cohesive discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall writing, including an introduction and conclusion, and paper</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final Exam

Due: Should be taken on the online Canvas course site while it is unlocked from August 18 at 12:00 AM–August 19 at 11:59 P.M.

This exam will evaluate knowledge of the mental health diagnoses discussed in the course, with particular emphasis on the most common signs and symptoms with which all social workers should be familiar.

You must take this exam in the online Canvas course site during a 90-minute window on the dates specified in the Course Schedule. (The window will begin once you commence the Canvas "Quiz" for this exam.)

Submission of Graded Components

All assignments must be completed and submitted by 11:59 P.M. Central Time on their due date specified in the Course Schedule (in the online course site Course Orientation module) and must be submitted to the designated assignment (within the online course site) to successfully complete the course.

Late Submissions

Assignments are due on the date specified by 11:59 P.M. Central Time. If a student a) communicates with me at least 48 hours prior to the due date, b) provides a reasonable justification for an extension, and c) we come to an agreement about a revised deadline, the assignment handed in by the new date will be considered "on time." Unapproved late assignments will be marked down 1 point for each day the assignment is late.

Academic Writing Criteria

Specific attention should be given to paper organization, paragraph and sentence structure, clarity and correct citation using APA format. Before turning in any assignment, consider if the following criteria are met:

- Each paper should have a logical flow from the introduction, to a coherent and in-depth discussion of the questions in the body of your paper, to the conclusion.
- Each paragraph should have a clear and concise topic sentence that reflects the content of the paragraph it introduces.
- A consistent tense should be used within sentences and throughout the paper.
- Triangulation: Incorporate lectures, discussion, relevant readings and experiences from practice into your formulation of ideas discussed in your paper.
- Use critical thinking in your reflections. The comments "It was good" and "I liked it" are NOT examples of critical thinking.
- Do NOT be repetitious in your writing. Your papers should be polished and carefully edited. Do NOT use run-on sentences.
Social Work 612: Psychopathology in Generalist Social Work Practice

- When references are required, they must be from class readings or other peer-reviewed journal articles. You may not use information from a website unless you receive prior approval from the instructor.
- References in the paper need to be woven into the discussion in a seamless manner. DO NOT insert a quote into the paper without skillful writing that incorporates the quote into the discussion.

Other Written Assignment Requirements

- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word, without exception. The instructor will not review assignments submitted in another format.
- Include a cover sheet (not counted as one of the required pages) with the title of the paper, your name, the date turned into the instructor, course number, and course title (do not put this information on the first page of your paper) unless indicated otherwise.
- Students must format assignments using one-inch margins, double spacing, and a Times New Roman 12-point font.
- Headings should not be placed in the body of the paper unless indicated.
- Reference pages must be on a separate sheet from the paper (not counted as one of the required pages).
- Please submit all materials with the following file-naming convention: CourseInitials_LastnameFirstInitial_AssignmentName.docx

Clarification

If there is something about an assignment that is unclear to you, it is your job to bring this to my attention in advance of the due date.

VII. Course Policies

Online Attendance/Participation Policy

Participation is REQUIRED. Effective participation consists of having completed readings, media and other assignments, the ability to integrate social work concepts with field and other experiences, AND the ability to fully engage in problem solving and other exercises (presenting social work issues or other perspectives for discussion as well as responding to other students who present issues). Professional participation also includes viewing the lectures and completing the required course materials in a timely manner. You are required to be an engaged and active participant in this class.
Incomplete Policy

The University policy regarding the granting of incompletes will be strictly adhered to in this course. Please see the Graduate School Academic Policies and Procedures Handbook for information on the incomplete policy: https://grad.wisc.edu/academic-policies/

Grade Appeals/Grievance Policy

Your goal for this and other courses should be to make the most of your learning experience, and not to simply "get an A." Grade expectations should NOT be based on what you have received in other courses—this is never a legitimate argument for appealing a grade. If you have an issue with a grade that you receive in this course, please document the reasons for your appeal in writing and provide this to me. Your reasons for your appeal should include a discussion of the extent to which you responded to assignment objectives, the quality of your writing (to include grammar and spelling, organization, flow and clarity), and any relevant feedback provided in the grading that you might have questions or concerns about. If there is something about an assignment that is unclear to you, it is your job to bring this to my attention in advance of the due date. Students wishing to appeal a grade must email me with the required information no later than two weeks after the assignment has been returned to students.

For more information, the process for appeal a final grade is set forth in the School of Social Work’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook: http://socwork.wisc.edu/files/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct, which is not tolerated by the University or the School of Social Work. Plagiarism seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another without citation or authorization.

The School of Social Work defines plagiarism as:

1. The appropriation of passages or complete works of another person and submitting them as one’s own work—in either written materials or speeches.

2. The presentation of ideas of others as one’s own without giving credit.

There are two major forms of plagiarism:

1. Using direct quotes from others’ written or spoken work and presenting them as one’s own words without using proper quotation marks or offsetting and/or with failure to identify the source of the ideas.

2. Paraphrasing the ideas or research findings of another person(s), with failure to identify the source of the ideas.

Process:
If an instructor suspects a student has plagiarized, the instructor will contact the student to discuss their concern.

If the instructor determines that the student has plagiarized, the instructor will decide on a sanction in accordance with the misconduct rules in UWS 14.

Sanction:

- Based on the seriousness of the sanction, the instructor may inform the Dean of Student’s Office. The only sanctions that can be imposed without notifying the Dean of Students Office are: 1) oral reprimand; 2) written reprimand presented only to the student; and 3) an assignment to repeat the work on its merits.

- More serious sanctions may include a zero on the assignment or exam, a lower grade in the course or failure in the course. The School of Social Work will inform the Dean of Student’s Office when imposing any of these sanctions. This action is taken so the Dean of Student’s Office can decide whether to seek additional sanctions.

- Repeated acts of academic misconduct may result in more serious actions such as removal from the course in progress, disciplinary probation or suspension, or expulsion (http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/acadintegrity.html).

- Note: Students can appeal any sanctions.

For more information, the academic misconduct rules procedures can be found in UWS 14: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/14

For guidelines on quoting and paraphrasing, see this UW-Madison Writing Center resource: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html

UW-Madison Email

UW-Madison offers and supports an official email system as the official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff. Accordingly, students are expected to read and act upon messages sent to their official campus (NetID@wisc.edu) email account in a timely fashion and bear the responsibility of missed messages.

Official Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing the online course evaluations. Your feedback provides valuable information to the instructor, the academic department, and college and is used to improve student learning. Students will be notified when the online evaluations are available.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University of Wisconsin–Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with
disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students requiring accommodation, as approved by the McBurney Center, are expected to provide me with a copy of their Verified Individualized Services and Accommodation (VISA) by the second week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. I will work either directly with you or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.

For more information, please contact the McBurney Center at https://mcburney.wisc.edu/ or phone at 608-263-2741 or text messaging at 608-225-7956 by fax at 608-265-2998, 711 (via relay); address is 702 W Johnson St #2104, Madison, WI, 53706.

**Diversity & Inclusion**

For the institutional statement on diversity and more resources, please refer to https://diversity.wisc.edu/.

**Classroom Climate**

Meeting course objectives requires that the instructor and students actively work to create a learning environment that is respectful and safe so that ideas can be examined honestly, diverse viewpoints shared and activities approached with maximum curiosity and enthusiasm. Diversity in beliefs, ideas and lived experiences are highly valued here. Each student has knowledge and experience that will enhance the learning of their colleagues and each voice is important. Please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Because the class will represent diverse individual beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences, every member of this class must show respect for every other member of this class.

I am firmly committed to diversity and equality in all areas of campus life and in building an inclusive space where everyone feels safe and welcome. I recognize that we all have biases. Discrimination can be direct or indirect and take place at both institutional and personal levels. I believe that such discrimination is unacceptable and I am committed to providing equality of opportunity for all by eliminating any discrimination, harassment, bullying, or victimization in my classroom. We all have a responsibility to hold in our minds the disproportionate impact systems and "isms" have on marginalized people. I invite you to bring any concerns in this regard to my attention.

**Code of Ethics, Professional Conduct**

Incoming BSW and MSW students read and signed electronic forms of the NASW Code of Ethics, the School of Social Work Plagiarism Policy, and the School's Principles of Professional Conduct. In doing so, they agreed that while in the BSW or MSW Program they would honor the Code of Ethics and Principles of Professional Conduct, as well as adhere to the Plagiarism
Policy and that should they not do so, sanctions would be imposed. BSW and MSW students are expected to adhere to these policies in the classroom, in the field, and in the preparation of course assignments. Professional responsibility, ethical behavior, and integrity are central principles of the social work profession.

Subject to Change Notice/Disclaimer

This syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student of this course. Every effort will be made to avoid changing anything represented in it but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Therefore, all material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of all course timelines, announcements, and communications from her or his instructor pertaining to changes in course assignments and due dates. The instructor will communicate any changes to students well in advance via an announcement in the online Canvas course site.
Successful completion of this course implies that students will have progressed towards achieving the following Council on Social Work Education competencies by demonstrating the following practice behaviors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSWE Competency Addressed in this Course</th>
<th>Course Content Relevant to Dimensions that Comprise the Competency*</th>
<th>Course Location</th>
<th>Syllabus Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **2.2.1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior** | Lecture, media, readings and discussion related to (K, V, C & A):  
  - The Impact of Mental Health Stigma and Stigma Reduction  
  - Social Work, Psychopharmacotherapy, and the Five Classes of Medications  
  Assignment:  
  - Assignment #2: Reflection Paper on Personal and Professional Beliefs, Values and Reactions Surrounding Mental Health (K, V, C & A) | Module 1  
  Module 4 | p.16–17 |
| **2.1.2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice** | Lecture, media, readings, and discussion related to (K, V):  
  - Mental Health Care Systems and Access to Care  
  - Biopsychosocial and Societal Risk and Protective Factors in Mental Health  
  - Cultural Considerations  
  - Racial Disparities in the Diagnosis of Schizophrenia  
  - Autism in Marginalized Populations  
  - Suicide Risk Among Marginalized Populations  
  - Historical Trauma  
  - Racial and Class Disparities in America’s Response to Addiction  
  - The Pathologization of Diverse Gender Identities and Expressions  
  Assignments:  
  - Assignment #2: Reflection Paper on Personal and Professional Beliefs, Values and Reactions Surrounding Mental Health (K, V, C & A)  
  - Assignment #3: Critical Thinking Paper: Identity and Cultural Considerations in Mental Health (K, S, V, C & A) | Module 1  
  Module 2  
  Module 2  
  Module 4  
  Module 3  
  Module 5  
  Module 6  
  Module 7  
  Module 8 | p.16–17  
  p.17–19 |
| **2.1.3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice** | Lecture, media, readings, and discussion related to (K, V):  
  - The Mental Health Care Systems and Access to Care | Module 1 |
Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

2.1.6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities

Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture, media, readings, and discussion related to (S, C &amp; A):</th>
<th>Assignment #2: Reflection Paper on Personal and Professional Beliefs, Values and Reactions Surrounding Mental Health (K, V, C &amp; A)</th>
<th>Assignment #1: Mental Health in the Media (K, S, C &amp; A)</th>
<th>Assignment #3: Critical Thinking Paper: Identity and Cultural Considerations in Mental Health (K, S, V, C &amp; A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Cultural Formulation Interview</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Module 2 p.16–17

Module 4

Module 7
### 2.1.7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision making.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture, media, readings and discussion related to the assessment of (K, V, S, C &amp; A):</th>
<th>Module 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biopsychosocial and Societal Risk and Protective Factors in Mental Health</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis and The Social Work Profession and Introduction To The DSM And Limitations</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cultural Formulation Interview</td>
<td>Module 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurodevelopmental Disorders Across The Lifespan: Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disruptive, Impulse Control And Conduct Disorders: Oppositional Defiant Disorder And Conduct Disorder</td>
<td>Module 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia Spectrum And Other Psychotic Disorders</td>
<td>Module 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depressive Disorders Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Module 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety Disorders Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Module 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders</td>
<td>Module 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma And Stressor-Related Disorders Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Module 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance-related and Addictive Disorders Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Module 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurocognitive Disorders: Major Neurocognitive Disorder (Dementia); Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>Module 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignment:**

- Assignment #3: Critical Thinking Paper: Identity and Cultural Considerations in Mental Health (K, S, V, C & A)
- Final Exam

*K=Knowledge; V=Values; S=Skills; C & AP=Cognitive and Affective Processes

*The two right columns in the table below do not contain an exhaustive list of every reading, activity, assignment, and summative assessment that addresses a specific competency; rather, the instructor has chosen to highlight select examples of course component focused on each competency.*