Course: PY 202: Understanding Addictive Behavior

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: EN 060, PY 101, SO 201

Description: This course inspects the causes, symptoms, and effects of addictive behavior. Students will examine the history, social and environmental contexts, and treatment of addictive behavior. Topics include classification and action of psychoactive drugs, the neurochemistry of chemical dependence and process/behavioral addictions, and their effects on the mental, physical, and spiritual domains of individuals and families.

Learning Outcomes:
At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain the historical, social, and environmental contexts of psychoactive drug use and other addictive behaviors;
- Identify, classify, and explain the different types of psychoactive drugs and addictive behavior;
- Define the disease model of addiction, and explain its differences with other models of addictive behavior;
- Define dual diagnosis and co-occurring disorders, and explain the relationship between substance use disorders and other mental health disorders;
- Identify and explain, with examples, evidence based treatment levels and methods for addictive disorders and other mental health disorders;
- Self-assess their interest in the study of addictive behavior, and explain the steps required to attain credentials in the addictions treatment field.

Topical Outline:

- Psychoactive Drugs: History & Classification
- Heredity, Environment & Psychoactive Drugs
- Uppers
- Downers: Opiates/Opioids & Sedative-Hypnotics
- Downers: Alcohol
- All Arounders
- Other Drugs, Other Addictions
- Drug Use & Prevention: From Cradle to Grave
- Treatment
- Mental Health & Drugs

Mental Effects of Psychoactive Drugs (8th Ed.). CNS Productions, Inc.: Medford, Oregon.

Student Assessment: Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of ZERO and the student may receive a grade of F for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Tutoring & Project Assist
If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

Before Withdrawing From This Course
If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.