

(GERS XXXX)

Substance Abuse and Aging

SYLLABUS

GERS XXXX

CIP: 19.0702

Substance Abuse and Aging

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to provide students with an overall view of Substance Abuse among the older adult population. The course will outline best practices for identifying, screening, assessing, and treating alcohol, prescription and illicit drugs among people age 60 and older. Focus will be on addressing the reality of the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs; its greater toll on affected older adults; and psychosocial issues that are unique to the older adult.

COURSE LEVEL: Introductory

SEMESTER HOURS: 3

MINIMUM/MAXIMUM HOURS: 48

PREREQUISITES: None

RESOURCES: Substance Abuse Older Adults (Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) - Series 26)

WECM LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the completion of the course students will be able to:

Module 1 - 12 Hours Substance Abuse, the Hidden Epidemic

1. Identify why substance abuse is an invisible epidemic among the elderly by projecting future trends, defining barriers to identification and treatment, and discussing special populations.
2. Discuss why alcohol is a problem for older adults including positive effects of alcohol consumption, classifying drinking practices and drinking patterns.
3. Examine risk factors associated with alcohol abuse along with an introduction to psychoactive drugs.
4. Identify and explore various reasons why health care providers tend to overlook substance abuse and misuse among older people.

Module 2 - 12 hours Abuse/Misuse of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs

5. Examine the use and abuse of psychoactive prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and describe associated risk factors.
6. Examine some adverse effects as identified in the use and misuse of psychoactive and other drugs.
7. Examine the different methods of identification and screening for the older adults with alcohol and substance abuse problems.
8. Identify best practices for screening, assessing, and treating alcohol and drug abuse among people age 60 and older.

Module 3 - 12 hours Assessment, Referral and Program Philosophies

9. Examine methods of assessment and the process of moving the older adult into treatment.
10. Examine referral and the various levels of treatment outcomes for the older adult.
11. Explore the various program philosophies and basic principles for the older adult.
12. Identify four best practices for conducting brief interventions, counseling, detoxification, treatment

settings, treatment approaches and staffing considerations.

Module 4 - 12 hours Treatment Approaches, Cost and Future Problems

13. Discuss and examine various treatment approaches plus medical/psychiatric and specialized treatment issues for prescription drug abuse.
14. Examine the outcomes, cost issues, and measurement of multidimensional treatment outcomes for older adults.
15. Identify cost, reimbursement, and areas requiring future research for the older adult.
16. Discuss outcomes and cost issues associated with substance abuse treatment.
17. Discuss future problems that may arise in the coming years.

COURSE ASSESSMENT: Students will demonstrate to the following competences through written assessments composed of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true or false.

- Class Participation – 5%
- Homework Assignment – 10%
- Reports – 10%
- Mid Term Exam – 10%
- Group Presentation (Mock Interview) – 25%
- Final Exam – 40%

COURSE SCHEDULE: Sequence of instruction recommended based on learning outcomes.

WEEK	LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Overview of Course	Read Chapter 1
2	Identify why substance abuse is an invisible epidemic among the elderly by projecting future trends, defining barriers to identification and treatment, and discussing special populations.	Read Chapter 2 – Identify some drinking practices among older adults as you are reading.
3	Discuss why alcohol is a problem for older adults including positive effects of alcohol consumption, classifying drinking practices and drinking patterns.	
4	Examine risk factors for alcohol abuse among older adults along with an introduction to psychoactive drugs.	Read Chapter 3 and be prepared to discuss in class
5	Examine the use and abuse of psychoactive prescription drugs, over-the-counter medication and determine risk factors associated.	1 page report on 3 commonly misused drugs among older adults – Be prepared to share findings in class – Read Chapter 4 and be prepared to discuss
6	Discuss adverse effects as identified in the misuse and abuse of psychoactive prescription drugs and examine the interaction of other drugs among older adults.	Identify 3-4 adverse effects of psychoactive and/or over the counter drugs – 1 page report due by end of class
7	Discuss different methods of identification and screening for older adults with alcohol and substance abuse problems.	1 page report - “What should be the goal of screening” – be prepared to discuss – due at end of class
8	Examine methods of assessment and the process of moving the older adult into treatment.	Identify 3-4 Assessment methods be prepared to discuss – due at end of class – Read Chapter 5
9	Mid Term Exam	
10	Examine referral and the various levels of treatment for the older adult.	2 page report: Interview a manager and/or supervisor working in a treatment facility – report

		due at end of class
11	Examine the Program Philosophy and Basic Principles for the older adult.	Identify 3 treatment approaches be prepared to discuss in class – Read Chapter 6
12	Examine the various treatment approaches for an older adult.	Identify 2-outcome measurements (1) page report.
13	Examine the instruments for measuring various treatment outcomes and the cost issues associated.	(1) Page report on future consideration for research for the older adult.
14	Identify cost, reimbursement and areas requiring future research for the older adult.	
15	Presentations: Mock Interviews	
16	Final Exam	

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Syllabus Developed By:

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