

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

- A. Department Information:  
Division: Social Science  
Department: Human Services  
Course ID: HUMSV 188  
Course Title: Alcohol/Drug: Medical Aspects  
Units: 3  
Lecture: 3 Hours  
Laboratory: None  
Departmental Advisory: HUMSV 181
- B. Catalog Description: Biological impact of alcoholism and other drug dependencies, with an emphasis on the treatment and recovery processes, and the role of medical professionals as members of the recovery team. This course qualifies for continuing education credit for nurses. Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, provider number 01480, for 45 contact hours.
- C. Schedule Description: The biological impact of alcoholism and other drug dependencies, emphasizing the treatment and recovery process and the role of medical professionals. This course is approved for continuing education credit nurses. Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Provider #01480 for 45 contact hours.

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One**

**III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:**

Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to:

- A. Describe the medical consequences of addiction
- B. Explain and defend the disease of alcoholism and drug addiction in relation to other diseased processes.
- C. Evaluate the role of genetics in addictive disease
- D. Identify the current theories of chemical effect on nerve transmission.

**IV. COURSE CONTENT:**

- A. Definition of terms and vocabulary appropriate to this course:
  1. Epidemiology
  2. Prevalence
  3. Incidence
  4. Cognition
  5. Drug Abuse
  6. Drug Addiction/Dependence
  7. Tolerance
  8. Withdrawal Syndrome
- B. Classification of addictive chemicals
  1. Sedative/hypnotic/tranquilizing
  2. Opium analgesics
  3. Psycho motor stimulants
  4. Cannabinoids
  5. Perceptual distorters
  6. Inhalants
- C. Addictive Disease evaluation and diagnosis

- D. Epidemiology
  - 1. Statistics of incidence, morbidity and mortality
  - 2. The drinker
  - 3. Age factor
  - 4. Socioeconomic strata
  - 5. Ethnic groups
- E. Etiologic genetic factors
- F. Pharmacology
  - 1. Metabolism
    - a) Digestion
    - b) Absorption
    - c) Distribution
    - d) Enzymes
    - e) Liver function
  - 2. Excretion of drugs
  - 3. Addictive effects
  - 4. Neurotransmitters
    - a) Dopamine
    - b) Seritonon
    - c) Nor-epinephrine
    - d) GABA
    - e) Endorphins
- G. Physiology and Pathology
  - 1. Organ system damage
    - a) Pancreas
    - b) Liver
    - c) Heart
  - 2. Central nervous system
  - 3. Cardiovascular
  - 4. Gastrointestinal
  - 5. FAS
  - 6. Reproduction
- H. Social and Family Effects

**V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Class Discussion
- C. Review of recent study material from quizzes
- D. Audio-Visual Aids

**VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

- A. Write an in-depth paper on any of these topics covered in class:
  - 1. Withdrawal
  - 2. F.A.S.
  - 3. Hypoglycemia
  - 4. A Genetic aspect of alcoholism
  - 5. A specific drug

- B. Describe the effects of alcohol on the cardiovascular system.
  1. Cardiomyopathy
  2. Arrhythmias
  3. Hypertension
  4. Stroke
  5. Alcohol and HDL cholesterol
  6. Alcohol and C.V. mortality
- C. Choose a specific drug and write paper on it including the following areas.
  1. History
  2. Processing
  3. Epidemiology
  4. Pharmacology
  5. Medical complications
- D. Discuss the four functions of liver cells and how alcohol consumption affects these functions.

**VII. EVALUATION(S):**

- A. Methods of Evaluation
  1. Objective or essay examinations
  2. Evaluation of essays
  3. Quiz covering the previous week's lecture high points, requiring narrative or short answers
  4. Instructor evaluation of term paper requiring the student to read, interpret, critically evaluate and draw inferences from multiple sources
  5. Mid-term examination
  6. Final examination covering material similar to the weekly quiz material but more extensively
- B. Frequency of Evaluation
  1. One midterm examination
  2. One final examination
  3. Weekly quiz
  4. Term paper at end of semester
- C. Typical Exam Questions
  1. Given the fact that Alcoholic Gastritis is "commoner than dirt" name one reason why Alcohol promotes this condition
  2. There are several causes of Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding in the Alcoholic. Name two of these
  3. What percentage or number of upper GI tract bleeds are caused by Alcoholic Esophagitis and Gastritis?
  4. Name one of the two major medical complications caused by long term chronic
  5. True or False \_\_\_ The stomach secretes Insulin and many digestive enzymes.
  6. True or False \_\_\_ Diarrhea is not a common associate of alcohol intake
  7. True or False \_\_\_ One of the reasons that Alcoholic Pancreatitis occurs is that the ducts draining this organ swell, become obstructed, and digestive enzymes leak out
  8. True or False \_\_\_ the pain of Pancreatic can range from mild to severe.
  9. Which of the following items are common facial characteristics seen in children
    - a) Flat mid-face
    - b) Prominent upper lip
    - c) Prominent Philtrum
    - d) Large head circumference
    - e) Low nasal bridge
  10. Stimulant induced psychotic symptoms usually disappear over what period of time?

San Bernardino Valley College  
Curriculum Approved: February 2, 2004  
Last Updated: January, 2004

**VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):**

Parsons, Butters, and Nathan. Neuropsychology of Alcoholism: Implications for Diagnosis and Treatment. New York, Guilford Publications, 1997  
Larson, Robert E. Medical Aspects Of Chemical Dependency Handbook. Center City, MN: Hazelden Educational Materials, 1997  
Burd, Larry. Children With FAS. Center City, MN: Hazelden Educational Materials, 2000

**IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None**