

REHB 445A
Special Topics Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Impact of Media on Treatment and Recovery

J-Mester 2015-2016 Course Syllabus and Calendar

Instructor Information

Instructor: D. Shane Koch Rh.D, CRC, CAADC
Office: 311A Rehn
Office Hours: Available email and by phone.
Office Phone: (618) 453-8949
Email: dskoch@siu.edu

Course Text and Materials

Required:

No texts required....please note that there will be assigned readings....I will post them to D2L in the CONTENT folders. *The instructor reserves the right to substitute articles during the course of the semester.*

General Course Description

This course is designed to familiarize students with the research on Media and Addiction and prepare them to both review the media treatment of addictions objectively and be able to cogently address the challenges that have been introduced through the media's focus on addictions. Further, students will use assessment tools to evaluate the impact of media on our culture and to be able to examine the role that media has played in influencing attitudes toward treatment, recovery, and public addictions policy.

The course will include extensive use of seminar discussion, formal structured review and assessment of media, and individual response papers. Students will be exposed to the research literature on media and addiction as well as television and film focused on addiction related topics.

General Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Gain understanding of how media has portrayed addictions
- Cite relevant research on the topic of addictions and the portrayal of addictions in the media.
- Become familiar with typical stereotypes and constructs perpetuated by the media about addictions treatment and recovery.
- Assess how media have influenced substance abuse treatment in America as well as how media may influence public policy toward addictions.
- Critically review media portrayals of addiction, treatment, and recovery
- Discuss the impact of media on addictions, treatment, and recovery.

- Prepare logical and research based arguments articulated in cogent and objective essays that defend student positions about media and its affect on addiction, recovery, and substance use treatment.

General Course Format

This course is “online”. Students will be expected to check into the course each day, stay actively involved in discussions and utilize D2L to submit all required coursework. The main focus of this course will be on developing seminar-like online discussions that will be built on the foundation of student media reviews as well as reviews of the relevant research literature on this topic.

Course Grades

Your course grade will be based on the number of points that you earn through participation in the discussion boards, developing your own threads based on your media reviews, preparation of the media reviews, and your weekly response papers. Points cannot be earned by doing alternative or extra activities. **YOU CANNOT ‘make up’ discussion points, and work will not be accepted past the due date unless students provide a medical excuse.**

Points will be earned as follows:

1. **Participation in Discussion Boards:** You will be required to make MEANINGFUL contributions to discussion threads (media reviews as well as other topics) initiated by the instructor and your peers. You will be expected to remain ENGAGED and to PARTICIPATE daily in the discussion boards. This is the primary focus of the course! Students will receive 40 points per week for a total of 160 points for participation in the discussion boards. Threads posted by the instructor may require you to view programs that are provided as part of the course. You should plan to be active at least **5 days** per week and make **at LEAST four substantive posts per day**. Those are the minimum requirements!

***Students who are meaningful involved in this course typically start their own threads once per week for the media review, respond to all of the instructors threads, respond to the threads in their media review groups, and read all of their peers posts responding to and interacting with them in the instructor discussion boards as well as the student media review discussion groups.

The goal is for you to respond to ALL of my threads and to the media review threads posted by your peers in your discussion group EACH WEEK. This will require you to be very actively involved in the discussions.

2. **Posting of Media Reviews:** Students will be expected to post one media review per week utilizing the media review reporting format prepared by the instructor for this course (see below). This is a total of 4 media reviews. Of these four reviews, 1 review must be film based, 2 may be television based, and 1 must be based on print media. Students will be responsible for picking media that they feel is appropriate for the course and viewing it offline at their own convenience. For each review students will start a discussion thread that contains the following format:
 - a. Title of the program/film/article
 - b. Summary: Briefly summarize the object of your review.
 - c. Discussion: Discuss the media in the context of the week I readings on addictions and media. How does this media portray addictions?

- d. Evaluation: Given your discussion, what is your response to this media?
- e. **Media Reviews will need to be posted on time each week in order to enable everyone to have time to respond and discuss the reviews. Media reviews should be posted to your assigned discussion group by WEDNESDAY noon of each week.**

Media reviews will be worth 10 pts. each.

- 3. **Weekly summaries:** Students will upload four weekly summaries during the course. Each will students will prepare a review of the week’s activities and discuss the materials for the course as well as their experiences interacting with their peers in the discussion boards. It will be especially important for students to identify how they have benefitted or NOT benefited from the feedback of their peers on their work. Weekly summaries will be worth 10 pts. Each. **Summaries will not be accepted via email. They MUST be submitted to the dropbox by midnight on the date that they are due.**
- 4. **Final Exam:** There will be a final exam covering the course readings that will be worth 60 points. The exam will include identification/definition, short answer, and essay questions. The exam will be posted at the end of the course and students will have two weeks to complete the exam. All exams must be uploaded into D2L by midnight on January 30th to receive credit for the exam.

| | A | B | C | D | E/F |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Percent | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | <60* |
| Points | 270 | 240 | 210 | 180 | <150* |

* “<” means less than

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and need reasonable accommodations, please contact me during the first week of classes so that I can ensure that your needs are met in a timely manner. Students with disabilities should contact the University’s Disabled Student Resources and Services and the Office of Services for Students with Learning Disabilities at the beginning of the semester to inform them of the disability and obtain information about services that can facilitate learning. According to University policy: “Any student with a documented disability who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the professor and the appropriate Disability Services office at the beginning of the semester.”

Academic Dishonesty

Each student is responsible for making himself or herself aware of the policies and procedures in the Student Conduct Code that pertain to Acts of Academic Dishonesty. These policies cover such acts as plagiarism, preparing work for another student, cheating by any method or means, falsifying or manufacturing data, furnishing false information to a university official relative to academic matters, and soliciting, aiding, concealing, or attempting conduct in violation of this code. The student is also responsible for making himself or herself aware

of the procedures applicable to cases of academic dishonesty as outlined in the Student Conduct Code, including jurisdiction at the department or college level, informal resolution, and formal disciplinary measures. A student must consult with the instructor if he or she has questions pertaining to academic dishonesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

If you wish to drop this course, you must do so after the date designated by the university. A grade of Incomplete will be given under the conditions specified in the university catalog.

The instructor is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact the instructor during the first week of class to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. Documentation is to be provided and accommodations are to be arranged with Disability Support Services.

Incompletes

In keeping with the University's policy, a grade of incomplete can only be given if a student has completed more than HALF of the semester and is PASSING the course. An incomplete exists to help those students who would have passed the course had they been able to continue, but EXTREME circumstances exist such that the student cannot continue.

In keeping with the University's policy, I will NOT give an incomplete as a substitute for a failing grade – the failing grade stands.

Religious Observances

I am dedicated to maintaining the rights of students to observe religious holidays. If you need to miss a class to observe a religious holiday, I request that you contact me a week in advance to discuss any arrangements.

Classroom Etiquette

It is my goal to provide everyone an opportunity to succeed in this course. Therefore, I will make every effort to create an environment conducive to learning. I will be respectful of you and your opinions. I also expect that you be courteous and respectful to me and to others in the class.

Course Schedule

Week I: What does the research say? **PRINT MEDIA REVIEW**

- Read the research articles provided by your instructor to give you a foundation discussing the topic. Articles are all posted in the Week I Content Module.
- Respond to the discussion threads initiated by your instructor and stay engaged with the discussion of this research.
- Start your own thread by Wednesday 12-23 using the format discussed in the syllabus. Please review PRINT MEDIA for this Week.
- Respond to your peers threads and media reviews.
- Prepare your weekly Summary by midnight on Sunday 12-27 .

Week II: Media Review **Television Media Review I**

- Read the research articles provided by your instructor to give you a foundation discussing the topic. Articles are all posted in the Week II Content Module.
- Respond to the discussion threads initiated by your instructor and stay engaged with the discussion of this research.
- Start your own thread by Wednesday 12-30 using the format discussed in the syllabus. Please review Television Media for this week.
- Respond to your peers threads and media reviews.
- Prepare your weekly Summary by Sunday 1-2-16.

Week III: Media Review **Television Media Review II**

- Read the research articles provided by your instructor to give you a foundation discussing the topic. Articles are all posted in the Week III Content Module.
- Respond to the discussion threads initiated by your instructor and stay engaged with the discussion of this research.
- Start your own thread by Wednesday 1-4-16 using the format discussed in the syllabus. Please review Television Media for this week.
- Respond to your peers threads and media reviews.
- Prepare your weekly Summary by Sunday 1-9-16

Week IV: Media Review **Full Length Film Review**

- Read the research articles provided by your instructor to give you a foundation discussing the topic. Articles are all posted in the Week IV Content Module.
- Respond to the discussion threads initiated by your instructor and stay engaged with the discussion of this research.
- Start your own thread by Wednesday 1-11-16 using the format discussed in the syllabus. Please post your film review for this week.
- Respond to your peers threads and media reviews.
- Prepare your weekly Summary by Sunday 1-16-16