I. CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the first of a two-part course that emphasizes health and mental health delivery within systems theory and an advanced generalist practice skills framework. Includes case studies and exercise aimed at practice with diverse populations in rural areas. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

II. COURSE OVERVIEW

This is the first course in the health/mental health practice concentration. This course emphasizes the assessment/diagnostic phase of social work practice, with special attention to the use of the DSM-IV in the context of advanced social work practice. Social work practice skills and values useful in work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in health and mental health settings are examined. Special attention is given to the impact of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age and rural location in health and mental health practice. Subjective meanings of health and illness to individuals, families, their larger communities, and to the social worker her/himself will be considered. Specific physical illnesses and mental health conditions related to the students’ client populations will be considered.

III. PLACE OF COURSE IN THE PROGRAM

This is the first course in the health/mental health practice concentration in the second year of the M. S. W. curriculum.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
Competency 6a: Engage with Individuals and Families
Competency 7a: Assess Individuals and Families
Competency 8a: Intervene with Individuals and Families

Demonstrate mastery in the following competencies:

1. Apply the principles of systems theory/perceptual control theory to advanced social work practice in health and mental health settings with client systems of all sizes including: individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

2. Apply the principles of the strengths perspective to advanced social work practice in health and mental health settings with client system of all sizes including: individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.


4. Recognize the structural mechanisms of oppression and discrimination in health and mental health practice settings as they relate to race, ethnicity, age gender, sexual orientation, poverty, and rural settings.

5. Analyze the reciprocal impact of acute and chronic mental and physical illness on individuals, their families, and their communities.

6. Appreciate the collaborative nature of interdisciplinary health and mental health care in the context of social work practice.

7. Negotiate appropriate interventions with health/mental health clients, their families, and their communities with focused attention to needs regarding gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and rural locations.

8. Incorporate the values and ethics of professional social work and the profession’s commitment to client empowerment to practice in health and mental health settings with attention to the requirements of managed care.

9. Evaluate select research in the health and mental health literature and critically analyze the implications for rural, advanced social work practice in health and mental health care settings.

V. REQUIRED TEXTS
VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

VII. GRADING
(Include grade scale, rubric, points for assignments, bonus, supplemental assignments, and attendance policy and how attendance is factored into final grade).

SIUC policy regarding Incompletes: “An INC grade is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. An INC must be changed to a completed grade will be set at one year from the close of the term in which the course was taken. Should the student fail to complete the course within one semester, the incomplete may be converted to a grade of F and such grade will be computed in the student's grade point average.”

VIII. COURSE EVALUATION
At the end of the semester, students will use the SIUC Instructor Course Evaluation (ICE) to evaluate the course and the instructor. Student mastery of the competencies listed in the Course Objectives section will be evaluated as part of the ongoing program assessment for the School of Social Work.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE
(Instructors provide a weekly list of topics, readings, assignments, and tests)

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY
(Update references to within 5 years for most materials)