

**WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY  
CURRICULUM COURSE SYLLABUS  
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNOLOGY**

**SAB 110  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE OVERVIEW**

**Department:** Humanities & Social Sciences

**Instructors:** Joyce Gerlits

**Course:** SAB 110 Substance Abuse Overview

**Weekly Hours:** Lecture 3, Credit 3      **Semester:** Fall

**Catalog Description:**

This course provides an overview of the core concepts in substance abuse and dependence. Topics include the history of drug use/abuse, effects on societal members, treatment of addiction, and preventative measures. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the etiology of drug abuse, addiction, prevention, and treatment.

**Course Requirements/Curriculum Competencies:**

This course is designed to meet the performance domains for assessment and education as identified by substance abuse certification and regulatory agencies.

The student will demonstrate an ability to:

1. Define the history of drugs and alcohol.
2. Identify the major theories of addiction.
3. Recognize major classifications of psychoactive drugs.
4. Understand behavior patterns and progression process of drug abuse and dependency.
5. Identify intoxication, and influences of drug use including withdrawal and long term implications.
6. Provide information regarding recent trends in street drugs and designer drugs.
7. Clarify how life style differences and environment effect the use and abuse of addictive substances.

Prepared by  
Division of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Fall 1999

## **REQUIRED TEXT:**

Inaba, Darryl S., Pharm. D., and William E. Choen, and Michael E. Holstein. UPPERS, DOWNERS, ALL AROUNDERS. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ed. Ashland: CNS Publications Inc. 1997

**Materials Required:** Loose leaf or bound spiral notebook for use with class notes and assignments. Dual pocket folder for collecting and organizing articles for class project (to be assigned and discussed).

Suggestions for getting the most from this course.

1. Read contents in the course outline. Please have the instructor clarify any questions you may have in the first week.
2. Decide at the outset if you have the time and are willing to devote the time and effort need to do quality job for this course.
3. Don't allow yourself to get behind in your reading.
4. Be prepared to actively participate in the discussion of assigned text and homework assignments.
5. Plan your time wisely.

## **Outline:**

- I.
  - A) Introduction and getting acquainted
  - B) Course overview
  - C) Discussion of critical thinking skills/techniques
  - D) Exploring personal, family, societal and cultural influences.
- II.
  - A) Psychoactive drugs: history and classification
  - B) Prehistory through today
  - C) What is a psychoactive drug?
- III.
  - A) heredity, environment, and psychoactive drugs
  - B) How psychoactive drugs affect us?
  - C) From epermitaion to addiction
- IV.
  - A) Uppers
  - B) Classification and effects
  - C) Cocaine, amphetamines, caffeine, nicotine
  - D) Over-the-counter stimulants
  - E) Other plant stimulants
- V.
  - A) Downers
  - B) Opiates/Opioids
  - C) Sedative-hypnotics
  - D) Barbiturates
  - E) Benzodiazepines
- VI.
  - A) Downers: Alcohol
  - B) Absorption and metabolism
  - C) Effects and health consequences
  - D) Epidemiology

- VII.    A) All Arounders  
           B) LSD, Mushrooms and other indole psychedelics  
           C) Peyote, MDMA, and PCP  
           D) Marijuana and Cannabinols
  
- VIII.   A) Other drugs, other addictions  
           B) Inhalants  
           C) Sports and drugs  
           D) Compulsive behaviors  
           E) Eating disorders  
           F) Other compulsive behaviors
  
- IX.     A) Drug use and prevention: From cradle to grave  
           B) Concepts, methods and challenges of prevention  
           C) Pregnancy and birth  
           D) Youth and school  
           E) Drugs in the work place and drug testing  
           F) Drugs and the elderly
  
- X.      A) Treatment  
           B) Effectiveness, techniques and goals of treatment  
           C) Treatment obstacles
  
- XI.     A) Mental/Emotional Health and Drugs  
           B) Brain Chemistry  
           C) Dual Diagnosis  
           D) Mental Health vs Chemical Dependency  
           E) Psychiatric Medications

**Grading**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Test/Quizzes:  | 60% |
| Critique of assigned article:                        | 25% |
| Class Project (to be discussed and explained):       | 10% |
| Report/Journal featuring guest speakers/field trips: | 5%  |

**GRADING SCALE:**

A=91-100  
 B=81-90  
 C=71-80  
 D=61-70  
 F=60

**RESPONSIBLE FOR:**  
 General information sheet  
 HSE Student Handbook  
 WPCC Student Code of Conduct  
 Professional Code of Ethics

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students are expected to attend and be on time for all scheduled class hours. Although an occasional absence may be unavoidable, it in no way excuses a student from meeting all the requirements of the course and being responsible for all learning experiences.

Attendance of at least 80% of all scheduled course hours is required to receive course credit; therefore, students will be dropped from the class roll when their absences exceed 20% of the total scheduled class hours. Class attendance is calculated from the first scheduled class meeting through the last scheduled class meeting.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- I. A critique of one or more journal or magazines articles is required. The articles will be provided by the instructor. The critique will be at least three full pages long and not to exceed four pages. Guidelines appear in the General Information Sheet and additional directions will be given in class.
- II. A report/journal is to be kept by each student featuring each guest speaker/field trip. This will be explained during the semester at the appropriate time.
- III. Class project-each student is required to assemble a collection of magazine/newspaper articles during the semester. These articles will be specific to drug and alcohol issues. Students will select 4 original articles weekly and be prepared to present them with the discussion in class. This will be explained further as needed.

The General Information Sheet is important in this class. Please read it and be familiar with all of the policies and conditions therein.