

George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Counseling and Development Program

EDCD 652.001 Introduction to Substance Abuse Counseling

Course Meets: Thursdays 4:30 – 7:10p.m.  
Office Phone: (703) 517-5920  
E-mail: [Sandrasale56@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandrasale56@yahoo.com)  
Office Hours: By appointment

**Required Text:** **Abadinsky, Howard.** ***Drug Use and Abuse*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition,**  
Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2004

**Course Description**

EDCD 652: *Introduction to Substance Abuse Counseling*, provides students with a survey of both historical and current use of narcotics and dangerous drugs. Students will be taught identification and classifications of such drugs and emphasizes the symptoms and effects of their users. Classroom discussions will examine assessment methods, treatment modalities, and procedures utilized in counseling/law enforcement efforts against illicit drugs.

**Course Objectives**

1. Understand the impact on the family system
2. Examine your own and others beliefs about students with substance abuse issues
3. Gain an understanding counseling approaches to initiate behavioral changes
4. Gain and understanding of the impact substance abuse has on students educational experience
5. Understand the role of counselors working with substance abusing clients and their families

**Course Structure:**

Students are responsible for developing their own learning goals for this course. A variety of reading material and experiential activities will be provided during the five weeks of the course. Students should come to class prepared to actively participate in class discussion and activities. Class activities will include lecture, small group work, experiential exercises, and videos. Each student will provide a case study as a focus for exploration during the semester and tailor each of the assignments to explore the focus.

**Course Requirements:**

**Assignments**

1. **Behavior Observation**     **February 24th**     **Course Points 10**

**Each student will pick a behavior or habit to be observed over a 2 week period of time. The instructor will outline how that behavior is to be observed and at the**

conclusion of this observation, each student will submit a 1 page paper, typed, and double spaced. Hand written not accepted.

**2. Mid Term Exam**                      **March 10th**                      **Course Points 20**

The mid term exam will include all material covered in the text and classroom discussions. It will consist of short answers and essay questions.

**3. Individual Papers**                      **April 21st**                      **Course Points 25**

Students will select a case study to work on through the semester, resulting in a well thought out organized 3-5 page paper. This will include case history, assessment tool, counseling theory, and analysis of case study.

**4. Class Exercises**                      **Course Points 10**  
Students will participate in group discussions/writing exercises in class.

**5. Attendance and Class Participation**                      **Course Points 15**

Students will be expected to attend class and provide meaningful participation in class discussions and lectures. Attendance will be taken weekly. Students are expected to stay for the full class. At the start of the semester students are asked to address any issues that conflict with class times with the instructor. Students who have more than one excused absence will receive no credit for the course. Documentation should be provided for excused absences and should be brought to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible

**6. Final Examination**                      **May 12th**                      **Course Points 20**

The final examination will include all material covered in the text and class discussions. It will consist of short answer and essay questions.

In accordance with George Mason University Grading Policy, the following grades may be achieved:

A	96 - 100	points
A-	91 - 95	points
B+	87 - 90	points
B	80 - 86	points
C	79 - 75	points
F	74 and below	points

**Relationship to Course and Program Goals and Professional Organizations**

EDCD 652 meets the requirements that all Masters Students take credits in Substance Abuse Counseling course work. This 3-credit course will contribute to the counseling students knowledge of a particular population of clients.

EDCD 652 fulfills the requirements of the following professional organizations:

- Virginia department of Education requirement for school counseling licensure that candidates understand the knowledge, skills and processes of individual counseling.

- Virginia Department of Health Professions requirement that Licensed Professional Counselor candidates complete graduate study in theories and techniques of counseling and psychotherapy.
- American Counseling Association Code of Ethics requirement that counselors establish education and training programs that integrate academic study and supervised practice.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE/ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **Session/Date:**

<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>COURSE INTRODUCTION College policies and procedures Review/discussion of syllabus and course content Instructor/student expectations of the course Discussion of assignments</b>
<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 1 (Drug Abuse/Addiction)</b>
<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 2</b>
<b>Feb 17</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 3</b>
<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 4 Observation paper due</b>
<b>March 3</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 5</b>
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 6 Mid term</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 7</b>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 8</b>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 9</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 10</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Readings: Chapters 11 Individual papers due</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Reading: Chapter 12</b>

**May 5**                      **Reading: Chapter 13 and 14**

**May 12**                     **Final Exam**

## **College of Education and Human Development**

### *Student Expectations*

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent solely through their Mason email account.

Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

### *Campus Resources*

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

