

SCWK 3743 - Mental Health

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42474,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Master of Science of Social Administration - Case Western Reserve University

Bachelor of Social Work - Youngstown State University

Instructor Office Location: Cushwa 3523

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-1598

Course Description

3743. Mental Health. This course will provide students with knowledge and skills in mental health treatment, with an emphasis on understanding people with mental illnesses. Students will learn how to: use the DSM to assess and diagnose clients; conduct case conceptualization; conduct a mental status exam; write a narrative diagnostic summary; and develop a basic understanding of psychiatric medications. Prereq.: Social Work Major. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required			

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). *Diagnostic and statistical manual, DSM 5-TR*

Schwitzer, A.M., & Rubin, L.C. (2015). *Diagnosis and treatment planning skills: A popular culture caseload approach* (2nd ed.). Sage.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Week 1 Syllabus, Requirements and Expectations

Week 2 Ch 1 Critical Thinking Skills, Preface and Introduction

Week 3 Mental status exam, Ch 3 Case Conceptualization

Week 4 Ch 2 Diagnosis

Week 5 Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders

Week 6 Bipolar and related Disorders

Week 7 Depressive Disorders

Week 8 Anxiety Disorders Obsessive-Compulsive and related Disorders

Week 9 Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders Dissociative Disorders

Week 10 Somatic Symptoms and Related Disorders Neurocognitive Disorders

Week 11 Gender Dysphoria, Feeding and Eating Disorders

Week 12 Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders

Week 13 Personality Disorders

Week 14 Case Conceptualization Presentations

Week 15 Case Conceptualization Presentations

Week 16 Finals Week

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Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Aug 25 & 27	Introductions, Review of Syllabus, Requirement and Expectations, Learning & Interests	Readings: Syllabus
8/31	Sept 1 & 3	Students will be introduced to the topic of clinical social work and diagnosis	Readings: Ch 1 Critical Thinking Skills, Preface & Introduction
9/7	Sept 8 & 10	Students will gain a basic understanding of the various elements involved in an MSE and case conceptualization	Mental status exam (MSE); understanding DSM criteria; Ch 3 Case Conceptualization
9/14	Sept 15 & 17	Students will gain a basic understanding of the various elements involved in clinical mental health diagnosis	Readings: Ch 2 Diagnosis; NASW Code of Ethics
9/21	Sept 22 & 24	Students will gain a basic understanding of concepts related to the diagnosis of Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders	Readings: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
9/28	Sept 29 & Oct 1	Students will learn about the concepts of the diagnosis of Bipolar and related Disorders	Readings: Bipolar and related Disorders
10/5	Oct 6 & 8	Students will learn about clinical diagnosis of Depressive Disorders	Readings: Depressive Disorders
10/12	Oct 13 & 15	Students will learn about the clinical diagnosis of Anxiety	Readings: Anxiety Disorder & Obsessive-Compulsive and related Disorders
10/19	Oct 20 & 22	Students will gain a basic understanding of concepts related to the diagnosis of Trauma & Stressor Related Disorders & Dissociative Disorders	Readings: Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders & Dissociative Disorders
10/26	Oct 27 & 29	Students will gain a basic understanding of concepts related to the diagnosis of Somatic Symptoms and Related Disorders & Neurocognitive Disorders. Students will understand how to use the code of ethics with mental health clients	Readings: Somatic Symptoms and Related Disorder - pg 349 & Neurocognitive Disorders pg 667 NASW Code of Ethics
11/2	Nov 3 & 5	Students will learn about the clinical diagnostic criteria of Gender Dysphoria, Feeding and Eating disorders	Readings: Gender Dysphoria pg511 & Feeding and Eating Disorders pg295
11/9	Nov 10 & 12	Students will learn about the many facets of social work with people who are diagnosed with neurodevelopmental disorders & Conduct disorders	Readings: Neurodevelopmental Disorders pg35 & Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders pg521
11/16	Nov 17 & 19	Students will learn about the many facets of social work with people who are diagnosed with personality disorders	Readings: "Personality Disorders" pg733 (DSM-5-TR)



11/23	Nov 24 & 26 (NO CLASS ON 26 - FALL BREAK)	Students will develop an awareness of his or her perspective on specific case conceptualization diagnoses based on student's accounts	CASE CONCEPTUALIZATIONS
11/30	Dec 1 & 3	Students will develop an awareness of his or her perspective on specific case conceptualization diagnoses based on student's accounts	CASE CONCEPTUALIZATIONS
12/7	Dec 8 & 10	Final	FINAL EXAM ON BLACKBOARD

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