

Reformed Theological Seminary
Substance Abuse
January 14-18, 2008
Sharon A. Hersh, M.A., LPC

Course Description

This course is designed to engage students in an examination of substance abuse and addiction and the impact on the individual as well as the dynamics of family systems. The course will include an understanding of addiction as well as an introduction to different models of counseling. Students will have an opportunity to explore specific addictions as well as develop an integrated approach to recovery that includes biological, psychological, and spiritual categories. Classes will be in seminar format and will include lectures, readings, film, and discussion.

Course Objectives

Through class assignments, students will demonstrate the following:

1. Understanding of the problems of substance abuse including major signs and symptoms and appropriate methods of assessment, while uncovering personal assumptions and style in treating substance abuse.
2. Knowledge of various treatment modalities and applicability to specific addictions.
3. Students will learn to develop an integrated model for understanding addiction, using current literature (class texts, novels and other addiction literature, current research, film) and the Scriptures (including, but not limited to Romans 1:18-25, Ephesians 4:7-17, Exodus 13f).
4. Knowledge of treatment resources in the community for clients with substance abuse problems.
5. Students are asked to prepare a class presentation with an integrated treatment plan.

Course Content, Topics and Schedule

1/14/08	Course overview & syllabus review “The Evidence of Addiction” Biblical passages “The Energy of Addiction” “The Experience of Addiction” “The Path of Recovery & Renewal”	<i>Come to class having read:</i> Addiction & Grace Attend 12-step meeting sometime during week.
1/15/08	The Biology of Addiction Men & Addiction Women & Addiction The Addicted Family	<i>Come to class having read:</i> “Resurrection Face” (will be provided in class) Journal article on gender.

1/16/08	Drug Addiction Adolescence & Addiction	<i>Come to class having read: 2nd text chosen from reading List</i>
1/17/08	Sexual Addictions The Addiction Counselor	
1/18/08	Class Presentations	

Course Requirements

Attendance is mandatory for all five class days. Your final grade will be an average of the reflection paper, class participation, and final presentation. Missing class hours will result in the loss of a letter grade in the class.

Reading: Students are asked to read all required texts by the dates shown on the course schedule.

Class Presentation: Students will take a Step Four Personal Inventory (will be provided in class) and present to the class on 1/18/08 their understanding of substance abuse, treatment concerns, and treatment possibilities based on their own inventory.

Paper:

Due: 1/17/08 One-page reflection paper addressing the evidence, energy, or experience of addiction and personal assumptions about addiction (from class discussion, 12-step meeting, and reading).

Course Policies

- Grading Policy:

Class Participation	25%
Reflection Paper	25%
Step Four Inventory and Presentation	50%
- Grading Scale:

A	94-100
B	85-93
C	76-84
F	75 or below

3. It is expected that written products will be legible, professional in appearance, and error free. They are to be typed and double-spaced. The one-page reflection paper can be single-spaced.
4. No late papers accepted. No electronic papers.

Course Books:

Required:

Addiction and Grace, Gerald May, ISBN: 0060655372

Recommended:

Chemical Dependence Counseling, Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA: 2002, ISBN 0-761923888

Students will choose one of the following:

Drinking: A Love Story, Caroline Knapp, ISBN: 0385315546

Broken, William Cope Moyers, ISBN 0-670-03789-3 (this is the hardback – a paperback is available)

Holy Hunger, Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, ISBN 0375700870