

Reformed Theological Seminary  
Substance Abuse  
July 12-16, 2010  
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

7/12/10	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> <b>Addiction &amp; Grace</b> <b>The Last Addiction</b> Attend 12-step meeting sometime during week.
7/13/10	The Biology of Addiction Men & Addiction Women & Addiction The Addicted Family	<i>Come to class having read:</i> Journal article on gender and addiction.

7/14/10	Drug Addiction Adolescence & Addiction	<i>Come to class having read: 2<sup>nd</sup> text chosen from reading list</i>
7/15/10	Eating Addictions Sexual Addiction	
7/16/10	The Addiction Counselor 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 may 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 7/16/10 their understanding of addiction, treatment concerns, and treatment possibilities based on their own inventory.

Paper:

Due: 7/16/10 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 = 97-100 points	B- = 86-87 points	D+ = 75-77 points
A- = 94-96 points	C+ = 83-85 points	D = 72-74 points
B+ = 93-91 points	C = 80-82 points	D- = 70-71 points
B = 88-92 points	C- = 78-79 points	F = below 70 points

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 please.

### **Course Books**

#### **Required**

*Addiction and Grace*, Gerald May, ISBN: 0060655372

*The Last Addiction*, Sharon Hersh, ISBN: 978-0-87788-203-9

#### **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: 9780143112657

*Beautiful Boy*, David Sheff, ISBN: 9780618683352

*Million Little Pieces*, James Frey, ISBN 1400031087

*Holy Hunger*, Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, ISBN 0375700870