

D O A N E



C O L L E G E

Summer 2015 Syllabus

COU 640
Community & Rural Mental Health
3 CREDITS

Instructor: Donald P. Belau, Ph.D.
Phone: 402-759-0573 cell
Email: donald.belau@doane.edu

Course Description: The study of mental health/behavioral health care in rural settings. A recognition of diversity of clients, issues, and resources is a key component of the course. This course will allow for the development of original research that is based upon issues associated with the practice of community and rural mental health. A seminar format will be utilized to promote recognition, reflection, integration, and application relating to the topics addressed. CACREP standards will be utilized in rubrics, with submission of documents by email and via LiveText.

Required Text:

Handouts will be available throughout the class sessions. In addition, the student will be required to review evidenced-based literature and summarize both orally and via written submission.

Course Format: A variety of learning activities including class participation will be utilized during this course to provide students with the ability to acquire the needed knowledge essential for an understanding of the challenges of the delivery of mental health services in the rural setting.

The instructor will provide foundational information relating to specific topics that are connected with community and rural mental health/behavioral health care. The student is expected to reflect upon readings as well as those presentations.

In the event, this course is taken as a Directed Study, adjustments will be made regarding scheduling and methodology.

Course Objectives:

- Develop understanding of the broad scope of rural mental health issues.
- Develop self-awareness of personal biases, attitudes, and values as they pertain to facilitating rural mental health work.
- Become familiar with the need for an integration of resources in the rural setting
- Review research that will enhance understanding of rural mental health/behavioral health care.
- Develop an understanding of as to how diversity can impact rural mental health counseling
- Recognize the general dynamics of managed mental health care within the rural setting
- develop original research relating to the practice of mental health services in a small community/rural setting
- Become familiar with the needs of a specific population such war veterans and their families, particularly those impacted by loss

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend every class session. Class attendance is an important part of your learning experience. Unexcused attendance will result in a lowering of the final grade of a full letter grade. (A to a B, etc.). Unexcused absences that exceed two sessions will result in an “F” or “I” grade. *Excused absences will require makeup work at the instructor’s discretion.* Any more than two excused absences will result in a possible “I” grade or a “F” grade..

Teaching Methods: Lecture, discussion, groups, handouts, assigned readings, exams, individual presentations, videos and other methods will be used.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to observe ethical principles at all times. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:
Fraud--copying, misrepresentation, fictionalized account, and unauthorized collaborations.
Plagiarism--word for word, lifting and quilting, and quoting without a source. Cheating, defined as any act of fraud or plagiarism discussed above will result in severe penalties. The first time a student is caught cheating, a score of zero will be issued for that assignment or test. If a second offense occurs in the same course, the student will be dropped from the course with a failing grade.

Evaluation Process:

Grades will be calculated based upon the percent of points earned out of the total possible points. The following percentages will apply:

A+ =	100-98	B+ =	89-87	C+ =	79-77
A =	97-94	B =	86-84	C =	76-74
A- =	93-90	B- =	83-80	C- =	73-70

Please note:

I reserve the right to make adjustments to evaluation techniques.

*** Note: Papers and/or projects that are submitted late will be reduced a letter grade.*

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 200

Two literature review papers relating to Community and Rural Mental Health/Behavioral Issues within the 3-5 page range, APA style, will be required for submission at Week 5, and Week 7. One of these papers may be related to research project. Rubrics will be utilized to assess competency. These papers will be valued at 50 points each. No less than three journal articles are required to be reviewed. The headings will include:

Behavioral/Mental Health Issue

Literature Review

- 1) Evidence-based Interventions
- 2) Ethical Implications

Community and Rural Mental Health Best Practices

Instructor Assigned Articles

- 1) Synopsis of article
- 2) Application to Community and Rural Mental Health Best Practices

Community and Rural Mental Health/Behavioral Issues Research Assignment:

Possible Areas of Research Focus:

1. Veterans
2. Child & Adolescent special needs
3. Forensics/Correctional
4. Substance Abuse
5. Research (RUP)
6. Cultural Based Deliveries
7. Systemic Infrastructure (Health Care Reform)
8. Migrant Issues
9. Trauma Informed Care
10. Geriatric Mental Health
11. Domestic Violence
12. Sexual Abuse
13. Sexual orientation in the rural setting
14. Cancer in the rural setting
15. Poverty
16. School based mental health
17. Suicide prevention, intervention, or postvention in the rural settings

The paper needs to have the following organization: Title Page, Abstract, Problem Statement, Hypothesis, Focus of Interest—population, Research Methodology (survey research—qualitative), Results, Discussion, and Reference page.

This research paper is expected to be within the 10-20 page range that will be due the last class session. APA guidelines should be followed in the paper organization format. A minimum of five references will be required.

Resources to be accessed in developing research methodology could include interviews with treatment providers, a review of literature, interviews with professionals such as health & human services professionals, nursing staff, education staff, counseling staff, etc.

Research topic for this project needs approval by the second week. There will be 100 possible points.

Participation is assessed via the PPE (Professional Performance Rubric), and is recorded via LiveText. A minimum rating of 3 is required for satisfactory completion of the course, regardless of the quality of work submitted.

WEBSITES: National Association for Rural Mental Health www.narmh.org
 Journal of Rural Community Psychology <http://muwww-new.marshall.edu>