

Course at a Glance

Course Title: Foundations in Behavioral Health Systems

Course Number: PHC 6543/MHS 6900

Dept: CFH

Credits: 3

Traditional Section: 310, 312, 391 **Reference Number:** 17385

Note: This course is cross-listed in the USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences as MHS 6900 (904)

Instructor Name: Dr. Bruce Lubotsky Levin

Instructor Email: blevin@health.usf.edu

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide graduate students with an overview and understanding of the significant issues and trends in behavioral health (alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health) delivery systems in America. Four major areas of mental health are emphasized: 1) history and legislation; 2) services & systems delivery; 3) programs and policies; 4) and selected at-risk populations.

Format of content presentation, activities and/or instructional methods:

There are 15 weekly lectures to read (in Microsoft WORD format) with a list of textbook and related readings, with corresponding weekly assignments, which require posting answers to a class discussion board (Après Cafe). Students and professor interact primarily through the course discussion board and via e-mail.

Course content organization:

Each weekly lecture is listed separately under the Weekly Lectures; each weekly assignment(s) are listed under the Weekly Assignments; the Apres Café (class discussion board) is where students post their answers to the weekly assignments; and the mid-term and final exams appear according to a specific course schedule. All other materials are available at the beginning of the semester.

All 15 weekly lectures, textbook/assigned readings, and weekly assignments are posted and available at the beginning of the semester. Weekly assignments are due on the Friday of each week by 11:00pm. The mid-term exam is posted during the seventh week of class and is due one week later; this format holds for the final exam, which is posted during the fourteenth or fifteenth week of class and is due the following week. The semester paper outline is due by the fourth week of class and the semester paper (itself) is due during the eleventh week of class.

Textbook and Ordering materials:

Required Text:

Levin BL, Hennessy KD, Petrila J. *Mental Health Services: A Public Health Perspective, Third Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

How to Order:

Download USF Health Bookstore Order Form:

http://itt.usf.edu/publichealth/Orderforms/HSC_GradTextbook_OrderForm.pdf

Note: you may also order the textbook from other online bookstores, including Amazon.com.

Other Required Materials:

Supplemental readings are provided to the students (or are available online for free) and are updated each semester to reflect new research and findings.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should demonstrate mastery of the following:

- 1) Identify and analyze behavioral health (including mental health and substance abuse) problems and issues in terms of historical factors that influence their development and current approaches and strategies to improve these systems;
- 2) Recognize similarities and differences between health and behavioral health care delivery systems for specific populations-at-risk and assess utility of interventions at different mental health delivery system levels;
- 3) Identify key areas of behavioral health delivery systems which continue to be in need of further research and development; and
- 4) Identify and discuss current trends and issues in behavioral health delivery systems, in both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

This course satisfies the following competencies in the Behavioral Health Concentration, Department of Community & Family Health, USF College of Public Health:

1. Describe the history and philosophy of behavioral health services field.
2. Identify the fundamental principles of the epidemiology of mental and substance use disorders.
3. Specify unique issues in behavioral health programs and disorders for culture, age, and other specific at-risk pop.
4. Describe ethical and legal issues in the diagnosis of individuals with mental and substance use disorders and in the design and delivery of services for individuals with mental and substance use disorders.
7. Describe the social, political, and environmental context of behavioral health.
9. Demonstrate an in depth understanding of behavioral health advocacy, policy, and information systems, & systems change.
10. Critically evaluate applied services research and specify a broad range of behavioral health literature to analyze behavioral health issues and problems.

Types of assessments and activities in the course:

Weekly assignments reflect each weekly lecture and required readings; they are usually in the form of discussion questions. Answers to the weekly assignments and comments on other students' answers are posted to the Apres Café. There are two exams which cover material presented in the lectures, assigned readings, and research literature. In addition, a semester paper is required and evaluated on content and style. The topic of the paper should be within the broad area of behavioral health services (i.e., alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health services from a public health perspective). Therefore, any topic presented in one of the weekly lectures or in one of the chapters of the textbook would be a reasonable topic for the semester paper.

Course Expectations:

To be successful in this course, students should log into this blackboard course at least weekly to view new course Announcements; complete weekly lectures, readings and assignments on or before their designated due dates (listed above); complete the two exams on time and in the format requested; follow all course directions; complete the semester paper and outline by their respective due dates; and should not hesitate to contact (via email or via the telephone) the course Professor if they have any questions.

Required Dates to be online: N/A

For more information about the Course, Contact:

Name: Dr. Bruce Lubotsky Levin

Contact Info: blevin@health.usf.edu (813) 974-6400

Note: For problems accessing the course materials and other computer technical problems, click the **Tech Assistance** button in your course website and fill out a "Technical Problem Report Form". Tech Assistance button links to the Technical Assistance page of the Office of Educational Technology & Assessment website at: <http://publichealth.usf.edu/eta/techsupport.html>. Students can also receive assistance via telephone at 813-974-6666, Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm, or via email at eta@health.usf.edu.

Technology Requirements (e.g. software or hardware):

Visit this website for software requirements and downloads:

http://publichealth.usf.edu/eta/students_tech_requirements.htm

Other technology requirements (hardware and software) specific for this course: **(Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Basic knowledge of Blackboard)**

Note: These are in addition to the basic technology requirements for all online courses.

Please Note: The information on this document is subject to change. The course instructor has the right to change any information posted in this document. Students should check the official course syllabus released during the first week of classes for any updates to this document.