**PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF DISABILITY I**

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| **Instructor:** | Chandra Donnell Carey, Ph.D, CRC |
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| **Course Dates:**  **Course TA:** | June 2, 2014 to August 8, 2014  Jacilyn Bondy jacilyn.bondy@unt.edu |
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is the first of two courses addressing disabilities, the impact of disabilities, and what we can do to deal with those impacts. In this course, we will address issues of health and wellness, stress, adjustment to disability and the differential impact of disability within different life stages. Later portions of the class address the nervous system and the sensory systems of hearing and vision, examining potential disorders and diseases of those systems. The course also examines the impact of these disorders on day-to-day life activities and adaptations or accommodations that help individuals function effectively in work, school, and community settings.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Identify stages of psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual response to physical, mental, and emotional disabilities.

2. Understand how the process of human development is impacted by disability

3. Describe the effects of stress on physiological functioning and how mind, body, and spirit interact in illness and in health.

4. Demonstrate a general knowledge of the most commonly encountered disorders of the sensory and nervous systems.

5. Demonstrate a working knowledge of common medical terminology related to the

sensory and nervous systems.

6. Demonstrate ability to apply at least two stress management/wellness skills.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Falvo, D. (2014). Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Chronic Illness and Disability. 5th Edition. Gaithersberg, GA: Aspen Publishers. (Text also used in RHAB 3400).

**GRADING SCALE**

A = 900 – 1000 points

B = 800 – 899 points

C = 700 – 799 points

D = 600 – 699 points

F = Less than 600 points

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

**1. Exam 1 – 100 pts.**

**2. Exam 2 – 100 pts.**

**3. Discussion Boards and Web Exercises – 200 pts.**

Discussion Boards and Web Exercises will be assigned throughout the semester and will cover material from the textbook and other sources. These activities are to assess your comprehension of concepts rather than retention of facts. To receive full credit for discussion board assignments each student is required to post one original repsonse as well as two substantial responses to classmates. **You must have 24 hours between each of your posts.**

**4. Case Studies – 200 pts.**

Four case studies are assigned throughout the duration of the course. Each case study is worth a maximum of 50 points. Students are encouraged to give each case careful consideration and answer as completely and descriptively as possible.

**5. Personal Interview – 200 pts.**

Each student will arrange a personal interview with an individual who has had or is having an experience with a chronic illness, addictive disorder, physical or mental disability that is covered in this course. The individual must be diagnosed with a disability **covered in the course during the semester**. It is hopeful that you will use the information presented on a particular condition to assist you with your interview process. **Please review the entire syllabus and textbook to make sure you meet this requirement**. If you have questions about whether a diagnosis fits these criteria, please contact me. For further information on this assignment, see the **Guidelines for a Personal Interview with a Person with a Disability** located in the assignment resources folder in Blackboard.

**6. Analysis of Film/Video Depictions of Disability – 100 pts.**

Students will view a film or video depicting the life experience of persons and families facing the process of adjusting to a disability, addiction, or chronic illness. The film or video will be selected by the student. The Guidelines for Film Analysis Report document summarizes what should be covered in the Film Analysis Report and provides a list of some recommended film selections. You can also see [**http://www.disabilityfilms.co.uk**](http://www.disabilityfilms.co.uk)for an extensive list of films involving disability. Many mainstream or independent films are available that address issues of disability, and many are available through the University Media Library, your local library, or services such as Netflix. **Note**: YouTube clips are not sufficient to provide the depth of material necessary for satisfactory completion of this exercise.

**7. Final Exam – 100 pts.**

The final exam is comprehensive and will consist of multiple choice, matching and T/F questions.

**INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

**NOTE**: Because clear and understandable written communication is an essential skill of all helping professionals, all papers and reports submitted in this course must be done on word processor and be thoroughly proofread by the student for clarity and organization of content, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. **All written material should have a title page, be written in 12 inch font (only), with 1 inch margins around the paper. Any references used, should be in APA 6th edition format.** Poorly written papers will not be graded or may be returned for revision before being given a grade. Papers returned for such revision will be treated as late papers. ***An APA formatted, sample title page is available in the Course Overview and Syllabus folder, please follow this format for your Personal Interview and Film Review/Analysis papers.***

**Incomplete Grade**: Students are expected to complete the course within the session time frame. A grade of incomplete will only be given in very special circumstances, and only if 75% of the course has been completed, and with specific requirements to be fulfilled by the end of the following semester. If you fail to complete the course requirements by the due date, you will receive a grade of “F”. Grades of incomplete should be considered as an absolute last resort and are not appropriate for cases of procrastination or poor time management.

**Late Work:** Late work will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion only with accompanying verifiable medical or other emergency documentation.

**Academic Freedom**: The academic climate is based on a concept of free and open discussion and exploration of ideas. This freedom to explore carries with it an equally important responsibility to act with integrity in all aspects of the course.

**Academic Integrity**: Students are expected to follow appropriate guidelines for academic performance by doing their own work and by crediting material from other authors and sources adequately. Cheating or misrepresenting the work of others as your own will result at a minimum in a failing grade in the course. You are encouraged to become familiar with the information posted by the University Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Student Handbook located online at: [**http://www.unt.edu/student/**](http://www.unt.edu/student/). The policies regarding student conduct and academic dishonesty posted at this location apply to this class.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The **Department of Disability, Addiction and Rehabilitation** is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the department will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline.

Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at [**www.unt.edu/oda**](file:///C:\Users\PACSRSWA\Downloads\www.unt.edu\oda), and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.