

**ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Course Syllabus, Fall, 2023 (0625)**  
**HUS 3370: Issues in Mental Health, Section 3422**

**Semester Dates: August 14 – December 7, 2023**

**Instructor Contact Information**

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**Course Information**

**Requisites:** (Prerequisite HSA 4184 with a minimum grade of C and Admission to Health Services Administration (Bachelor of Applied Science) (HSA-BAS)) Or ( Prerequisite DEH 3813 with a minimum grade of C and Admission to Dental Hygiene (Bachelor of Applied Science) (DENH-BAS)) Or (Admission to Human Services (Bachelor of Science) (HUMSVC-BS)) Or ( Admission to Applied Mental Health (Advanced Technical Certificate with Financial Aid Eligibility) (AMH-ATC))

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Modality:** Online

**Course Description:** This course will examine the concepts of mental health and mental disorders from a variety of perspectives within a social context. Students will explore the incidence and prevalence of mental illnesses in the U.S., the social consequences of mental illness, such as stigma, marginalization, and isolation, barriers to care, and strategies for treatment and resolution of mental health issues and illnesses. Students will examine the role of social factors in the etiology and treatment of issues intertwined with mental health.

**Learning Outcomes and Objectives:**

1. The student will identify multiple perspectives of mental health and mental illness by:
  - a. explaining the continuum of mental health.
  - b. explaining characteristics of mental wellness or positive mental health.
  - c. differentiating between mental health, mental illness, and mental disorders.
  - d. outlining selected mental health illnesses and disorders and their characteristics.
2. The student will analyze mental health in a broad social context by:
  - a. exploring the complex interrelationship of mental health conditions and a range of social issues such as homelessness, incarceration, domestic violence, poverty, violence, unemployment, sexual orientation issues, substance abuse, crime, natural disasters and other traumatic events, or marginalization.
  - b. explaining the interaction of biological, psychological, social, cultural and environmental factors in the mental health of the population
  - c. identifying potential risk factors and warning signs of various mental health problems.
3. The student will assess the mental health needs of diverse segments of the population by:
  - a. identifying the incidence and prevalence of mental health issues and disorders among the general population and within specific subgroups.

- b. discussing the specific psychosocial stressors that contribute to mental health issues in vulnerable segments of the population.
  - c. identifying barriers that limit access to services and treatment for individuals with mental health issues.
  - d. identifying protective factors that help support mental wellness in the community.
4. The student will analyze the implications of stigma and stereotypes in relation to mental health by:
- a. identifying common misconceptions, stereotypes and labels related to mental illness in our society.
  - b. articulating the role and impact of stigma in the treatment of mentally ill individuals in our society.
  - c. evaluating how media portrayals of mental illness influence societal attitudes and understanding of mental illness.
  - d. explaining how stigma marginalizes and creates barriers that discourage individuals with mental health issues from seeking help.
5. The student will explore resources related to mental health issues in the community by:
- a. discussing available mental health professionals, peers, and social resources in the community
  - b. identifying major advocacy groups providing mental health services at the local, state, and national level.
  - c. identifying gaps in the services continuum for individuals with mental health issues.
  - d. describing self-help resources focusing on mental health issues.

### **Important Dates**

Refer to SPC's Academic Calendar page for all important dates at <https://www.spcollege.edu/academic-calendar>. The following dates apply to this course: Drop Date is August 18; Withdraw date is October 17; No work is expected over Thanksgiving Break (November 19-25).

### **Required Textbook and Other Resources**

Scheid, T. L. & Wright, E. R. (Eds.). (2017). *A handbook for the study of mental health: Social contexts, theories, and systems/3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.* Cambridge University Press.

### **Criteria Performance Assessment and Grading**

**Quizzes (200 points):** Students are required to complete a total of 20 quizzes (10 points each) based on assigned readings. Two attempts are permitted for each quiz, with the grade based on the higher of the two scores.

**Discussion Post Questions (DQ) (500 points):** Students are required to complete a total of 10 Discussion Posts (50 points each). Each post assignment consists of two parts: First, students will respond to the assigned prompt, reflecting a critical understanding and application of concepts covered in the reading. As general guidance, this first part of DP should fall within the range of 300 to 400 words. For the second part of the DQ assignment, students will make a substantive reply to another student's DQ.

**Lectures Attendance (100 points):** Students are required to attend 5 Zoom-facilitated lectures (20 points each). Dates and times for these lectures will vary, understanding this is a fully online course, students are not required to be present for the lecture in real-time. A recording of the lecture will be provided and will be available for at least one week.

**Critical Film Analysis (100 points):** Students are required to complete two critical film essays (50 points each). Each essay should be near or about 500 words. Students need to arrange on their own to view the film; titles should be accessible through such delivery services as Amazon Prime, Netflix, Spectrum, etc. Please reach out to your instructor if unable to locate the title or have specific concerns over any adult themes (i.e., nudity, language, etc.) found in the film.

**Research Paper (100 points):** Students will write a research paper based on an assigned topic. The paper should be near or about 2,000 words, supported with outside references, and adopt APA format when citing references.

**Extra Credit (points, TBA):** There will be some limited opportunities to earn extra credit.

The student's final grade in this course is determined by accumulated points earned over the semester as follows:

- A = 900 - 1000 points (90 - 100%)
- B = 800 - 899 points (80 - 89.9%)
- C = 700 - 799 points (70 - 79.9%)
- D = 600 - 699 points (60 - 69.9%)
- F = 0 - 599 points (0 - 59.9%)

### **Availability of Course Content**

All modules are open. Students are permitted to work ahead but should wait for feedback before advancing to the next module.

### **Course Attendance**

The instructor will verify that students are in attendance once each week throughout the semester. Students classified as "No Show" for both of the first two weeks will be administratively withdrawn. Immediately following the 60 percent point in the term, the instructor will verify which students are actively participating.

Active participation is defined as completing the weekly attendance activity or activities assigned each week. The attendance activity or activities may be an online discussion, written assignment, quiz, and/or test. If you do not complete the attendance activity or activities by the weekly due date, you will be counted as absent. Two or more consecutive absences may result in inactive participation. Students classified with inactive participation may be administratively withdrawn with a "WF."

If illness or other emergencies prevent your active participation, please notify the instructor immediately to determine an academic plan.

Students will be able to withdraw themselves at any time during the semester. However, requests submitted after the 60 percent deadline will result in a "WF." Students and the instructor will automatically receive an email notification to SPC email whenever a withdrawal occurs.

Excused absences that have been communicated with the instructor and documented accordingly will not count against you. Frequent communication with the instructor is highly recommended.

For additional information, please view the college-wide attendance policy in the [Syllabus Addendum](#).

### **Activity Schedule**

**Key:** Assigned Reading (AR); Quiz (Q); Discussion Posts (DP); Research Paper (RP); Lecture Attendance (L); Critical Film Analysis (CFA)

### **Assigned Readings from *A Handbook for the Study of Mental Health***

Chapter 1. An Overview of Sociological Perspectives on the Definitions, Causes, and Responses to Mental Health and Illness / Allan V. Horwitz

Chapter 2. The Measurement of Mental Disorder / Jerome C. Wakefield and Mark F. Schmitz

Chapter 3. Defining Mental Disorders: Sociological Investigations into the Classification of Mental Disorders / Owen Whooley

Chapter 4: The Dual Continua Model: The Foundation of the Sociology of Mental Health and Mental Illness/ Corey L. M. Keyes

Chapter 6. Biological Approaches to Psychiatric Disorders: A Sociological Approach / Sharon Schwartz and Cheryl Corcoran

Chapter 7: Sociological Approaches to Mental Illness/Thoits

Chapter 9. Studying Stress in the Twenty-First-Century: An Update of Stress Concepts and Research / Blair Wheaton and Shirin Montazer

Chapter 10. Understanding the Connection between Social Support and Mental Health / Robyn Lewis Brown and Gabriele Ciciurkaite

Chapter 11. Work and Unemployment as Stressors / Laura Limonic and Mary Clare Lennon

Chapter 12. Socioeconomic Stratification and Mental Disorder / William W. Eaton and Carles Muntaner

Chapter 13. Gender and Mental Health / Sarah Rosenfield, Kelly Kato, and Dena Smith

Chapter 14. Race and Mental Health / David R. Williams, Manuela Costa, and Jacinta P. Leavell

Chapter 16. Marital Status and Mental Health / Kristi Williams, Adrienne Frech, and Daniel L. Carlson

Chapter 17. Well-Being across the Life Course / John Mirowsky and Catherine E. Ross

Chapter 19. Labeling and Stigma / Bruce G. Link and Jo C. Phelan

Chapter 20. The Context and Dynamic Social Processes Underlying Mental Health Treatment: Classic and Contemporary Approaches to Understanding Individuals' Responses to Illness in Light of the Affordable Care Act / Bernice A. Pescosolido and Carol A. Boyer

Chapter 21. Community Mental Health Care Organizations / Kerry Dobransky

Chapter 22. Integrating Service Delivery Systems for Persons with Severe Mental Illness / Gary S. Cuddeback and Joseph P. Morrissey

Chapter 24. Cultural Diversity and Mental Health Treatment / Bongki Woo, Emily Walton, and David T. Takeuchi

Chapter 25. Preventing Adolescent Suicidal Behavior: Integrating Sociology and Public Health / Alexander Crosby and Leigh Willis -

<b>Week of</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>N</b>
August 14	R-chap 1 & 2		Q1-chap 1			L1	Q2-chap 2
August 21	R-chap 3		Q3-chap 3				DP1
August 28	R-chap 5		Q4-chap 4				DP2
September 4	R-chap 6 & 8		Q5-chap 6				Q6-Chap 7
September 11	R-chap 9		Q7-chap 9	L2			DP3
September 18	R-chap 10		Q8-chap 10				DP4
September 25	R-chap 11	L3	Q9-chap 11				DP5
October 2	R-chap 12		Q10-chap 12				CFA1
October 9	R-chap 13 & 14		Q11-chap 13				Q12-chap 14
October 16	R-chap 16		Q13-chap 16			L4	DP6
October 23	R-chap 17		Q14-chap 17				DP7
October 30	R-chap 19 & 20		Q15-chap 19				Q16-chap 20
November 6	R-chap 21		Q17-chap 21				DP8
November 13		L5					CFA2
November 20	R-chap 22						Q18-chap 22 DP9
November 27	R-chap 24		Q19-chap 24			RP	DP 10
December 4	R-chap 25 & 28		Q20-Chap 25				