



**COURSE TITLE/SECTION:** SOCW 7309/23978: Critical Issues in Mental Health Policy

**TIME:** Wednesdays, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, **TBD**

**FACULTY:** Paul R. Raffoul, Ph.D. & William B. Schnapp, Ph.D.      **OFFICE HOURS:** as posted

**E-mail:** [praffoul@uh.edu](mailto:praffoul@uh.edu)  
wbschnapp@gmail.com

**Phone:** 713-743-8101  
**Phone:** 713-755-4023

**Fax:** 713-743-3267

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**I. Course**

**A. Catalog Description**

Cr. 3. (3-0).Completion of the foundation curriculum.

**B. Purpose**

This course is an analysis of the social, cultural and political issues that shape and define mental health, mental illness, substance abuse/public mental health policy. Topics include administrative and national policies which define public mental health service delivery, with particular emphasis on Texas.

**II. Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

1. delineate the role that stigma plays in influencing public opinion, self perception, service delivery and public mental health policy;
2. discuss the influence of culture, race, gender, age and socioeconomic status in shaping public mental health policy;
3. delineate the history of public mental health policy and practice concerning persons with mental illness;
4. delineate the evidence-based research of psychiatric epidemiology and mental health need assessments and their influence on public mental health policy;
5. discuss the economics of mental illness, including the issues of finance, managed care, privatization, and indigency;
6. delineate the forensics of mental illnesses including: the rights of persons with severe and persistent mental illness and major court rulings that have shaped service delivery;
7. discuss the role of advocacy and the importance of social justice in social work practice.

### III. Course Content

This course will include the topical (content) areas identified on the attached course outline and schedule.

### IV. Course Structure/Attendance Policy\*

This course differs substantially from traditionally faculty-dominated lecture-driven courses. The success of this type of learning is in direct proportion to the degree of responsibility each learner (individually and collectively) takes for the entire didactic process--therefore, attendance\* and active participation are very important. All learners are expected to engage in independent mental health library research and to contribute their findings in class.

**\*Attendance Policy** - Learners are allowed two excused absences for illness, unavoidable travel, or other important reason. Each additional absence shall result in a 2% per absence reduction in a learner's final grade. Four or more absences (excused or unexcused) shall be cause for a learner being dropped from the course. Coming to class more than 10 minutes after class has started will be counted as an absence.

### V. Textbooks

#### 1. Required:

**No textbook available; all readings will be assigned in Blackboard;**

**Required subscription to Hogg Foundation Newsletter at:**

<http://www.hogg.utexas.edu/> from which items reviewed will be for weekly class discussion.

#### 2. Recommended

Baker, A. & Velleman, R. (Editors), (2007). Clinical handbook of co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol problems. London: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

Cockerham, William C. (2006). Sociology of mental disorder, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (paperback). Upper Saddle River, N.J. Pearson-Prentice Hall, ISBN-0-13-192853-8

Mechanic, David. (2008). Mental health and social policy: Beyond managed care, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (paperback), NY: Pearson, ISBN-13:978-0-205-

54593-3.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2002, November). Report to Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Disorders and Mental Disorders. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**Available at no charge from:**

<http://www.samhsa.gov/reports/congress2002/index.html>].

World Health Organization, Mental Health Policy and Service Guidance Package at:

[http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/policy/en/policy\\_plans\\_revision.pdf](http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/en/policy_plans_revision.pdf)

Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, Chapters 1, 2 & 6, available at: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/home.html>.

Supplementary report at:

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/cre/execsummary-1.html>

## **VI Course Requirements**

### **A. Assignments**

- (1) Weekly quizzes on assigned readings will be graded both individually and collectively (in team learning groups) for grading.
- (2) A final examination will be given in-class on class discussion and required reading content.

## **VII. Evaluation and Grading**

The following standard grading scale has been adopted for all courses taught in the college.

A =	96-100% of the points	C+ =	76-79.9%
A- =	92-95.9%	C =	72-75.9%
B+=	88-91.9%	C- =	68-71.9%
B =	84-87.9%	D =	64-67.9%
B- =	80-83.9%	F =	Below 64%

Your final grade will be based on:

Reading Quizzes	35%
Final examination	35%
Attendance/participation*	30%

Please refer to your Graduate and Professional Studies catalogue for the

University policy regarding a grade of “incomplete.”

\*Class participation will include team learning (group) process to be discussed in class.

### **VIII. Policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism**

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one’s own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an “I” for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number(s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.

Academic dishonesty includes using any other person’s work and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) using graded papers from students who have previously taken this course as the basis for your work. It also includes, but is not limited to submitting the same paper to more than one class. If you have any specific questions about plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please raise these questions in class or make an appointment to see instructor. This statement is consistent with the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty that can be found in your UH Student Handbook.

### **IX. Consultation**

Dr. Paul Raffoul ([praffoul@uh.edu](mailto:praffoul@uh.edu)) is available in his office (201SW) on T-W-Th or by calling (713) 743-8101. To contact Dr. William B. Schnapp please call his office at 713) 755-4023 or email him at: [wbschnapp@gmail.com](mailto:wbschnapp@gmail.com).

Addendum: Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston faculty will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713-743-5400 for more assistance.

**SOCW 7309: Critical Issues in Mental Health Policy**  
**PRELIMINARY**  
**Course Outline and Reading Assignments**

Date Class

- 1/16 1. Introduction to Course, expectations and assignments. What do you already know?? Stigma Film "In Their Shoes" (1998).
- 1/23 2. Understanding mental health and mental illness. Tx Health and Human Services System: Organization and Services  
Cockerham, chs. 2, 3
- 1/30 3. Stigma, Age, and Gender  
Surgeon General's Report pages 6-9.  
Cockerham, ch. 7
- 2/6 4. Ethnicity and Class  
Cockerham, chs. 6 & 9  
Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity: A Supplement to Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General available at:  
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/cre/execsummary-1.html>
- 2/13 5. Substance Abuse History and Public Policy I and II  
Reading: The Science of Addiction (Ch 3, p15-20)  
Mosher & Akins, ch 7 (Blackboard)
- 2/20 6. Mental Health Needs Assessment  
MHNC article  
Houston Endowment (Deliverable #1)
- 2/27 7. Mental Health/Substance Abuse Programs and Service Delivery  
Two articles by Schnapp  
Jail Diversion: Criminal Justice and mental health services
- 3/6 8. Forensic Issues  
Mechanic, Ch 12  
Legal Issues- Schnapp paper
- 3/13/12 **SPRING BREAK**
- 3/20 9. Managed Care and Rationing Policies  
Houston Endowment (Deliverable #2)

- 3/27 10. Funding Report: Implications for Practice  
Houston Endowment (Deliverable #3)
- 4/3 11. Entitlement Dilemmas  
Houston Endowment (Deliverable #4)
- 4/10 12. Integrated Behavioral Health and Medicine  
Houston Endowment (Deliverable #5)
- 4/17 13. Exam in-class
- 4/24 14. Affordable Care Act:Health Care Reform

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\*Torrey, E. F. (1988). *Nowhere to go: The tragic odyssey of the homeless mentally ill*. New York: Harper & Row.

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## Useful Websites

AHRQ: The Academy Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care  
<http://integrationacademy.ahrq.gov/>

ARHQ: Patient Centered Medical Home Resource Center  
[www.pcmh.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt/community/pcmh\\_\\_home/1483](http://www.pcmh.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt/community/pcmh__home/1483)

California Integrated Behavioral Health Project  
<http://ibhp.org/index.php?section=pages&cid=152>

The Commonwealth Fund  
<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>

CSWE PPACA of 2010: A Guide for Social Workers  
<http://www.cswe.org/File.aspx?id=48334>

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: *Health Reform Source*  
<http://healthreform.kff.org/>

Integrated Care Resource Center (CMS)

<http://www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com/Default.aspx>

Massachusetts Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Reform

<http://bluecrossmafoundation.org/Health-Reform/Lessons.aspx>

National Standards on Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)

<http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=15>

The New York Times: Healthcare Reform

[http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/health/diseasesconditionsandhealthtopics/health\\_insurance\\_and\\_managed\\_care/health\\_care\\_reform/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/health/diseasesconditionsandhealthtopics/health_insurance_and_managed_care/health_care_reform/index.html)

Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative

[www.pcpcc.net/](http://www.pcpcc.net/) 14

PBS Unnatural Causes

[http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/explore\\_learn.htm](http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/explore_learn.htm)

Robert Wood Johnson: Health Policy Connection

<http://www.rwjf.org/healthpolicy/coverage/index.jsp>

SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions

<http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/>

The University of Washington AIMS Center

<http://uwaims.org/index.html>

CDC: The State of Mental Health and Aging in America

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/MAHA/MahaHome.aspx>

UCLA Health Policy Institutes: Health Disparities

<http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/SearchResults.aspx?keywords=Health+disparities+mental+health&page=1>