MENTAL HEALTH LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE (TENTATIVE)

Tuesdays 6 pm

Instructor: Ann-Marie O'Brien MSW RSW

Office: ROMHC
1145 Carling Ave
Ottawa K1Z 7K4
Office Hours: by appointment

Telephone: 722-6521 ext 6879
E-mail: ann-marie.obrien@theroyal.ca

Course Description:

The first half of this course will focus on historical developments, legislative framework, policy, and service structure of mental health system. The second half of the course will focus on practice issues related to mental health services. Major mental illnesses such as mood disorders and schizophrenia will be presented and discussed from several perspectives including the perspective of people who have lived experience of these disorders. The related issues include the interface between mental health and sexual abuse, addiction, and homelessness. This will be accomplished by lectures, assigned readings, speakers, classroom discussion, papers and presentations.

By the end of this course students will have:

a. An understanding of what is meant by mental health, mental illness and recovery;
b. A historical perspective with which to understand the current state of mental health policy;
c. Knowledge of the first mental health strategy for Canada
d. An understanding of the legal context of mental health policy;
e. Knowledge of the major classifications of mental disorders, current treatment practices, and lived experience of mental health service users.
f. Developed skills in social work assessments in mental health context
Text Books :

**Mental Health Social Work Practice in Canada.** Edited by Cheryl Regehr and Graham Glancy. Oxford University Press: Toronto

**Social Perspectives in Mental Health.** Edited by Jerry Tew, Jessica Kingsley Publishers: London

**Course Outline:**

**WEEK 1- January 8**

Introduction

We will discuss the course outline and course requirements. We will start to look at theoretical perspectives about and definitions of mental health and mental illness.

**WEEK 2- January 15**

**Mental Health Policy**

Guest speaker: Howard Chodos- Mental Health Commission of Canada will discuss the formation of the Mental Health Commission and the new Mental Health Strategy for Canada.

**Required Readings:**

Text : Chapter 2 (Regehr and Glancy) : Chapter 1 and 2 (Tew)

[www.mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca)

First Assignment : Students will divide themselves into 6 working groups. Each group will be assigned one strategic direction from the Mental Health Strategy for Canada. The group will develop a poster presentation and an oral presentation of 45 minutes. Posters will be developed using ppt templates, and consist of no more than 12 slides. The presentation will: 1) describe the problem that the strategy will address 2) summarize the strategy 3) provide suggestions on how social workers may contribute to the success of the strategy.

Evaluation : Students will present to the class February 12 and 26th. Students will provide comments to each other on their presentations. The instructor will assign a grade worth 45% of the final mark.
WEEK 3 - January 22: Mental Health Law

Mental health practice in Ontario is highly regulated. Four different statutes speak to the provision of mental health services. Tonight’s class will focus on legislation as it pertains to treatment, hospitalization, and civil rights of mental health service users.

Required Readings:

Text: chapter 3 (Regehr and Glancy)


WEEK 4 - January 29: Mental Health Recovery

Guest speaker:
A member of the Client Empowerment Council at The Royal and a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) facilitator will discuss mental health, mental illness and recovery.
The instructor and guest will provide an introduction to WRAP group experience for the class.

Required Readings:
Text: chapters 3 and 4 (Tew)

Mary Ellen Copeland www.copelandcentre.com

Lurie S (2012) And now for something completely different…Self Management Canadian journal of Psychiatry vol.57,No4, pp201-202

WEEK 5 – February 5  Trauma and Trauma Informed Care

The first half of tonight’s class will focus on trauma and trauma informed care. The second half of tonight’s class we will have a guest speaker to present on women’s experiences of homelessness.

Guest speaker:
Dr. Susan Farrell PhD  Professor of Psychology at the University of Ottawa; Clinical Director, The Royal’s Community Mental Health Program

Required Readings:


www.coalescing-vc.org “Coalescing on Women and Substance Use: Trauma Informed Online Tool “

Text chapter 6  (Regehr and Glancy)

WEEK 6- February 12

Class presentations
Mental Health Strategy for Canada: strategic directions 1, 2 and 3

WEEK 7 of Feb. 19, Reading Week NO CLASS

WEEK 8- Feb. 26 :

Class presentations
Mental Health Strategy for Canada: strategic directions 4,5 and 6

WEEK 9- March 5:  Schizophrenia

Guest Speakers :

1) Dr. Tabitha Roger MD. Dr. Rogers is a psychiatrist, and former social worker. She will present on the medical diagnosis of schizophrenia, and current best practices for treatment interventions.
2) A speaker with the ‘Open the Doors’ initiative will speak on the lived experience of schizophrenia and recovery.

Required Reading:
Text Chapter 7 (Regehr and Glancy)

WEEK 10  March 12: Mood Disorders

The first half of the class will discuss mood disorders, and current best practices in treatment.

Guest Speaker:
A member of the Client Empowerment Council at The Royal will speak on his experience of mental illness and recovery.

Required Readings:
Text chapter 8 (Regehr and Glancy)

WEEK 11- March 19: Social Work Assessments in Mental Health

Required Readings:
Chapter 4 (Regehr and Glancy)

Second Assignment: Login to www.copmi.net.au (children of parents with mental illness)
Under ‘online learning modules’ choose ‘Keeping Families and Children in Mind’. Choose module 1 – Meet the Tassone family; listen to Frank’s story, and read the case notes. Using the social work assessment template in chapter 4 (Regehr and Glancy) complete a social work assessment of ‘Frank’. You will benefit from listening to the other family member’s stories. Choose module 2 –Introducing the Hamilton Family; listen to Julie’s story, and read the case notes. Using the social work assessment template in chapter 4 (Regehr and Glancy) complete a social work assessment of ‘Julie’.

Assignment is due April 2\textsuperscript{nd} and worth 45% of the final grade.

WEEK 12- March 26: Substance Use and Concurrent Disorders

Guest Speaker: Social Worker, Dianne Blackburn will present on her work in the substance use a concurrent disorder program at The Royal.
Required Readings:
Text chapter 5 (Regehr and Glancy)