

**SYLLABUS**  
**GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE**  
***Youth Chemical Dependency Assessment and Counseling***  
**ALSA 212**  
**2 CREDITS**  
**2002-2005**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Prerequisite: ALSA 110.** The course will focus youth chemical dependency counseling and assessment. At risk youth will be a particular focus along with family issues, assessment, and treatment planning. The Washington State Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) requires that chemical dependency counselors take a course in this area.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

The skills that students will learn in this course are essential for the chemical dependency counselor. Dealing with youth in chemical dependency treatment is becoming more common. Hence, it is very important that students demonstrate the following outcomes at the conclusion of the course:

**INTENDED COURSE OUTCOMES & DESIRED ABILITIES**

<b>Intended Course Outcome</b>	<b>Desired Student Ability</b>
Understand youth chemical dependency treatment concepts.	Literacy, Using Resources, Critical Thinking, Disciplinary learning
Understand youth chemical dependency assessment.	Disciplinary learning, Social & Personal responsibility
Understand the legal and ethical ramifications of youth chemical dependency treatment.	Disciplinary learning, Critical Thinking
Understand at risk behavior.	Disciplinary learning, Social & Personal responsibility
Understand suicide risk in youth treatment.	Critical Thinking
Understand how to work with youth and their parent figures.	Disciplinary learning, Social & Personal responsibility

**REQUIRED TEXT**

McWhirter, T.J., McWhirter, B.T., & McWhirter, E.H. (1998). *At Risk Youth: A Comprehensive Response*, Second Edition.

## **SUGGESTED TEXT**

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fourth Edition (see library)

## **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

Course material will be presented in a lecture/discussion format. Students will be expected to participate fully in class exercises and activities. If you need time apart from class for extra help or any other accommodations, please contact the instructor or Disabled Student Services to arrange something.

## **Things to Keep in Mind**

1. Treat others with respect and dignity.
2. APA style refers **specifically** to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fourth Edition.
3. Keep self-disclosure in moderation.
4. Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Vice President for Student Services.
5. Review the Grays Harbor College Student handbook.
6. Students get only get as much out of a course as they put into it.
7. Lastly, this course takes place in a college classroom; hence, discussions must remain focussed on academic matters.
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## **METHODS OF EVALUATION -- GRADING**

1. Attendance will be worth 12 points (one point for each class period).
2. There will be a final paper (3-6 pages APA style) worth 50 points.
3. There will be a variable amount of announced and unannounced quizzes and in class exercises for a total of 38 points.

There are 100 points possible for the course. The following is the grading scale as it correlates with the percentage of points required to warrant a specific grade.

A	95 to 100 %
A-	94 to 90 %
B+	89 to 87 %
B	86 to 83 %
B-	82 to 80 %
C+	79 to 77 %
C	76 to 73 %
C-	72 to 70 %
D+	69 to 67 %
D	66 to 60 %
F	Below 60 %

## COURSE ORGANIZATION

Week 1:	Syllabus, Introduction Exercise, Text, APA Style
Week 2:	1. An Introduction to At-Risk Issues: The Tree
Week 3:	2. Environmental / Societal Factors that Contribute to Risk; 3. Family Problems of At-Risk Children and Youth
Week 4:	4. School Issues that Relate to At-Risk Children and Youth; 6. School Dropouts; 5. Individual Characteristics of High-Risk and Low-Risk Children and Youth; <b>In class exercise (10 points)</b>
Week 5:	7. Substance Use and Addiction Definitional Difficulties and Assessment / The Scope of the Problem / Some Determinants of Substance Use and Common Characteristics of Users / Consequences of Substance Use / Intervention:
Week 6:	7. Substance Use and Addiction - Prevention and Treatment Strategies; <b>In class exercise (10 points)</b>
Week 7:	8. Teenage Pregnancy and Risky Sexual Behavior; 9. Delinquency and Problems of Violence
Week 8:	11. A Prevention/Early Intervention/Treatment Framework and Other Environmental Considerations; 14. Family Interventions
Week 9:	10. Youth Suicide
Week 10:	12. Core Components of Programs for Prevention and Early Intervention
Week 11:	16. Legal Issues; <b>Turn in Final Paper</b>