

SOCIAL WORK

MASTER PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WORK WITH SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT DISEASES

Degree: Master

Professional qualification: Master in Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases

Duration of studies: 1 academic year (two semesters)

Mode of education: part-time

Admission requirements: completed educational and qualification degree of "Bachelor" or "Master" in a field 3.4. Social activities and 3.2. Psychology, with an average grade of the diploma for completed higher education not lower than “good”

Professional field 3.4 Social activities in the area of higher education 3.4 Social, economic and legal sciences at the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” is accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency on 16.07.2018 for a 6-year period on the grounds of an overall assessment of 9.26 (nine, point twenty-six).

The program expands the fundamental, broad-based and specialized training in social activities acquired in the bachelor's degree. Graduates will have a wide interdisciplinary training, combining knowledge, skills and competencies in the field of social activities following the latest trends in this field on a European and global scale.

The program provides for the integration of knowledge and skills and the application of relevant competencies in practice with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations.

The main purpose of this type of social activity is to support individuals, families and groups suffering or related to those suffering from socially significant diseases. The variety of this type of supportive work requires theoretical knowledge and practical skills for immediate social protection and prevention of patients and their relatives.

Areas of professional realization: In the process of his training and research, the Master of Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases is prepared to work as a:

- Manager.
- Administrative officer.
- Analytical specialist in social activities.
- Lecturer, researchers, scientists.
- At any structure within the social welfare system.
- At any system in wherein a regulated position requiring the implementation of such activities exists, etc.

Successful graduates from the Master's Degree in Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases can continue their studies in the country and abroad in other Master's Degree programs and Doctor's Degree programs.

1. In order to obtain a Master's Degree in Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases, graduates must demonstrate the following knowledge:

1.1. A wide range of specialized knowledge regarding the causes, distribution, prevention and rehabilitation of socially significant diseases.

- 1.2. Knowledge for effective and innovative individual and community approaches to working with people with socially significant diseases, their relatives and the community as a whole.
- 1.3. Legislation and regulations, and the importance of intersectoral partnership in the practice of socially significant diseases.
- 1.4. Critical awareness of the relationship and interaction between health and social aspects of socially significant diseases.
- 1.5. The role and application of modern information and communication technologies in the planning, implementation, monitoring and management of social activities.
- 1.6. The importance of critical thinking and self-reflection in determining the plans for personal educational and qualification improvement.

2. Graduates of the Master's Degree in Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases should have skills for:

- 2.1. Using a wide range of modern methods and approaches that have proven effective in working with individuals, families, groups and communities.
- 2.2. Analysis, formulation and advocacy in the field of legislation in the field of protection and support of persons with socially significant diseases and their relatives.
- 2.3. Analysis and account for the impact of inequality, discrimination and social exclusion, as well as the interaction between health and social factors in the prevention and rehabilitation of socially significant diseases.
- 2.4. Solving specific medico-social problems.
- 2.5. Organizing and leading social health projects, management and leadership in conducting medico-social research.
- 2.6. Use of information and communication technologies and techniques for professional communication, data storage and processing, information retrieval, conducting research, analysis and interpretation of data in a statistical context, resource management.
- 2.7. Critical awareness of one's own conduct and practice, and taking responsibility for further and continuous acquisition of knowledge and skills.
- 2.8. Teamwork skills and organizational skills.
- 2.9. Adherence to ethical and professional standards.

3. Upon successful completion of the Master's Degree Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases, qualified specialists must demonstrate competencies to perform the following:

- 3.1. Application of theoretically-based individual and community approaches and methods of work in social practice, critical evaluation and analysis of the evidence for effective practice.
- 3.2. Proactivity in the development of legislation, policies and practices in the field of social activities in socially significant diseases.
- 3.3. Identification, critical thinking, developing and implementing effective strategies, programs and projects to support people with socially significant diseases and their relatives.
- 3.4. Management and control over one's own work in the context of the policies and changing requirements of the organization and the environment.
- 3.5. Oral, written and electronic format of communication with individuals, families and groups.

CURRICULUM

First Semester		Second Semester	
Theoretical Basis of Social Activities	4.0	Social Work in Socially Significant Diseases	4.0
Differential Diagnosis in Social Work	4.0	Team Work. Supervision in Social Work Practice	2.0
Social Support to Groups	4.0	Addictions	3.0
Methodology and Methods of Research in Social Work	4.0	Organization of Interaction Between Health and Social Care Systems	2.0
Ethics in Social Health Activities and Management	3.0	Elective Course from 2 nd Group	2.0
Ethics		Elective Course from 2 nd Group	2.0
Elective Course from 1 st Group	3.0	Group Graduation:	15.0
Elective Course from 1 st Group	3.0	State Theoretical exam or Diploma Thesis Defense	
Practice	5.0		
	Total: 30.0		Total: 30.0
Elective Courses			
First Group		Second Group	
Communication and Communicative Training	3.0	Information Aspects of Social Activities	2.0
Mediation in conflict resolution	3.0	Psychological Defenses and Nonverbal Communication	2.0
Health Promotion	3.0	Social Activities in Extreme Conditions	2.0
Reproductive Behavior and Demographic Policy	3.0	Public-private partnership	2.0
Public Relations	3.0	Labor and Social Rehabilitation	2.0

TOTAL CREDIT: 60

COURSE DESCRIPTION

THEORETICAL BASIS OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

ECTS credits: 4.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 23l+0s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Viktoriya Sotirova, PhD; Chief Assist. Prof. Maria Stoikova, PhD

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Annotation:

“Theoretical Basis of Social Activity” is core discipline of the masters’ class educating on the problems of social activity. The course concentrates on knowledge, which uncovers the “paradigms”, basic concepts, and terms of social activity; as well as the methodological and technological information and goals of this activity. It looks closely at the necessity of development of the issues, methodology, and technology of social activity, mainly social work and social administration – policy and management. The reasons for the formation of social problems and risks are analyzed; as well as the approaches, methods, and means for their resolution.

Contents of the discipline:

The lecture course on “Theoretical Basis of Social Activity” aims to give the students thorough information on the paradigms and problems, methodology, and technology of social activity, to highlight and explain its characteristic elements and on this basis to better describe the different elements and sub-systems of the social system for protection and support of individuals, families, and groups.

Emphasis will be put on the issues and methodology of the activity.

The contents of the lectures, its structure, the latest problems, the formulated problematical tasks, aim to create the highest number of possibilities to stimulate the independent academic work of students.

Technology of education and assessment:

In the lectures and seminars a complex, system-wide, approach is being used to analyze the general and particular of social activity, its components, objects, approaches, principles, methods, means, goals, functions, and tasks. In the students, a methodological and technological attitude towards the essence and contents of social work and administration will be build up.

In the course of study, the students get a current mark from presented theoretical works.

The course end with a written examination – a test – that includes 12 questions from previously handed out summary. The criteria, by which the answers are being assessed, are punctuality, clarity, and precision in the representation of scientific information.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS IN SOCIAL WORK

ECTS credits: 4.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 15l+0s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturers: Chief. Assist. Prof. Yoanna Tzvetanova, PhD

E-mail: ytzvetanova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The knowledge of differential diagnosis in social work is necessary for students because of the essential particularities of their interaction with patients / clients /, persons in social need, marginal groups, and individuals with deviant behavior. The course objective is to provide knowledge of differential diagnosis in social work.

Course content:

Introduction to the specialty. Basic terms and concepts in differential diagnosis. Principles and methods of diagnosis in social work. Theories of social behavior. Social education and social development. Socio-pedagogical aspects of personality. Informal groups and problems of social education.

Etopedia - a branch of social pedagogy. Deviations from normal behavior. Personality traits of adolescents with deviant behavior. Social diagnosis of alcoholism. Social diagnosis of drug addiction. Social diagnosis of AIDS patients. Social diagnostics of persons with physical disabilities.

Social diagnosis of people with mental disabilities. Social diagnostics of Kids in risk. Social diagnosis of women subjected to sexual and physical violence. Social diagnostics of the unemployed. Social diagnostics of social needy people. Social diagnostics of refugees. Social diagnostics of persons imprisoned.

Technology of education and assessment

The course is conducted in the traditionally approved way. In the training classes, examples from the Lecturer's social practice are used. The final exam is in a written form, while considering the semestrial evaluations.

SOCIAL SUPPORT TO GROUPS

ECTS credits: 4.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 15l+7s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Maria Stoykova, PhD

E-mail: m_stoikova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The program of the course "Social Support to Groups" is designed for students in Master's degree in Social Work with Socially Significant Diseases in the professional field of Social Work. The course addresses the group as an object of social support; the methodology and technology of the social support to groups; approaches, methods and techniques of group social support; skills to work in a small group. The aim is to equip students with the relevant knowledge and skills to provide efficient social support to groups.

Content:

Definition and meaning of a group. The group as an object of social support. Approaches to social work with a group. Types of groups in social work. The group as a system of mutual support. Socio-psychological characteristics of the small group. Technology of social support for small groups: objectives, principles, rules. Technological steps in the group work. Main methods and techniques for group work. Skills and competence of the social worker to provide efficient group social support.

Organization of instruction and assessment:

The teaching course is conducted by using traditional and contemporary methods of teaching and learning: lecture, multimedia presentation, discussion, learning by doing, etc. Instructor's own research and practical experience is also used in the process of teaching. The seminars are aimed at implementing particular methods and techniques in a practical context alone or with the support of the instructor. The exam is in written.

METHODOLOGY AND METHODS OF RESEARCH IN SOCIAL WORK

ECTS credits: 4.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 15l+8s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Medico-social Sciences Department

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sport

Lecturer: Prof. Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova, PhD

E-mail: v_stancheva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The main goal is to give students the knowledge and skills related to the methodological framework for constructing research in the field of social work; common qualitative and quantitative methods used in the sphere of social work research and evidence-based practice; common statistical methods for information processing; the structure of a research and preparation of a research paper, etc.

Content:

Research and Social Work. Concepts about Research-Informed Teaching & Evidence - Based Practice in Social Work; How to Proceed with a Research? Problem Formulation, Research Elements, Research Instruments; Research Designs: Pilot Studies, Experimental Designs; Research Designs: Single-Case Evaluation Designs, Program Evaluation; Sampling and Survey Research Methods; Secondary, Content, Historical & Comparative Analyses; Qualitative Methods for Social Work Research: Principles and Data Analysis; Quantitative Data Analysis

Organization of instruction and assessment:

The teaching course is implemented by using traditional and contemporary methods of teaching and learning: lecture, multimedia presentation, discussion on research articles, learning by doing, etc. Own research and practical experience of the trainer are also used in the process of teaching. Seminars aim at applying specific research methods and techniques in practical context in assisted or independent way. Assessment is in written.

ETHICS IN SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES AND MANAGEMENT ETHICS

ECTS credits: 3.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Prof. Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova, PhD, MD

E-mail: v_stancheva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The lecture course covers fundamental aspects of medical ethics, deontology, and management ethics. The training aims to form: general moral culture, motivation for integration of ethical principles in social practice; building practical skills for professional communication, following the current moral, legal norms, and professional codes in various ethical and deontological situations in social work.

It is expected that through the training opportunities for assessment and self-assessment, models of relationships, understanding of the patient's rights, as well as the need for confidentiality in the exercise of professional activity will be formed; to acquire knowledge about the medical-deontological problems in the modern social practice, legal and moral norms, duty and responsibility in case of professional offenses, ethical-deontological problems at the beginning and the end of life.

Content of the course:

Introduction to medical ethics - a brief historical overview. Theories and basic principles of medical ethics. Charity in social practice. Codes of ethics in medical practice - a general characteristic. Goals and principles - A brief historical overview. Modern codes of ethics. Patient rights. Patient organizations. Moral and ethical problems in terminal conditions. Ethical aspects of euthanasia and assisted suicide - a conceptual review. Types of euthanasia. Historical overview and current state of legalization of euthanasia.

Course organization and assessment:

The lecture course is conducted by using traditional and interactive methods, as well as video presentations. During the classes, the lecturer provides students with examples from the practice. During the seminars, various case studies, video analysis and situational tasks will be discussed. The seminars are held in the form of semi-structured discussions with the modeling role of the lecturer on the topics from the lecture course.

The independent students' preparation envisages: research and analysis of literature sources, preparation of the annotated bibliography on topics from the lecture course; essays; developing topics with theoretical and practical orientation on topics from the lecture course.

The final exam is written. It includes two theoretical questions from the lecture course. The final grade is formed by the results of the assessment of the tasks for extracurricular activities and the presence of lectures and seminars and the assessment of the exam.

SOCIAL WORK IN SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT DISEASES

ECTS credits: 4.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total hours: 15l+8s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Rosen Kalpachki, PhD

E-mail: rosen_kalpachki@swu.bg

Annotation:

The "Social Work with Social Significant Diseases" scholar program has been prepared in accordance with the specifics of this subject, taught at the Faculty of "Social Health, Healthcare and Sports" within the "Neofit Rilski" South-West University of Blagoevgrad. The master students' attention will be drawn towards the essence of these diseases, their characteristics and the risk factors for their occurrence. Subjects such as health's social factors, the current concepts of personal well-being, social health and its indicators will also be discussed.

Apart from touching on the essence and the risk factors for social-significant diseases, that can be referred to as a creation of the present-day lifestyle, this course also aims to emphasize on the great significance of personal and social prophylaxis. The purpose of the latter is to support people suffering from such illnesses, as well as whole families and groups of them, or the ones closely related to them. Some examples for such a disease are arterial hypertension, diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, ischemic heart disease, brain vessel disease, trauma caused by domestic violence, alcoholism, depression, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, ulcer disease, all types of hepatitis, different kinds of dependence, etc.

Course tasks:

- Clarifying the characteristics of these illnesses, namely cardiovascular disease, malignant diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, tuberculosis, trauma caused by different kinds of accidents, diseases of the nervous system and the sensory organs, diabetes mellitus, psychotic disorders. A certain growth in the significance of the chronic noninfectious diseases has also been noted.
- Contributing to the establishment of a healthy lifestyle.

Course Contents:

- Definition of Socio-significant diseases.
- Criteria of Socio-significant diseases.
- Socio-significant diseases in different countries.
- Risk factors.
- World morbidity trends.

- Risk constellation of the Bulgarian population.
- Hypotheses of the Bulgarian population's increased mortality.
- Smoking as a risk factor.
- Unhealthy nutritional habits as a risk factor for mortality in Bulgaria.
- Arterial hypertension as a risk factor.
- Evaluation of diseases' stages.

Means of Education and Assessment:

The lecture course is based on the lecturer's use of both qualitative and quantitative information and also on their way of stimulating the students to actively take part in discussions by asking questions or expressing their opinion on certain subjects. Audio-visual equipment (a video projector) could be provided if needed.

The seminars are mainly held by the use of charts, video materials, exemplary problems' solving, role-playing, group discussions and performance of various cases, doing research in provided in advance topics.

The type of assessment is a written exam, with the current marks during the semester being taken into account. The exam consists of 12 questions (definitions, patterns, rules, processes, etc.).

The current marks are given in accordance with the performance of self-prepared exemplary topics and participation in role-playing games.

TEAM WORK. SUPERVISION IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

ECTS credits: 2.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total number of classes: 15l+0s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Prof. Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova, PhD, MD

E-mail: v_stancheva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course consists of two parts: teamwork and supervision in the practice of social work in socially significant diseases.

The first part of the course introduces basic knowledge about teamwork, outlines the individual stages in team formation, the functions and roles of individual members and the team as a whole, the factors for team effectiveness. Emphasis is placed on the structure of the team meeting and provides an opportunity for discussions about the group processes that arise in teamwork, as well as the role of the facilitator as a factor for the effective functioning of the team. By presenting and analyzing cases and participating in group discussions, course participants are allowed to bring out the basic skills of teamwork and outline the most common problems in the process of creating and functioning teams in the context of caring for people with socially significant diseases.

Supervision is another focus of the course. The aim is to present basic concepts and build an understanding of supervision as a means of encouraging criticism of one's work, awareness of one's behavior in the profession and related feelings, development of analytical and reflective skills, and taking concrete action to positive change. Through group discussions and presentation of personal experience, participants are provided with the opportunity to accept supervision as a

necessary condition for effective social work.

Content of the course:

Part one: Team - definitions, main functions, and roles. Formation and development of the team. Characteristics of the individual stages. Models. Team meetings - basic rules and procedures. Teamwork efficiency. Barriers to effective teamwork.

Part two: Supervision in social work in socially significant diseases - purpose, tasks, rules. Procedural aspects. The role of the supervisor. Types of supervision.

Course organization and assessment:

The lecture course is conducted by using traditional and contemporary methods, audio-visual equipment, as well as interactive methods, presentations and discussions of cases, video analysis of cases.

The independent students' preparation envisages: research and analysis of literature sources, preparation of the annotated bibliography; preparation of tools and discussing problems and implying good practices of teamwork; development of term papers. It includes two theoretical questions from the lecture course. The final grade is formed considering the results of the assessment of the tasks from the extracurricular activities, the attendance of lectures and seminars, and the final exam.

The on-going assessment is carried out by assessing of students' individual work/papers on pre-set topics from the lecture course.

The final exam is written (test with multiple choice questions) taking into account the grades during the semester.

ADDICTIONS

ECTS credits: 3.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total number of classes: 15l+7s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Rosen Kalpachki, PhD

E-mail: rosen_kalpachki@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course "Addictions" introduces students to the problems of pharmacological and drug addictions - pharmacodynamics, mode of action, course, first aid and more. The objectives of the subject are to provide knowledge of the basic terms and theories of pharmacodynamics, toxicology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of addictions; to deepen the understanding of the course and development of addictions, as well as the adequate therapeutic approaches; to improve students' ability to provide social support and health care to people suffering from addictions.

Course content:

- Basic terms in pharmacology; pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.
- Basic terms in pharmacotherapy. Side effects of medications.
- Addiction to psychoactive substances - a chronic relapsing disorder.

- The influence of the environment and genetic factors on the use / dependence on psychoactive substances.
- Neurobiology of addiction.
- Abuse and dependence on stimulants - cocaine, amphetamines.
- Abuse and dependence on depressants - alcohol, barbiturates, other sedatives and hypnotics, tranquilizers, inhalants.
- Abuse and dependence on opioids - morphine, heroin, codeine, methadone.
- Abuse and dependence on cannabis - marijuana, hashish, THC. (tetrahydrocannabinol)
- Abuse and dependence on hallucinogens - LSD, mescaline, PCP.
- Acute intoxication and emergency care.
- Principles of addiction treatment.
- Biofeedback addiction therapy. kEEG-feedback therapy for addiction.
- Addiction prevention strategies.
- Psychosocial rehabilitation of addictions.

Training and assessment technology:

The lecture course is conducted in the traditionally established way, using multimedia. The seminars follow the topics of the lectures. Students work on what they have learned during lectures, work on literature sources that they have read and summarized in time for self-preparation, analyze examples, problems and cases that the assistant uses to form knowledge and habits. The evaluation of the achieved results in the training process is in compliance with the requirements of Ordinance No. 21 of the Ministry of Education and Science of September 30, 2004 on the application of a system for accumulation and transfer of loans.

ORGANIZATION OF INTERACTION BETWEEN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SYSTEMS

ECTS credits: 2.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total number of classes: 15l+0s+0p

Course type: compulsory

Course coordinating department:

Department of Logopedics

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Mitova

E-mail: ekaterina@swu.bg

Annotation:

With the occurrence of changes in the economic, social and societal development of society, problems arise whose solution requires a complex and multidisciplinary approach. It is necessary to unite the efforts and resources of the different social systems: educational, health, social, etc. Social workers need to know the resources of different systems and be able to organize interactions between them to provide the necessary help and support to solve different problems. The task of the training on the organization of interaction between the health and social system is to present and acquire basic knowledge in this field. They are needed by students due to the essential features of their future work with patients / clients /, elderly people with social problems, with impaired anatomical and physiological functions, as well as with accompanying somatic disorders.

Course content:

Introduction to the course. People with socially significant diseases as a contingent of the health system. People with socially significant diseases as a contingent of the social system. Purpose and tasks of the interaction of the health and social system in various diseases: strokes, depression, schizophrenia, diabetes, dementia and others. Organization of the interaction between the health and social system in the pre-medical and medical care. Organization of the interaction between the health and social system in social services and institutions. Legal and regulatory framework of the interaction between the health and social system. Health and social insurance of various groups of the population. Health insurance for different groups of the population. Employment of persons with socially significant diseases. Necessary documents for providing social protection and social support to persons with socially significant diseases.

Teaching and assessment:

The lecture course is conducted in the traditionally established format and through the use of interactive methods and audiovisual tools. The teaching strategy is based on the classic teaching traditions with an emphasis on the interaction between the health and social system for protection of persons at risk. The exam is written taking into account the ongoing evaluations during the semester. The evaluation of the achieved results in the process of training is in compliance with the requirements of Ordinance № 21 of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science of September 30, 2004 for application of the system for accumulation and transfer of credits.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNICATIVE TRAINING

ECTS credits: 3.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Logopedics

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Elka Goranova, PhD

E-mail: elkalogo@swu.bg

Annotation:

The exact definition of the concept of communication is the goal of the whole course and gives the boundaries and its subject. The prerequisites that characterize communication as the social behavior of the person are considered.

The current curriculum aims to provide students with knowledge and skills for human communication (verbal and nonverbal) and to acquire basic communication skills related to their future profession as speech therapists.

The training in the discipline aims to help students master the processes through which participants in communication adapt and solve problems arising from social interaction, or defining roles, responsibilities, and norms, as well as resolving disagreements and conflicts. Students are expected to acquire and apply a set of communication skills needed in their immediate speech therapy work as a final learning outcome.

Course content:

The profession of a social worker and human communication; Development of communication, language, and speech; Social communication; Basic Communication Skills - Effective listening and messaging, asking questions, reflecting, self-disclosing, building and maintaining trust, managing anger, resolving conflicts, negotiating, power and influencing.

Teaching and assessment:

Students' training includes lectures and seminars, which are mandatory in order to master the minimum knowledge. In the process of learning in some of the classes, students are divided into small groups and play situations in which they demonstrate basic types of communication skills. The main form of assessment of students' knowledge is the written exam. A test with open and closed questions and reporting of the current control is applied.

MEDIATION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

ECTS credits: 3.0

Evaluation: formative assessment and written exam

Semester: I

Hours weekly: 7l+8s+0lab+0p

Statute of the discipline: compulsory

Methodical guidance:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, PhD

E-mail: natasha_v@swu.bg

Annotation:

The program of the course "Mediation in conflict resolution" is designed for students in Master's degree in Social Mediation in the professional field of Social Work. Knowledge and skills for conducting mediation in conflict situations and resolving conflicts in a constructive manner are essential for the social worker in any context – in working with individuals, families, groups and communities.

Content:

Definition of a conflict. Elements of the conflict. Types of conflicts. Dynamics of the conflict. Types of conflict solutions. Steps for constructive conflict resolution. Mediation in overcoming conflicts in the family. Mediation in overcoming ethnic and social conflicts. Mediation in resolving labor conflicts. Competence of the social worker in resolving conflicts.

Organization of instruction and assessment:

The teaching course is conducted by using traditional and contemporary methods of teaching and learning: lecture, multimedia presentation, discussion, learning by doing, etc. Instructor's own research and practical experience is also used in the process of teaching. The seminars are aimed at implementing particular methods and techniques in a practical context alone or with the support of the instructor. The exam is in written.

HEALTH PROMOTION

ECTS credits: 3.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Prof. Vaska-Stancheva – Popkostadinova, PhD, MD

E-mail: v_stancheva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The lecture course presents the promotion of health as a modern philosophy of public health. Emphasis is placed on the opportunities for developing a healthy lifestyle of the individual and society as a whole, stimulating adequate health motivation and attitudes, health habits and healthy lifestyle in the process of achieving improved health status of the population.

The aim of the training is to acquaint students with the nature, goals, and basic principles of health promotion and to form skills for analysis and assessment of the health status of individual groups, the health needs of the population, the social factors of health, the approaches to solving specific medical and social problems in the context of stimulating people's personal responsibility for their health.

Content of the course:

The course provides information on ideas and decisions for health promotion adopted in cooperation with the World Health Organization. The strategy, activities, and commitments of state and public structures, as well as personal and group rights and responsibilities for health, are presented. The course includes components of health, conceptual review of health promotion; health promotion strategies and activities; health education and upbringing; primary health care as the basis of the new public health; the individual and the social group as resources of health; strategies of the WHO in health promotion; international and national strategies and programs for health promotion.

Course organization and assessment:

The lecture course is conducted by using traditional and contemporary methods implying different audio-visual aids, videos, and if it is available, with a demonstration of cases. During the classes are used examples from the practice of the lecturer. The seminars are held in the form of semi-structured discussions with the modeling role of the teacher and include discussion of case studies, video analysis and discussions of research results. The on-going assessment is carried out by assessing students' individual work/papers on pre-set topics from the lecture course. The exam is written taking into account the current grades during the semester.

REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR AND DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY

ECTS credits: 3.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Health Care

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Petya Andreeva, PhD

E-mail: andreivp3@gmail.com

Annotation:

The course in "Reproductive Behavior and Demographic Policy" is both general and basic for the training of students in the master's program in "Social Work with Social Significant Diseases". The course "Reproductive Behavior and Demographic Policy" is a necessary part of the preparation of students in this specialty, because it provides knowledge about the nature of demographic processes, the factors that determine them and trends in demographic development in Bulgaria.

Course content:

The aim of the training in the section on reproductive behavior is to inform students with the problems of sexual and reproductive health in different age groups, as well as for people with disabilities. In the sector of demographic policy - to inform students with the main demographic indicators used in the analysis of demographic processes; with the causes and manifestations of the demographic collapse in the country, the socio-economic and other factors influencing the demographic indicators; to provoke the search for and implementation of strategies and models for dealing with the demographic collapse in the country.

Training and assessment technology:

The lecture course is conducted in the traditionally established way with the use of various audio-visual means, video materials. The seminars are conducted mainly through the use of diagrams, videos, discussions, case studies, study of literature on a predetermined topic. The exam is written taking into account the current grades during the semester. It is conducted through a test or 8-10 questions, including basic concepts, mechanisms, schemes, descriptions, etc. The current control is carried out by evaluating independently developed theoretical topics, developing individual cases.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

ECTS credits: 3.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: I

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Public Relations

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dimitrina Stefanova, PhD

E-mail: dimi@swu.bg

Annotation:

The main objective of this course is introducing the nature and the characteristic features of the professional PR communication as well as giving systematic knowledge about the theory and practice of the communication connections within an institutional and organization structure. Another objective is to introduce to the students the theoretical social communication concepts and the practical rules for applying them in the sphere of PR. The third aim is to introduce the

students the possibilities for enlarging and specialising and going deeper into the theory of the modern society communication forms.

Syllabus contents:

Origin and nature of Public Relations. Principles. Structure of the PR professional activity. Organization of the PR activity. PR practice, PR staff and departments. PR schedule. The systematic analysis as PR organization principle. PR models. The organizations and PR – the communication in the organization; the organization structure and PR; The communication between the small groups. Mass communication and PR; Marketing and PR. The PR activity. PR campaigns.

Education methods and assessment:

Examples, including visualization, illustrate the lectures. The students prepare in advance for participation in the lectures. A term project is prepared by the students as a home assignment. There is a term test. The final exam during the regular session is written. The final mark is a proportion between the results of the term test, the projects and the final exam.

INFORMATION ASPECTS OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

ECTS credits: 2.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Yoanna Tzvetanova, PhD

E-mail: ytzvetanova@swu.bg

Abstract:

Information and communication technologies are an integral part of the functional literacy of modern social workers. The emphasis in the discipline is placed on the acquisition of knowledge related to modern methodological solutions and practices in social work, in which the forms and methods of assistance are based on modern information and communication technologies. This will help build students' self-confidence to know the applicability of technology in the field of social work.

Course content:

The course covers achievements in the field of information technology and their application in social work, which are diverse and claim a new conceptual approach to the issue. Examples are: e-therapy, providing services to individual clients through the use of online consulting, video conferencing, self-managed web-based interventions, electronic social networks, mobile applications, artificial intelligence and how these tools can be used effectively and ethically, as the use of ICT in social work is associated with unprecedented ethical dilemmas.

Teaching and assessment:

The lecture course is delivered by combining the traditionally established classical method of teaching with the use of analytical approaches, observation, discussion, and interactive methods

of work (individual and group activities, poster and collage preparation, project development, etc.).

The course content requires the application of action-oriented methods such as interactive techniques, simulations, teamwork, and others.

Assessing students' prior knowledge and skills related to the discipline, their learning styles, motivations, and interests is considered an important factor for achieving the course objectives. To identify these aspects, different approaches are applied to establish the students' entry level, including oral discussions, test-questionnaires, or student reports. Depending on the demonstrated level of prior preparation, the scope, depth, and content of the topics, as well as the teaching methods, are adapted accordingly.

Throughout the semester, written assignments are carried out, and students prepare essays and projects. The final examination is in the form of a test, covering material from lectures and seminar sessions. It consists of open- and closed-ended questions with varying weights. The final grade is based on continuous assessment and the exam result in a ratio of 6:4.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DEFENSES AND NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

ECTS credits: 2.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Prof. Vaska Stancheva – Popkostadinova, PhD

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Annotation:

The subject of this course are the different types of psychological defenses and non-verbal communication in the context of social work. The content is divided into two relatively separate parts: psychological defenses and non-verbal communication. The main goal of the course is to build an understanding of: defense mechanisms; the process of communication and barriers to its effectiveness on a verbal and nonverbal level. The thematic material is directly related to the practical social work, in accordance with its specifics.

Course content:

Defense mechanisms-classification and characteristics. Anxiety and protective role of defense mechanisms in social work. Theory of communication. Nonverbal communication-elements and characteristics. Axioms of communication. Barriers for effective nonverbal communication. Approaches for evaluation of NVC.

Organization of instruction and assessment:

The lecture course is conducted with the help of audiovisual equipment, as well as interactive methods, presentations and discussions of cases, and video analysis of cases.

The final exam is written. The final grade takes into account the results of the on-going assessment and the grade from the final exam.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN EXTREME CONDITIONS

ECTS credits: 2.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Rosen Kalpachki, PhD

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Annotation:

Natural disasters like earthquakes, fires, floods etc. are extremely dangerous for people. They arise suddenly, develop fulminantly and strike wide spaces and usually affect a lot of people.

The aims and tasks of the course are students to acquire knowledge about these extreme conditions and to understand their effect on people's daily life and psychological state; what are the reactions of the individual personality and the community as a whole in this kind of situations; the features of posttraumatic stress disorder and the role of the specialist in dealing with it. Students are introduced to the main principles for behavior during earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes etc.; organizing and conducting rescue operation in regions of disasters; methods and ways of giving first aid to injured people.

The main methods of training, which are used in the course, are lectures and discussion groups. Computer configurations with current illustrations are used to clarify the scientific material. Also practical demonstrations are used to train students on giving first aid and ways of saving people with technical recourses.

Contents of the course:

The main types and characteristics of natural disasters. Extreme situations and their influence on the behavior of people. Posttraumatic stress disorders. Social and psychological aspects of terrorism. Main principles of action in earthquakes. Types of lifesaving actions, which are used on injured people in earthquakes. Defense methods in occurrence of floods from down pouring rains and tidal waves. Types of lifesaving actions and first aid in floods. Principles for action in occurrence of fires in residents and public buildings. The role of the social consultant.

Training and assessment technology:

The teaching process combines classical and interactive methods and approaches to teaching and learning. The lecture topics are presented according to their specific character, with multimedia and computer-based resources used throughout.

Seminar sessions are conducted primarily through the use of diagrams, audiovisual materials, group discussions, case analyses, situational tasks, and their application in practical contexts. The learning content is further illustrated with modern computer-based visual tools. In addition, practical demonstrations are carried out using technical equipment for providing first aid and for demonstrating methods of rescuing people.

The main form of assessment is a written examination (test). Students' knowledge and skills are evaluated according to the six-point grading scale.

Assessment procedures include: Continuous assessment – carried out during lectures and seminar sessions; Final examination – a written exam consisting of a test, theoretical questions, and practical tasks.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

ECTS credits: 2.0

Assessment: written exam

Semester: II

Hours weekly: 7l+8s+0p

Statute of the discipline: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Economics

Faculty of Economics

Lecturer: Prof. Mariya Kicheva, PhD

E-mail: mkicheva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course provides students with knowledge and skills on the main issues of the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the field of technical and social infrastructure development at regional and/or local (including urban) level. The study of PPPs is useful and necessary in view of the dynamics of socio-economic development. Students gain knowledge of the various processes associated with exploring partnership opportunities, planning, financing, organising, monitoring, developing, constructing, operating, maintaining and/or managing infrastructure systems and facilities, and delivering related public assets.

Course content:

Overview of the public-private partnership model. Risks and risk management in public-private partnership. Theoretical and applied aspects of public-private partnership in technical infrastructure investment projects. Specifics of the PPPs implementation process. Initiation phase of public-private projects. Evaluation phase of public-private projects. Negotiation phase of public-private projects. Implementation phase of public-private projects.

Teaching and assessment:

The lectures in the discipline are conducted in the traditionally established manner, introducing students to the taught material. Each lecture begins with a brief introduction to ensure continuity between topics. The lectures are richly illustrated with diagrams and tables, complemented by examples relevant to the learning objectives.

Seminar sessions employ predominantly interactive teaching and learning methods designed to stimulate students' active participation. According to the assignments set by the seminar leader, out-of-class activities include library research, use of online information resources, preparation of written papers, test preparation for ongoing knowledge checks, and systematic study on assigned topics for upcoming seminars.

The course concludes with a final examination at the end of the semester. Emphasis is placed on students' practical and independent work, evaluated through continuous assessment. Continuous assessment includes: participation in discussions; presentation of well-argued personal viewpoints on seminar topics; preparation and defense of written assignments; knowledge checks through tests on the lecture material; and the ability to present and successfully defend original ideas.

LABOR AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION

ECTS credits: 2.0

Assessment type: written exam

Semester: II

Total number of classes: 7l+8s+0p

Course type: elective

Course coordinating department:

Department of Medical Social Sciences

Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sports

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Maria Stoykova, PhD

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Annotation:

The knowledge in the field of "Labor and social rehabilitation" is necessary for students due to the essential features of their future work with patients / clients /, elderly people with social problems, with impaired anatomical and physiological functions, as well as with accompanying other somatic disorders.

The course aims to provide fundamental training in a basic direction - labor and social rehabilitation. The content of the lecture course, its structure, the various current problems, the formulated problem tasks aim to create maximum opportunities to activate the self student work.

Course content:

Introduction to the course "Labor and social rehabilitation". Definition of labor and social rehabilitation. Nature and definitions for labor and social rehabilitation. Research on the disability as an object of rehabilitation. Basic directions of research. Systems for assessment of lost working capacity. Rehabilitation and employment. Diseases and disabilities. Terms and concepts in the field of labor and social rehabilitation. International organizations and their role in the development of labor and social rehabilitation. Bodies and organizations in Bulgaria conducting rehabilitation. Labor and social legislation governing the issues of Rehabilitation Professional qualification and retraining of people with disabilities. Evaluation of the effectiveness of rehabilitation measures.

Training and assessment technology:

The lecture course is conducted in the traditionally established way and is based on the theoretical paradigm of the universal significance of labor and social rehabilitation to improve the quality of life of social sites and persons with disabilities. The teaching strategy is built on the classics teaching traditions. The exam is written. It includes 12 questions / definitions, norms, rules, processes, etc. The final grade takes into account the results of the current control and the grade from the exam.