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CNSK 1413: Aboriginal Counselling Skills

EFFECTIVE DATE

January 2021

DEPARTMENT

Counselling Skills

DESCRIPTION

Examine the historical/traditional perspectives and contemporary issues (ie. alcohol-related birth defects, high suicide rates) of the Aboriginal community with a focus on health and healing. Students explore the role played by cultural expression, including values and identity, in providing a basis for healing in an Aboriginal treatment setting. Analyze the impact of colonization (ie. disruption of established family systems by residential schools). The focus is on the Canadian Aboriginal experience, but comparisons will be drawn to other Indigenous populations.

CREDITS

1.0

YEAR OF STUDY

PREREQUISITES

None

COREQUISITES

None

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate an understanding of Aboriginal culture
- Describe the impact that addiction has had on Aboriginal communities
- Describe the consequences of colonization and the loss of culture family systems
- Explain traditional and contemporary experience of health and healing
- Demonstrate a knowledge of addiction treatment in Aboriginal communities today
- Demonstrate a knowledge of indigenous healing and counselling practices in current situations with individuals and in communities
- Discuss the roles of traditional healers, elders, counsellors and the community

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT & RECOGNITION (PLAR)

None

HOURS

Lecture: 22

Other: 6

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade (A-F)

PASSING GRADE

60%

EVALUATION PLAN

Type	Percentage	Assessment activity
Assignments	55	
Project	35	
Participation	10	

COURSE TOPICS

- Introduction to the Canadian Aboriginal peoples
- Introduction to Aboriginal expressions of culture, for example, smudge
- Pre-European contact -structured lifestyle of the Aboriginal people
- Post European contact, for example, Indian Act and Bill C31
- Residential schools
- Sixties scoop
- Intergenerational impacts (trauma/cultural loss)
- Contemporary challenges: poverty, education and employment
- Medicine Wheel
- Sweat lodge ceremony field trip

LEARNING RESOURCES

None

Notes:

- Course contents and descriptions, offerings and schedules are subject to change without notice.
- Students are required to follow all College policies including ones that govern their educational experience at VCC. Policies are available on the VCC website at:
<https://www.vcc.ca/about/governance--policies/policies/>.
- To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca>.

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