



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Theory and Practice in Addiction Treatment: Motivational Engagement Mechanisms of Change and Evidence-Based Clinical M - 51620*

*Last update 01-09-2025*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: Psychology*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Amichai Ben-ari*

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*Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday, 9.00-10.30*

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Teaching Staff:

Amichai Ben Ari

Course/Module description:

The course will address the theoretical and clinical aspects of addiction treatment, using current models and evidence-based tools. We will learn about types of psychoactive substances and their effects, review the different approaches to diagnosis and intervention (SBIRT), delve into addiction mechanisms and psychological, social, and medical consequences, and discuss unique contexts such as psychedelic use, prescription drug addiction, and the effects of trauma on substance use.

Course/Module aims:

Course Objectives

- Introduction to key theoretical models in addiction treatment.
- Identification and understanding of types of addictive substances and their effects on body and mind.
- Development of skills in assessing, screening, and questioning patients.
- Acquisition of practical tools for brief intervention, referral for treatment, and harm reduction.
- Examination of connections between trauma, dual morbidity, and substance use.
- Development of critical ability to apply therapeutic methods in a variety of populations.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the biological, psychological, and social factors involved in addiction.
- Apply tools for diagnosis, screening, and clinical assessment.
- Recognize evidence-based treatment approaches including CBT, MI, and integrative approaches.
- Examine the role of psychedelics and psychoactive drugs in a clinical context.
- Integrate theoretical and applied knowledge in therapeutic work with at-risk populations.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: In the lessons, theoretical and

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clinical principles and their application are presented and discussed in frontal lectures, including through case presentations. This is accompanied by reading material that supplements what is learned in the lesson and discussion in the lessons, and practice of the material learned.

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction to addictions - definitions, DSM, theoretical models.
2. Psychoactive substances and their effects - alcohol, cannabis, opiates, stimulants.
3. SBIRT model - Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment.
4. Clinical interviewing and assessment - diagnostic criteria (DSM, CAGE), interviewing challenges.
5. Addiction and dual morbidity - relationship between psychopathology and substance use.
6. Psychedelics - historical review and current research.
7. Neurobiological mechanisms of addiction.
8. Trauma and substance use - models of self-medication.
9. Therapeutic approaches: CBT, motivational therapy, integrative approaches.
10. Harm reduction and public policy.
11. Ethical and legal issues in the treatment of addictions.
12. Student presentations and concluding discussion.

Required Reading:

1. Miller, W. R., & Rollnick, S. (2012). *Motivational interviewing: Helping people change* (3rd ed.). New York: Guilford Press.  
DOI: 10.1002/j.2161-1912.2009.tb00077.x
2. Marel, C., Mills, K. L., Kingston, R., Gournay, K., Deady, M., Kay-Lambkin, F., Baker, A., & Teesson, M. (2016). *Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings*. Sydney: NHMRC.  
DOI: 10.4225/53/57ea0b2f69a17
3. Volkow, N. D., Koob, G. F., & McLellan, A. T. (2016). Neurobiologic advances from the brain disease model of addiction. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 374(4), 363–371.  
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMr1511480
4. Nutt, D. J., King, L. A., & Phillips, L. D. (2010). Drug harms in the UK: a multicriteria decision analysis. *The Lancet*, 376(9752), 1558–1565.  
DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)61462-6
5. Witkiewitz, K., Litten, R. Z., & Leggio, L. (2019). Advances in the science and treatment of alcohol use disorder. *Science Advances*, 5(9), eaax4043.  
DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aax4043
6. Ferrer Pérez, C., Montagud Romero, S., & Blanco Gandía, M. C. (2024). Neurobiological Theories of Addiction: A Comprehensive Review. *Psychoactives*, 3(1), 35–47. DOI: 10.3390/psychoactives3010003 MDPI

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7. López, G., Orchowski, L. M., Reddy, M. K., Nargiso, J., & Johnson, J. E. (2021). A review of research supported group treatments for drug use disorders. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, 16, Article 51.
8. McGovern, M. P., & Carroll, K. M. (2003). Evidence based practices for substance use disorders. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 26(4), 991-1007.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 80 %  
Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %  
Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: