

2009



PSMX 429 Suicidal Behaviours, Research and Prevention

30 points (0.25 EFTS) – Second Semester, 2009

Convenors: Associate Professor Annette Beautrais; Dr Lois Surgenor
Department of Psychological Medicine
University of Otago, Christchurch

Eligibility

This is an academically orientated paper that will provide an introduction to suicidal behaviours, research and prevention. It is suitable for clinicians, students, nurses and allied health professionals in health, mental health, social services, emergency medicine, education, counselling, youth work, psychology, justice, child welfare and related fields. This paper can be taken as part of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences or Master of Health Sciences, as a one-off paper or it may be possible to cross credit this paper to other postgraduate degrees.

Content

This is the only postgraduate academic course in suicidal behaviours, research and prevention offered in New Zealand and the course will operate for the fourth consecutive year in 2009. The course provides a critical and comprehensive approach to the complex and often emotive issue of suicide. The paper focuses on three themes: the epidemiology of suicidal behaviour; suicide research and prevention; assessment, treatment and management of suicidal individuals. Course lectures will be given by Christchurch and New Zealand experts in suicide prevention with guest lecturers from the United States and the United Kingdom.

Upon completion of this paper, students will:

- Have knowledge and understanding of the epidemiology, risk and protective factors associated with suicidal behaviour in New Zealand, and internationally.
- Be knowledgeable about key issues in suicide research and prevention.
- Have knowledge and understanding of key issues in assessing, treating and managing suicidal behaviours.

Teaching Arrangements

The course will be offered as a Block course (4 x 2 day courses) in the second semester 2009, on the following dates:

July 15/16 (Wed/Thurs) **August 12/13** (Wed/Thurs)

September 16/17 (Wed/Thurs) **October 14/15** (Wed/Thurs)

Examination

The final examination will be held on October 15^h 2009. Students need to arrange schedules to be sure that they can attend on that day.

Prescribed Texts

A variety of general texts and journals relevant to the course can be located in the Canterbury Medical Library. Required readings will be supplied directly to the class.

Assessment

- One extended essay 40%
- One class seminar 20%
- One end-of-course examination 40%

Inquiries to:

Associate Professor Annette Beautrais, Canterbury Suicide Project Annette.Beutrais@otago.ac.nz
Dr Lois Surgenor, Department of Psychological Medicine Lois.Surgenor@otago.ac.nz
Mary Hayes (Secretary, Canterbury Suicide Project) Mary.Hayes@otago.ac.nz
Phone 03 372 0406 (Mary Hayes)