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Drug use and abuse series scheduled this year at University of Montana

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MISSOULA, Mont.--

A series of three courses on "Drug Use and Abuse" will be offered this academic year as part of the evening extension courses at the University of Montana.

The courses, spanning three quarters, are being coordinated by Dr. Victor H. Duke, associate professor of pharmacy, and Dr. Robert R. Zimmermann, professor of psychology, and may be taken as Pharmacy 599 or Psychology 491.

Instruction will deal with alcohol as a drug, depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens, and treatment and counseling of the drug user.

Dr. James F. Hall, director of Extension and Continuing Education at the University, recommends that the courses be taken in sequence by those interested in participating in the 9-month program. He said the courses are open to the general public.

The first quarter's instruction begins Wednesday, Oct. 1, and classes will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Chemistry-Pharmacy Building, room 109.

Fall Quarter's offering will present a survey of alcohol as a drug, including the metabolism of alcohol and the effects of alcohol on the systems of the body; the psycho-pharmacological effects of alcohol; the effects of alcohol on the basic psychological process of learning, perception and motivation; alcohol abuse, including the problem drinker; ethnic and socioeconomic factors in alcoholism, and the scope and implications of alcoholism as a disease.
The winter quarter course will feature a discussion of depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens, and will include a survey of the development of the use of these agents; psychosocial factors in the causes of drug dependence, with emphasis on the socioeconomic and ethnic variables; the nature of psychological dependence, and pharmacological and psychopharmacological characteristics of abuse agents.

The spring-quarter course will deal with treatment and counseling of the drug abuser. Drs. Duke and Zimmermann will be joined in their teaching by a representative of the UM clinical psychology program.

Discussions will center on the legal treatment of drug users; pharmacotherapy of drug dependence, facilities, agencies and organizations for the treatment of alcoholism and other drug dependence, and therapy and counseling for the drug user and abuser.

The course carries both graduate and undergraduate credit, two credits per quarter, but may not be applied toward a major in either pharmacy or psychology. It also may be taken as a noncredit course.

Students will register at the first meeting of the class. A fee of $16 will be paid at that time, depending on the number of course registrants.

Drs. Duke and Zimmermann will discuss the course and its contents from 5-6:15 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24, with Ric Webb on KYLT's "Party Line." The professors also will appear in an interview with Don Weston on KGVO-TV's news programs at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Sept. 29.