COURSE TITLE: Psychology of Gambling

COURSE NUMBER: PSY 468

I. RATIONALE:

Pathological gambling has been identified in the DSM-IV as an impulse control disorder. The social and psychological implications of problem gambling touch individuals and families in all socio-economic classes. The course will raise awareness of the extent of gambling as a social problem as well as assist in the identification of pathological gambling, and treatment.

As Psychology professionals, we recognize that reactions to trauma come in many forms. The content of this course, and discussions about trauma from different perspectives, may bring about unexpected and unsettling reactions. Responses to trauma are often strategies that survivors have developed to keep themselves safe, and therefore really reflect strength and resiliency. Recognizing how trauma impacts anyone is an important part of skill building for creating trauma-informed services and systems. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor at any time during the course if you would like to discuss, privately, your reactions to the content we are reviewing and/or the discussions we are having.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
Understand an overview of problem and pathological gambling.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Discuss the history of gambling.
A-2 Define social, problems and pathological gambling.
A-3 Describe who are social problem and compulsive gamblers.

GOAL B:
Understand the different types of gambling.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 Identify several types of gambling.
B-2 Define the characteristics of each type.
GOAL C:
Understand the psychological disorders associated with pathological gambling.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

C-1 Identify several combined disorders associated with pathological gambling.
C-2 Identify signs and symptoms of these disorders.

GOAL D:
Understand the causes of pathological gambling

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

D-1 Identify the overall causes of pathological gambling.
D-2 Define the sociological causes of pathological gambling.
D-3 Define the biological causes of pathological gambling.
D-4 Define the psychological causes of pathological gambling.

GOAL E:
Understand treatment of pathological gambling.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

E-1 Identify several treatment methods.
E-2 Discuss Gamblers Anonymous.
E-3 Discuss other roads to recovery, such as family and social supports.
E-4 Discuss referral people and support organizations.