Social Work Fields of Service

Description and Purpose:

Social Work 110 uses a generalist perspective to introduce the student to the profession of social work and the major fields of practice. We will explore the relevance of social work to current social issues. We will identify and understand the implications of social work practice with diverse populations. This includes, but may not be limited to, the impact of cultural diversity, racism, sexism, disabilities, ageism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination on the need for and provision of basic human services. Evidence-based strategies for fulfilling the professional responsibility of the social worker to create an equitable society will be identified and discussed.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

Knowledge
1. Describe the major fields of social work practice and various career options.
2. Identify and describe the settings for social work practice (public and private).
3. Identify and understand the research regarding the relevance of social work to current social issues.
4. Understand the role of the social work profession in the various practice fields and settings.
5. Recognize how cultural diversity, racism, sexism, ageism and other forms of discrimination impact populations at risk in the struggle for social and economic justice.

Skills
1. Describe, in detail, a specific field of practice, target population, and evidence-based practice methods.
2. Identify the needs of populations at risk and begin linking those needs with evidence-based social welfare intervention.
3. Apply critical thinking skills to specific field situations/vignettes
4. Demonstrate the ability to research, interpret and report information related to a specific field of social work in grammatically correct APA format

Values and Ethics
1. Know the NASW Code of Ethics as it applies to social welfare practice issues.
2. Describe the techniques and arguments of advocacy for social justice.
3. Identify and understand how one’s personal values may complement or interfere with professional social work values and ethics.
5. Apply critical thinking skills to ethical dilemmas.
6. Apply the NASW Code of Ethics to specific field situations/vignettes.

Outcomes
1. Describe the major fields of social work practice, the unique components in each field, and the research regarding the best interventions in each field.
2. Incorporate knowledge of social issues and diversity when describing fields of practice.
3. Identify and understand the impact of personal values as they relate to professional social work values and ethical issues.
4. Utilize the literature to examine evidence-based practices.
5. Communicate in a professional manner utilizing an accepted reporting method (APA).

Textbooks


Course Assignments
1. **Social Work Field of Service Paper:** Describe a social work field of service of interest to you. Drawing from evidenced based practice, your research and class lectures; illustrate the target population served including demographics, presenting problems, and access/barriers to service. Paper should also include employment opportunities in this field and your personal assessment of the field. This paper will be presented in two parts. 30% of the final grade.
   A. **Annotated Bibliography:** Select four professional social work/social service journal articles or books written specifically about the chosen Field of Service. Cite each source using APA format and follow each with a brief (about 150 word) descriptive and evaluative annotation. 1 page. **Due Thursday, October 25, 2012** 10% of paper grade.
   B. **Final Paper:** Using at least six sources – including the four from the annotated bibliography assignment – describe in detail the Social Work field of service you have chosen. 3-4 pages. **Due Thursday, December 6, 2012.** 20% of paper grade.

2. **Examinations:** Students will be given two exams in which they will have the entire class period to complete.
   A. **Midterm Exam:** Will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. 30% of the final grade. **Thursday, October 18, 2012**
   B. **Final Exam:** Will consist of multiple choice/fill in the blank, true/false and short answer questions. 30% of the final grade. **Tuesday, December 11, 2012 8:00-10:00am**
Grading:

Annotated Bibliography 10%
Final Paper 20%
Midterm Exam 30%
Final Exam 30%
Attendance and Participation 10%

School of Social Work Grading Policy

The grades at the School of Social Work will reflect the University policy (IV-C-1). The grade for average achievement in undergraduate programs is C.

Undergraduate grades, as per University policy, are:
A = Outstanding performance
B = Praiseworthy performance
C = Satisfactory performance (the most common undergraduate grade)
D = Minimally passing
F = Failing

Grading Guidelines:

1. Grades of A or A- are reserved for student work that is judged to be outstanding. The work demonstrates excellent mastery of content, and also shows that the student has (a) undertaken complex tasks, (b) applied critical thinking skills to the assignment, and/or (c) demonstrated creativity in her or his approach to the assignment. The degree to which the student demonstrates these skills determines whether he/she receives an A or an A-.
   A: 94-100 pts., A-: 90-93 pts.

2. A grade of B is given to work that is judged to be praiseworthy. This grade denotes that a student had demonstrated a sound understanding of the material being tested in the assignment, and has demonstrated a moderate level of complexity or creativity in his/her approach to the assignment. The degree to which the student demonstrated this complexity or creativity determines whether he/she receives a B+ or a B-.

3. A grade of C+ denotes that a student’s grasp on the content and expectation of the assignment is more than satisfactory. A grade of C is given to student work that meets the requirements of the assignment. It denotes that the student has done satisfactory work on the assignment and meets the expectations of the course. A grade of C- denotes that a student’s performance was less than satisfactory on an assignment, reflecting a less-than-satisfactory grasp of content and/or expectations.
   C+: 77-79 pts., C: 73-76 pts., C-: 70-72 pts.

4. A grade of D is given to work that is judged to be minimally passing. It reflects a minimal grasp of the assignments, poor organization of ideas and/or several significant areas requiring improvement.
5. Grades of D- or F denote a failure to meet minimum standards, reflecting service deficiencies in a student’s performance on the assignment. 
   D-: 60-62 pts., F: 0-59 pts.

**Class Expectations**

All students are expected to attend every class, be on time, alert, considerate of fellow students and inquisitive. If for any reason you cannot attend a particular class session, please notify the professor through telephone or email as soon as possible prior to the class. Otherwise an unexcused absence will be recorded.

**Late Assignments**

All late assignments will be marked down. If the assignment is handed in at or prior to the following class session, the grade will be reduced by one letter. (A to B, B to C, etc.). If the assignment is handed in between 1 and 2 class sessions later, the grade will be reduced 2 full letter grades (A to C, B to D). Any assignments delayed further will be recorded as F.

**Weekly Course Assignments**

August 28 & 30  **Introduction/Semester Overview/Course Expectations**  
- Introduction  
- Code of Ethics  
**Readings:** Course Syllabus  
NASW Code of Ethics - Segal Appendix A

September 4 & 6  **Social Work as a Profession**  
- What is Social Work?  
- Social Work Careers  
- Is Social Work for You?  
**Readings:** Segal Ch. 1  
Grobman Ch. 51

September 11 & 13  **History of Social Work**  
- History of the Social Welfare System  
- Social Welfare Programs  
- History of the Profession  
**Readings:** Segal Ch. 2

September 18 & 20  **Evidence Based Practice: How do we know what we know?**  
- Mental Health and Mental Illness  
- Social Work Practice in Mental Health Settings  
- Annotated Bibliography  
- Thursday: Independent Library Research  
**Readings:** Segal Ch. 10  
Grobman Ch. 23
September 25 & 27  The Social Welfare System  
- Causes of Poverty  
- Homelessness  
- Interventions  
*Readings:* Segal Ch. 3

October 2 & 4  Multiple Levels of Intervention for Social Workers  
- Micro, Mezzo, Macro  
- Social Work with Individuals  
- Social Work with Groups  
- Social Work with Communities  
*Readings:* Segal Ch. 6

October 9 & 11  Social Work Values and Ethics, Social Justice  
- What is Social Justice?  
- Explanations of Social Injustice  
- Overcoming Social Injustice  
- Tuesday, Guest Speaker: Engaging Communities – Sakara Tear, BSW  
*Reading:* Segal Ch. 4

October 16 & 18  Diversity and Social Work Practice  
- Tuesday, Guest Speaker: Working with the Elderly/Civic Engagement - Laura Stevens, MSW  
*Readings:* Grobman Ch. 8 and 45  
Study for Midterm  
*Midterm: Thursday, October 18th*

October 23 & 25  Diversity and Social Work Practice  
- Working with Diverse Populations  
- Cultural Competency  
- Emerging Issues  
- Thursday, Guest Speaker: Working with HIV/AIDS Population – Nelly Medina, MSW  
*Readings:* Segal Ch. 5  
Grobman Ch. 31  
*Annotated Bibliography due Thursday, October 25th*

Oct 30 & Nov 1  Poverty and Economic Disparity  
- Civic Engagement  
- Social Change  
- Tuesday, Guest Speaker: Macro Social Work – Kirin Macapugay, MSW  
*Readings:* Grobman Ch. 56
November 6 & 8  Social Work with Children and Families
- Theories of Child Development
- Child Welfare System
- School Social Work Roles and Skills
- Critical Public Policies
- Tuesday, Guest Speaker: Working in Child Protective Services – Christina Morse, BSW
Readings: Segal Ch. 7 and 11

November 13 & 15  Social Work with Older Adults
- Sociological Aspects of Aging
- Older People at Risk
- Critical Issues and Emerging Concerns
- Tuesday, Guest Speaker: Hospice Social Work – Lori Roads, MSW
Readings: Segal Ch. 8
Grobman Ch. 41

November 20 & 22  Social Work in Health Care Settings
- Health Care in America
- Roles of Social Workers
- Public Health Policy
Readings: Segal Ch. 9

Thanksgiving Break: Thursday, November 22nd – Campus Closed

November 27 & 29  Social Work in Criminal Justice Settings
- Violence, Crime and Punishment in the United States
- The Criminal Justice System
- Practice Settings
Readings: Segal Ch. 13
Grobman Ch. 34

December 4 & 6  Social Work in Substance Abuse Treatment
- Substance Abuse and Human Development
- Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention
- Diversity Issues and Populations at Risk
- Thursday, Guest Speaker: Social Work with the Disabled Population - Mina Nguyen, MSW
Readings: Segal Ch. 12
Final Paper due Thursday, December 6th

December 11  Final Exam 8:00-10:00am