This course will introduce the student to the methods of social work and to the practice of various roles of the professional social worker. The focus will be on a generalist perspective of social work.

“If you are majoring, or planning to major, in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts, and if you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see your Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation.”

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

1. Students will be acquainted with the knowledge base of social work which includes knowledge of self, the profession and practice intervention approaches.

2. Students will be acquainted with the values of the social work profession.

3. Students will be able to describe various practice settings and the diversity of roles which social workers perform.

4. Students will develop beginning skills in assessment, interviewing and intervention.

5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of human diversity in social work practice, which includes concepts of racism, sexism and ageism.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe how generalist social work practice utilizes an ecological perspective.

2. Identify social work as a problem-solving process.

3. Identify the values of the social work profession and various roles of the social worker.

4. Recognize how important cultural competence is in social work practice.
Notice to Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101 at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Policies

1. Academic Advising: The college of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The academic advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203 E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

2. Academic Integrity/Plagiarism. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic Dishonesty is representing another person’s ideas as your own. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It is expected that ideas and information used in your paper which are not part of your personal experiences will be appropriately referenced. Violation of academic integrity will result in automatic failure of this course and referral to the proper university officials. Academic dishonesty includes: plagiarism (which is handing in another’s work or part of another’s work as your own), turning in the same or similar papers for two different classes, presenting a group project as your work solely, purchasing or otherwise obtaining research or papers written by another turning that work in as your own. Using unauthorized notes, tests or other study aids or copying another student’s answers for an examination also constitutes academic dishonesty.

3. Grade Appeal Process. Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

4. Classroom/professional behavior. TAMUCC, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either(a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. This includes no texting or talking on cell phones.
5. Attendance: All students are expected to attend and participate in class. Roll will be taken.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Outside Readings will be on reserve at the library.

GRADES:

Four Exams 80%
Paper/Report 20%
Extra Credit (Perfect Attendance) 10 pts.

Exams will cover both readings and class material. Attendance and participation are expected. Roll will be taken.

Paper/Report Assignment (Due Date April 24th). The Paper/Report may be one of the following two choices.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Each student will choose an area of social work practice of interest to him/her. For example, a student interested in health care issues and the social worker’s role in working with cancer patients would research this practice field and the population served. Topics should include: a description of the field of practice, the client group involved, relevant theoretical materials, strategies of intervention, and the role of the social worker. Utilize the concepts learned in class in discussing the social worker’s role in working with clients, as well as in your intervention strategy.

MECHANICS:
1. Your paper should be double-space and 7-9 pages in length, using APA style.

2. Reference and footnotes should appear on a separate page at the end of the paper.

3. Include a cover page with your name, title of paper, course name and date.

4. The text should include topical and subtopical headings.

Your paper is due **April 24th**. Papers turned in after this date will have maximum grade of 80.

**REPORT OF A VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

Volunteer hours should be from 35 to 45 hours, from January to April during the semester. Volunteering should be at an agency of your choice. The report should include a description of the agency, clients served, and strategies of intervention; your role in the agency, reflections on your feelings and actions in your work. Relate your observations to concepts presented in class and readings. Keep a journal of your volunteer experience and utilize it for your written assignment. Utilize observations of your feelings and actions taken at the agency in your paper.

Format: Typed, double-spaced and maximum length 5-7 pages in length. **Due April 24th**.

**SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE:**
ASSIGNMENTS:

January 23       -   Introduction to course
January 28 - The Domain of the Social Work Profession, Ch. 1
January 30 - Merging Person with Profession, Ch. 2
February 4 - Merging the Person’s Art with the Profession’s Science, Ch. 3
February 6 - Roles of the Social Worker, Ch. 4
February 11 - Guiding Principles for Social Workers, Ch. 5
February 13 - Practice Frameworks for Social Workers, Ch. 6
February 18 - EXAM I
February 20 - The Client (Pillari on reserve in library) Ch. 7
February 25 - Professional Relationship (Pillari on reserve in library) Ch. 9
February 27 - Professional Relationship (Pillari on reserve in library) Ch. 9
March 4 - Communication Skills, Ch. 8
March 6 - Communication Skills, Ch. 8
March 18 - Basic Skills for Agency Practice, Ch. 9
March 20 - EXAM II
March 25 - Intake and Engagement, Ch. 10
March 27 - Intake and Engagement, Ch. 10
April 1 - Data Collection, Ch. 11
April 3 - Planning and Contracting, Ch. 12
April 8 - Planning and Contracting, Ch. 12
April 10 - Intervention and Monitoring, Ch. 13
April 15 - Evaluation and Termination, Ch 14
April 17 - EXAM III
April 22 - Values and Ethical Dilemmas(Ashman, on reserve), Ch9
April 24 - Culturally Competent Social Work Practice Ch.12 (Ashman, on reserve in library) PAPERS DUE
April 29 - Culturally Competent Social work practice, Ch12(Ashman on reserve)
May 1 - Guidelines for working with vulnerable client groups, Ch 15
May 6 - Sustaining Social work practice, Ch 16
May 8 - FINAL EXAM