SOCW-3350: Social Work Practice
Spring 2016
OCNR 131 Tuesday & Thursday: 3:30-4:45 p.m.
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SYLLABUS

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.
Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at 361-825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at 361-825-5816.

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 Dishonesty.** Academic Dishonesty is representing another person’s ideas as your own. It is expected that ideas and information used in your paper which are not part of your personal experiences will be appropriately referenced. Violations of academic integrity will result in automatic failure of this course and referral to the proper university officials. Academic dishonesty includes 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 and 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 outline 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 details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office.

Classroom Policies

1. **Attendance:** All students are expected to attend and participate in class. Roll will be taken. If you miss a class, you will still be responsible for any notes, handouts, announcements, etc. that may have taken place during the missed class.

2. **Classroom Etiquette:** Please turn your cell phones to silent or vibrate and turn off all IPods before class begins. Laptops are permitted but are to be used for class purposes only.
REQUIRED TEXTS:

Other 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 26th). 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 26th. 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 26th.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ASSIGNMENTS:

January 21 - Introduction to course
January 26 - Social Work as a Response to Need, Ch. 1
January 28 - Social Work as a Developing Profession, Ch. 2
February 2 - Social Work as a Blend of Knowledge, Values, Skills, Ch. 3
February 4 - Social Work as Process of Growth and Change, Ch. 4
February 9 - Guiding Principles for Social Workers,( Sheafor, on reserve/library) Ch. 5
February 11 - The Worker, Ch. 6
February 16 - EXAM I
February 18 - The Client, Ch. 7
February 23 - Professional Relationship (Pillari on reserve in library) Ch. 9
February 25 - Professional Relationship (Pillari on reserve in library) Ch. 9
March 1 - Interaction with Individuals, Ch. 9
March 3 - Interaction with Individuals, Ch. 9
March 8 - Basic Communication and Helping Skills,(Sheafor, on reserve/library), Ch 10
March 10 - EXAM II
March 22 - Assessment, Ch. 11
March 24 - Assessment, Ch. 11
March 29 - Data Collection,(Sheafor, on reserve/library) Ch. 11
March 31 - Data Collection (Sheafor, on reserve/library), Ch. 11
April 5 - Planning, Ch. 12
April 7 - Planning, Ch. 12
April 12 - Direct Practice, Ch 13
April 14 - EXAM III
April 19 - Evaluation, Ch. 15
April 21 - Culturally Competent Social Work Practice (Ashman, on reserve in library) Chapter 12
April 26 - Culturally Competent Social work practice, Ch12(on reserve) PAPERS DUE
April 28 - Termination , Ch. 16
May 3 - Indirect Practice, Ch. 14
May 5 - FINAL EXAM