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.
Disability Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statue 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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood # 203. For more information please call at 361-825-3466.

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. 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 misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work). Violations of academic integrity will result in automatic failure of this course and referral to proper university official. In this class, academic misconduct or complicity is an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test 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.** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure
13.02.99.C0.031, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03 student grade appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in the CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

4. Dropping a course. I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 6, 2018 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of W this term.

5. Statement of Academic Continuity. In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting the student.

6. Classroom/professional behavior. Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, 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.

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:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Four Exams</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper/Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit (Perfect Attendance)</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
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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.
   3. 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 40 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.
ASSIGNMENTS:

January 16 - Introduction to course
January 18 - Social Work as a Response to Need, Ch. 1
January 23 - Social Work as a Blend of Knowledge, Values, skills, Ch.2
January 25 - Social Work as a Blend of Knowledge, Values, Skills, Ch. 2
January 30 - The Worker, Ch. 4
February 1 - Professional Self Awareness ,(Ragg, on reserve/library) Ch. 1
February 6 - Guiding Principles for Social Workers(Sheafor, on reserve/library) Ch.5
February 8 - EXAM I
February 13 - The Client, Ch. 7
February 15 - The Environment, Ch.6
February 20 - Professional Relationship (Pillari on reserve in library) Ch. 9
February 22 - Interaction and Engagement, Ch. 7
February 27 - Interaction and Engagement, Ch. 7
March 1 - Basic Communication and Helping Skills,(Sheafor, on reserve/library), Ch 8
March 6 - EXAM II
March 8 - Assessment, Ch. 8
March 20 - Assessment, Ch. 8
March 22 - Data Collection,(Sheafor, on reserve/library) Ch. 11
March 27 - Data Collection (Sheafor, on reserve/library), Ch. 11
March 29 - Planning, Ch. 9
April 3 - Planning, Ch. 9
April 5 - Direct Practice, Ch 10
April 10 - EXAM III
April 12 - Evaluation and Termination, Ch. 12
April 17 - Diversity Competent Practice, Ch. 3
April 19 - Generalist Practice in Groups, Ch. 14,
April 24 - Models in Social Work Practice, Ch. 16
April 26 - Generalist Practice with Organizations, Ch. 15 PAPERS DUE
May 1 - Generalist Practice with Organizations, Ch 15
May 10 - FINAL EXAM