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 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. 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.C0.03, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the
grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the
course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the

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 10, 2020 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:**
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 28th). The Paper/Report may be one of the following TWO choices.**

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:**

What is the role of the social worker in a particular practice setting? That is the question that needs to guide your research paper. Social workers work in a variety of practice settings, including health care, mental health, child welfare, etc. Each student will choose an area of social work practice of interest to him/her and will include the role of the social worker in that setting. For example, a student interested in health care and cancer would look at the social worker’s role in working with cancer patients and would research this practice field and the population served. The focus of the paper will be on the role of the social worker in that particular setting. The research needs to include how effective social workers are in that setting. Additionally, the paper needs to include references from articles and publications. The paper should include: a description of the field of practice, the client group involved, relevant theoretical materials, strategies of intervention, cultural issues. 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 8 to 9 pages in length, using APA style.

2. You must have at least five references. 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 headings.

Your paper is due **April 28th**. 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 paper should include a description of the agency, clients served, your role in the agency, reflections on your feelings and actions in your work. In addition, your paper should include the role of the social worker that you shadowed and strategies of intervention of the social worker. The paper needs to include concepts learned in class and in the
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 28th

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

ASSIGNMENTS:

January 21 - Introduction to course
January 23 - Social Work as a Response to Need, Ch. 1
January 28 - Social Work as a Blend of Knowledge, Values, skills, Ch.2
January 30 - Social Work as a Blend of Knowledge, Values, Skills, Ch. 2
February 4 - The Worker, Ch. 4
February 6 - Professional Self Awareness ,(Ragg, on reserve/library) Ch. 1
February 11 - Guiding Principles for Social Workers (Sheafor, on reserve/library) Ch.5
February 13 - EXAM I
February 18 - The Client, Ch. 7
February 20 - The Environment, Ch.6
February 25 - Professional Relationship (Pillari on reserve in library) Ch. 9
February 27 - Interaction and Engagement, Ch. 7
March 3 - Interaction and Engagement, Ch. 7
March 5 - Basic Communication and Helping Skills, (Sheafor, on reserve/library), Ch 8
March 17 - EXAM II
March 19 - Assessment, Ch. 8
March 24 - Assessment, Ch. 8
March 26 - Data Collection, (Sheafor, on reserve/library) Ch. 11
March 31 - Data Collection (Sheafor, on reserve/library), Ch. 11
April 2 - Planning, Ch. 9
April 7 - Planning, Ch. 9
April 19 - Direct Practice, Ch 10
April 14 - EXAM III
April 16 - Evaluation and Termination, Ch. 12
April 21 - Diversity Competent Practice, Ch. 3
April 23 - Diversity Competence Practice, Ch 3
April 28 - Generalist Practice in Groups, Ch 14, PAPER DUE
April 30 - Generalist Practice with Organizations, Ch. 15
May 5 - Models in Social Work Practice, Ch.16
May 12-14 - FINAL EXAM TBA