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SW 350.01: Social Work Intervention I: Generalist Practice with Focus on Individuals and Families

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Syllabus

Social Work 350

Fall 2003

Section 1

Social Work Intervention I: Generalist Practice with Focus on Individuals and Families

4 Credits

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:10-3 pm.

LA 105

Instructor: Charlie Wellenstein

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12 or by appointment

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Teaching Assistant: Jen True

Rankin Hall, Room 109

Prerequisites: SW 200 and approval of application to enroll in upper division social work course.

Course Goals: The UM social work major focuses on preparation for professional practice. In keeping with that orientation, SW 350 is a professionally oriented course designed to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills to work directly with individual and families. The course helps prepare students for their senior practicum and future employment. Students also gain an understanding of the relationship between social service and social policy by examining social work theory and practice.

Course Objectives: Students completing SW 350 will be able to:

1. Describe the phases in planned change and the helping process.
2. Describe and critique the generalist perspective and its application to practice.
3. Describe the various professional roles common to direct social work practice (e.g., broker, counselor, teacher, case manager, advocate).
4. Describe how cultural, racial, ethnic, class and religious factors relate to social functioning of individuals and families and explain how a knowledge of such factors can be applied in practice.
5. Demonstrate understanding of gender, sexual orientation, ability, and age as key themes in the social reality of individuals and families and explain how knowledge of such factors can inform practice.
6. Describe how self-understanding and critique can be enhanced and how worker self-awareness relates to practice decisions and activities.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of process evaluation, including the use of procedures such as single subject design, measurement of client satisfaction and task

- achievement scaling, and how basic research concepts such as sampling, validity and reliability apply to the evaluation of services to clients.
8. Prepare professional reports and document service activities (e.g., social assessment reports, case notes, service contracts, treatment plans, discharge plans and summaries).
 9. Describe and compare several theories, models and perspectives used with work with individuals and families, especially the strengths perspective, crisis intervention, task-centered practice, behavioral analysis, the interactional approach, and family systems theory.
 10. Identify the implicit or explicit assumptions of practice theory or model concerning how and why people and systems change.
 11. Gather data and assess social functioning of individuals and families using several different procedures such as observation, eco-mapping, culturegrams, checklists and scales.
 12. Describe the basic principles and guidelines for working with the non-voluntary client, the hard to reach client and the dangerous client.
 13. Describe the elements and activities of effective case management, client advocacy, interagency coordination and referral.
 14. Describe how agency context (mission, policy, procedures, and funding base) may influence selection of practice roles and intervention.
 15. Describe how community context, public attitudes, political climate, scope of problem, demographics, culture, available resources, and economy influence the selection of practice roles and interventions.

Texts and Readings

All readings should be completed for the week prior to the class. Utilizing the text readings will assist you with understanding lectures and assignments. There are specific directions for the reserve readings in the assignment section.

Sheafor, B., Horejsi, C., & Horejsi, G. (2003). Techniques and guidelines for social work practice. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Selected readings on ERES and reserve at the Mansfield Library. Password is SW350.

Course Handouts

Course Format:

This course is structured to simulate the practices and demands of a social work agency. The mission of the classroom/ agency is social work development. Given the practice orientation of the course, attendance and participation are critical and mandatory (more than two absences will affect your grade). This course places considerable demands on students' time. Students will participate in practice intervention techniques, prepare written reports, and evaluate their knowledge and skills. Like all social service organizations, the classroom/ agency has many policies and procedures that must be

followed. Several of the written assignments for this course are designed to stimulate the work you will be doing during your practicum and after graduation.

Because this course is preparation for professional practice, students are expected to adhere to the Social Work Code of Ethics. Please read and review the Code of Ethics (on line at www.naswdc.org/pubs/code) before committing to participation in this course. Students are expected to demonstrate ethical standards of practice in fulfilling course assignments.

Course Assignments

The course assignments are designed to simulate the work you will be doing as a social worker. Meeting deadlines is a reality in social work practice and in this course. Students are expected to complete written assignments on time. When citing references in your written work, please use APA format.

The following criteria is used for grading:

- Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Indication of thoughtfulness and critical reflection
- Good balance between thoroughness and expressing ideas concisely
- Well organized/ clarity of thought
- Move beyond reporting surface content to critical analysis and original ideas
- Integration of readings and course learnings

Late assignments will be accepted, but points will be deducted to what is the equivalent of one-half grade per day late.

1. Reflections on difference and diversity

This assignment provides the opportunity to broaden and deepen your understanding of others' experiences distinct of your own. This exercise asks you to explore aspects of difference that pose barriers to understanding. You will write two short essays that address various aspects of cultural diversity as related to the other experience that you choose to learn about. Each essay should be no more than two double spaced typed pages in length. Use APA format citing references in your essays. Think critically as you read and write about cultural diversity.

Essay # 1 (Due Sept. 17)

Identify a person or a group from a background different from your own that you may have difficulty working with as a social worker. Why did you choose this person/group? What do you believe to be the important differences in your cultural experiences? Where might there be common ground?

Essay # 2 (Due Oct. 1) Read, summarize, critique and reflect on an article from a scholarly journal or text addressing some aspect of the history of the person or group you have selected. Please cite the journal in APA format.

2. Social Assessment

There are two assessments to be completed based on the readings.

#1) You are the social worker for a family service agency. For the piece on the account of the Unabomber's brother and family "His Brother's Keeper", Washington Post Magazine, July 15, 2001), you as the social worker will provide an ecomap and a genogram that depicts David Kaczynski's life. Then use one additional assessment tool in Techniques to make an additional social assessment. Include a brief (one page) critique of the assessment tools.
(Due Oct. 15)

#2) Again as a social worker for the same family agency, please follow the same directions for the article "After Welfare" from the New Yorker.
(Due Nov. 24)

4. Assignments Related to Social Worker/Clients Relationship

Role Play #1 due Oct. 29

Role Play #2 due Dec. 1

At the start of the semester, each student will be assigned a partner. You will each assume the role of client and social worker. You are to develop a two role-plays for each time you are the social worker (you may want to check with me on the appropriateness of your role play). Each role-play should be videotaped and last approximately ten minutes. The first role-play should be the first meeting with your client. The second role-play should have you asking your client a "difficult question" or confronting your client regarding a problem. In addition, for each role-play, you should include a process recording. Then based on your process recording, you are to critique your role as the social worker. Your critique should be based on social work techniques learned in class. The critique should be two pages in length.

Specific process recording guidelines and questions to reflect on in your critique will be distributed and discussed in class.

5. Assessment (Due November 12)

A three page assessment based on an in class interview on October 15. The assessment should follow a form distributed in class.

6. For each assigned reading on reserve, please write a one – two paged typed review of the article. The review should include the primary ideas and issues raised in the reading, what aspects of the article you may find useful in practice, questions you have regarding the reading, and disagreements with the authors. **You do not need to provide a critique**

for the readings on September 22 and November 3 Each weekly review is due in class on the Monday for the week the reading is assigned.

Final

There will be a comprehensive final exam on December 16. There will be a review in class.

Class Participation

Attendance is required for this course. Class attendance and discussion are an important component of your learning experience. It is important to share your perspective not only for grading but also for the enhancement of other's knowledge. Therefore it is necessary that you participate in all class discussions, exercises, and demonstrations. Also, you should come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations will be made with the Department of Disability Services. Also students with disabilities are welcome to discuss accommodations with me.

Determination of Course Grade:

Cultural Diversity Essays (25 points each)	40
Reading Critiques (12 at 5 points each)	60
“Unabomber” Assessment	25
“After Welfare” Assessment	25
In Class Interview/Assessment	50
Video Taping and Process Recordings	100
Final	50
Class Participation	50
Total Points	400

Points Earned	Grade
365-400	A
335-364	B
305-334	C
265-304	D
Below 265	F

Selected Bibliography

Berg, K.,I., & Kelly, S. (2000). Building solutions in child protective services. New York: Norton.

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- Corey, M.S., & Corey, G. (2001). Groups: process and practice (6th ed.). Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole.
- Counoyer, B. (1996). The social work skills workbook. (2nd ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Finn, J. and Jacobson, M. (2003). Just practice: a social justice approach to social work. Peosta, IA: Eddie Bowers Publishers.
- Rauner, D. (2000). They still pick me up when I fall. New York: Columbia University Press.
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- Stone, D., Patton, B., & Heen, S. (1999). Difficult conversations. New York: Penguin.
- Wells, C. C., (1989). Social work day to day. White Plains, New York: Longman.