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SW 200.02: Introduction to Social Work Practice

Mary-Ann Bowman

University of Montana, Missoula, mary-ann.bowman@umontana.edu

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INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
SOCIAL WORK 200, 02
FALL SEMESTER 2008
TUESDAY, THURSDAY 9:10-11:00

Instructor: Mary-Ann Bowman, Ph.D., LCSW

Office: 110 Jeannette Rankin Hall

Phone: 243-5666

E-Mail: mary-ann.bowman@mso.umt.edu

Office Hrs: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 - 1; Fridays 10 - 11 and by appt.

Prerequisite; SW 100

Course Description:

This course is the first in a series of three practice courses designed to prepare students for direct social work practice. The course provides an introduction to social work as a profession, including an examination of goals, guiding philosophy, and basic assumptions. Emphasis is on the generalist framework of social work practice and on the development of beginning analytical and practice skills: listening, relationship building, assessment, intervention, and evaluation.

Relation of This Course to Other Courses:

This course builds on SW 100 (Introduction to Social Welfare) providing an overview of the social work profession and introducing students to beginning helping skills. It sets the foundation for the other two courses in the practice series (SW 350 Social Work Intervention Methods I and SW 360 Social Work Intervention Methods II).

Program Objectives Addressed in This Course:

- PO 1 Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
- PO 2 Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
- PO 3 Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.
- PO 4 Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge and skills related to client's age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity,

- family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
- PO5 Demonstrate understanding of the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.
- PO 6 Apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes, while exhibiting effective practice in a range of professional social work roles.
- PO 7 Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand and apply to practice individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- PO 8 Demonstrate the ability to analyze, formulate, and influence social policies, including understanding the connections between social problems and social policies.
- PO 9 Demonstrate basic research skills of ethical collection and analysis of data, evaluation of research studies, application of research findings to practice, and evaluation of one's own practice intervention.
- PO 10 Use communication skills differently across client populations, colleagues, organizational settings, and communities.
- PO 11 Use supervision and consultation to promote effective social work practice.
- PO 12 Demonstrate appropriate professional, ethical conduct within practice settings and contribute to positive organizational maintenance, development, and change.
- PO 13 Practice the skills of the generalist social worker in rural settings and underserved areas of the Rocky Mountain West.

Course Objectives:

As a result of participating in this class, students should, at an introductory level, be able to -

1. Describe social work as a profession, its purpose and goals, and how it differs from other helping professions
2. Demonstrate an understanding of a generalist practice approach to social work practice
3. Articulate the core values of the profession and discuss the challenges and possibilities for realizing the goal of social justice in social work practice

4. Describe a range of social work theories and related perspectives (e.g., strengths, empowerment, ecosystems, feminist, structural) and discuss their differences, commonalities, and contributions
5. Describe key principles in the NASW Social Work Code of Ethics, identify ethical dilemmas, and reflect on personal ethical self knowledge and stance
6. Articulate connections between contemporary social work practice and the historical development of the profession
7. Explain concepts of economic and social justice and their relationship to social work practice
8. Discuss examples of the contributions to contemporary understandings of diversity, empowerment, and social justice made by social work's progressive foremothers and fathers
9. Critically reflect on personal experiences, values, and beliefs as they relate to the knowledge, values, and skills base of social work practice
10. Discuss the historical and contemporary influence of race, ethnicity, gender, social class, sexual identity, age, citizenship and other constructions of difference on social work practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities
11. Discuss key aspects of the organizational context of social work practice and describe strategies for effective practice within an organizational context.
12. Describe how structural arrangements of inequality and practices of oppression and discrimination shape the context of social work practice
13. Describe elements of a helping relationship and demonstrate competence in the use of basic helping skills
14. Describe phases of a change process and the key understandings, skills, roles, and activities associated with each
15. Explain purpose of the genogram, ecomap, social network map, and other social work assessment tools and critically assess their strengths and limitations

Required Texts:

Kirst-Ashton, K. & Hull, G. (2009). *Understanding Generalist Practice*. 5th Ed. Thomson/Brooks/Cole. Belmont, CA.

Disability:

Contact Student Disability Services for consideration and eligibility. Upon presentation of eligibility, classroom and testing accommodations will be made.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance and active, appropriate participation is an expectation of this class. Students may miss one class session without penalty, but each absence after the first will result in a loss of ten points.

Class assignments and Tests/Due Date/Points

e-mail assignments (5)	ongoing	50
Attendance/Participation	ongoing	100
Midterm	October 16	100
Social Worker Interview Paper	October 30	100
Article Summary/Reflection (Paper)	November 18	100
Self-Assessment	November 25	100
Final	December 10	100

Please note that all assignments must be completed to pass this course.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

Percentage	Final Grade
94-100	A
90 - 93	A-
88 - 89	B+
84-87	B
80 - 83	B-
78 - 79	C+
74-77	C
70 - 73	C-
68 -69	D+
64-67	D
<63	F

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One (August 26 - 28)

Introductions

Week 2 (September 2 - 4)

The Generalist Intervention Model

Reading: Chapter 1

Week 3 (September 9 - 11)

Ethics and Values in Social Work

Reading: Chapter 11

Week 4 (September 16 - 18)

Practice Skills: Working with Individuals

Reading: Chapter 2

Week 5 (September 23 - 25)

Practice Skills: Working with Groups

Reading: Chapter 3

Week 6 (September 30, October 1)

Practice Skills: Working with Organizations and Communities

Reading: Chapter 4

Week 7 (October 7 - 9)

Engagement and Assessment

Reading: Chapter 5

Week 8 (October 14 - 16)

Planning

Reading: Chapter 6

MIDTERM October 16

Week 9 (October 21 - 23)

Implementation/Interventions

Reading: Chapter 7

Week 10 (October 28 - 30)

Evaluation, Termination, and Follow-Up

Reading: Chapter 8

DUE October 30: Social Worker Interview

Week 11 (Thursday Only -- November 6)

Working with Families

Readings: Chapters 9, 10

Week 12 (Thursday Only -- November 13)

Working with Diversity

Readings: Chapters 12, 13

Week 13 (November 18 - 20)

Social Work Roles

Readings: Chapters 14, 15

DUE: November 18 Group Members Assessment

Week 14 (Tuesday Only, November 25)

Paperwork!

Reading: Chapter 16

DUE: November 25 Self-Assessment

Week 15 (December 2 - 4)

Summary/Wrap-Up

Discussion/handout of Upper Division Application

**The Final Exam for this course is December 10
from 10:10 - 12:10.**