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SOW 3203 Intro to Social Work

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**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK
SOW 3203-001**

**SPRING 2017
3 Credits**

INSTRUCTOR: MANISHA JOSHI

OFFICE LOCATION: MHC 1422

EMAIL: MANISHAJ@USF.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: 11AM-12 NOON, TUESDAYS

CLASSROOM: MHA 126A

CLASS HOURS: 9.30-10.45 ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

NATURE OF THE COURSE

This course provides a broad overview of the social work profession and the theoretical basis that guide generalist social work practice and intervention. A history of social work is presented, with emphasis on the effects of social forces in shaping the profession today and in the future. The relationship of social work to other social science and human behavior theories will be presented.

The generalist approach to social work practice will be examined and will provide the framework for examining social work together with social and economic justice in the major areas of practice. These areas are, but not limited to: 1) income maintenance 2) services to families 3) services to children 4) services to the aging 5) services for health and mental health 6) school social work 7) policy and administration, and 8) community service. An additional purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with both the implicit and explicit values on which professional practice is based. Ethical considerations in practice and value dilemmas will be presented and addressed throughout the course as fields of practice, research and policy development, client systems, and beginning methods of intervention are discussed. Special emphasis will be placed on sensitizing students to understanding diversity in its many facets including gender, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, age, spirituality. The impact of diversity on social functioning and the concepts of non-judgmental and non-discriminatory practice will be themes throughout the semester.

Students will be expected to examine their values as an integral part of professional development and in planning for/anticipation of their field experience. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics will be discussed in order to familiarize students with their professions' Code and how this impacts professional practice decisions. Special emphasis will be placed on the sections of the Code specifically related to standards that address evidenced based practice within the profession.

RATIONALE

This course is the only pre-core course required as pre-admission to the three-semester BSW program. **Students planning to apply for the BSW program must pass this course with a grade of "B" or better in order to be considered for admission to the full major.**

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

The graduate and undergraduate programs of the USF School of Social Work provide a progressive identification with the values and ethics of social work, mastery of the knowledge on which social work practice is based, and the development of practice skills. The unifying themes and theoretical underpinnings of the USF's social work curricula are found primarily in explanatory theories (e.g., *ecosystems theory*) and secondarily in change theories (e.g., psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral theories), ***operationalized through the empowerment, strengths, and capacity building perspectives of social work practice.***

Ecosystems theory reflects the social work value of enhancing human system functioning and focuses on biological, psychological, emotional, cultural, and social environments holistically. The *strengths perspective* emphasizes viewing the range of human differences as normal and acceptable, as opposed to making judgments about peoples' personal characteristics, race, ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, age, national origin, and level of social and emotional functioning. The *empowerment perspective* supports resourcefulness and the development of skills to remove social barriers for individuals, groups, and communities. The *capacity building perspective* reinforces the social work mandate to serve the most vulnerable of society, to enhance the caring capacity of society to end discriminatory practices, and to develop and expand resources to those in need. ***Evidence-based practice*** entails the conscientious and judicious use of current best practice in decision-making about interventions at all system levels, integrating relevant scientific information with informed professional judgment and the personal preferences and cultural backgrounds of service consumers in order to practice effectively and ethically

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the mission and core values of the profession of social work.
Measurement: Exams, Volunteer experience/paper
2. Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.

Measurement: Exams, Volunteer paper

3. Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services

Measurement: Evidence-based Practice Paper

4. Assess client strengths and limitations

Measurement: Examinations

5. Engage in career-long learning.

Measurement: Evidence-based Practice Paper

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This course will include a wide variety of instructional methods such as lectures, class/group discussions, videos, formal class presentations, online activities, and guest speakers from the local social work community.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Quizzes

There will be three Quizzes that will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and matching formats, and data interpretation. All quizzes will consist of content covered in all of the chapters, class discussions, speaker/video presentations up to the date of the exam.

B. Evidenced-Based Practice Paper (See Appendix B for more details)

- ✚ Students are asked to select and read at least 3 current articles from Social Work journals or journals of related disciplines (2010 forward) on the concept of evidence-based practice. Please select your articles based on your areas of interest in social work practice. These 3 articles are to be used in the Evidence-based Practice paper.
- ✚ In addition to the 3 articles, students are required to: 1) listen to and use in their Evidence-based paper the following Social Work podcast - Parrish, D. E. (2011, March 9). The process of evidence-based practice. Social Work Podcast retrieved from <http://socialworkpodcast.blogspot.com/>; and 2) read and use in the Evidence-based paper 3 NASW Code of Ethics standards for evidence-based practice (these codes are: 4.01b, 4.01c, and 5.02c). These codes can be found in The Code of Ethics Manual which has been made available in Canvas in the “Week 1” folder and also in “Samples, Guide sheets, Instruction sheets” folder under modules.
- ✚ Based on the information found in the above sources (i.e., 3 articles, podcast, and NASW code of ethics), students will write a 6 page paper (4 pages of main text + 1 page cover page + 1 page reference list) to address the following areas: (1) describe the definition of evidence-based practice, as you understand it, (2) discuss the rationale for its use, i.e. why do we engage in evidence-based practice? (3) discuss the possible ethical dilemmas in using evidence-based practice (4) discuss the possible ethical dilemmas in not using evidence-based practice, (5) describe an example of its use in an agency.

- ✦ The paper should be written in Times New Roman, 12 font, double-spaced, pages numbered, APA style, with correct spelling and grammatical form. In addition to the 4 pages of the assignment itself, a cover page will be attached in front, and reference page identifying the articles read will be attached at the end (total of 6 pages in the total assignment). Also, the NASW Code of Ethics standards are to be listed on the reference list and identified as NASW Code (revised in 2008), 4.01b, 4.01c, and 5.02c.
- ✦ If you need help with writing, please setup appointments with the Writing Center and/or make use of the online facility called Smarthinking available through the library (<http://www.lib.usf.edu/writing/smarthinking/>)

C. Volunteer Experience:

This assignment is comprised of five (5) elements:

1. 20 Volunteer Hours of service at a not-for-profit community social service agency (at which you have not previously volunteered) to be completed by the due date for the paper.
2. BSW/MSW Interview with a person who has a Bachelors Degree in Social Work or a Masters Degree in Social Work. **The social worker's signed business card (that contains their credentials, BSW or MSW) is required and will be turned in during class time.**
3. Volunteer Paper as described below.
4. Volunteer Presentation as described below.
5. Social Work Student Volunteer Verification Form completed and signed by the staff person monitoring your volunteer work, preferably a social worker.

20 Volunteer Hours and BSW/MSW Interview:

It is a requirement of this course that students participate in volunteering at a not-for-profit social service agency for a total of 20 hours during the semester. For completion of the required paper that accompanies this assignment the students will interview an employee with a Bachelor of Social Work or Masters of Social Work (BSW or MSW) within the agency with which they volunteered.

It is advisable to begin the process of finding an agency and beginning your volunteer hours as soon as possible to ensure that this entire assignment is completed on the due date outlined in the Course Calendar below.

Volunteer Paper (See Appendix C for more details):

Format of Paper:

- The interview with the BSW or MSW social worker employed at the agency in which you volunteer is the main source of the information needed for your paper.
- The paper must be 6-8 typed pages of the main text + the cover page + the reference page). Therefore, in total the volunteer paper should be 8-10 pages long.
- Utilize Times New Roman, 12 font, double-space, proof read for correct spelling, grammar and citation of references. Grammatical presentation must be correct. Run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and misspelled words will be considered in the grading process. Seek help from your instructor, writing lab or talented peers early in your work on this project as needed

- **Late papers will lose 3 points for every day past due date, including weekends.**
- **The following 10 required items must be thoroughly described in narrative form in your paper.**
 1. Mission Statement, Goals & Purposes of the agency.
 2. Identify the person you interviewed by degree/request a business card.
 3. Identified funding sources for the agency
 4. To what licensing and/or accreditation body is the agency responsible?
 5. Population served and types of problems they experience; Give examples.
 6. Observe methods used to help the persons who are served; (individual, group etc.)
 7. Examples of Tasks you were assigned and those you successfully completed;
 8. Staff with academic degrees, licenses and/or certifications. List which degrees
 9. Social Work Code of Ethics–give 3 examples of how it is demonstrated in the agency.
 10. Student Process. Describe your comfort level working in the agency and with the population served by the agency; what personal values were challenged or supported by your volunteer experience? Did this experience either positively or negatively, impact your thoughts about going into the field of social work?

NOTE: The grade will be earned based upon inclusion of the 10 areas described above. Use the process of critical thinking with regard to your understanding of your learning and the volunteer placement.

Social Work Student Volunteer Verification Form: (See Appendix A)

Students will receive this form at the beginning of the semester. All portions of this form are to be *completed and signed by the staff person* at the agency who has monitored your volunteer hours and rated your volunteer work. The signed Verification Form is submitted to your instructor when your hours are finished and becomes a part of your student file in the School of Social Work

NOTE: Completion of all portions of the Volunteer Experience is a requirement of this course, without which a grade of “F” or “I” representing “incomplete” will be noted even if all other course work has been completed.

Power point Presentation:

- ✚ Students will present a short (approximately 5-7-minute) summary of their volunteer experience to the class during one of the final class meetings.
- ✚ It is expected that protocol for professionalism in presentation will be followed.
- ✚ The presentation *is not to be read*.
- ✚ A quality presentation would include a brief overview of factual items about the agency with a primary focus on your observations, experiences, and interactions with staff and persons served. Your integration of social work values, language, and principles learned in this course and how that learning assisted you in your volunteer experience will also be evaluated by the instructor.
- ✚ Students who volunteered in the same agency are encouraged to make a combined presentation. They can highlight the differences in their experience during the presentation.

Assignment Due Dates:

All written work in the course will be due at the stated deadline in the Course Calendar section. Late papers without written permission from the instructor will lose 3 points per day, including weekends, from the total points for the assignment.

Class participation is vital to your own learning as well as your contributions to the class as a whole. Participation is defined as regular, timely contributions to class discussion related to the material being presented by the professor, classmates, guest speakers. Students need to come to class prepared to be called upon regarding the Chapter assignment of the day.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Any student with a disability is encouraged to meet with the instructor *during the first week of class* to discuss any accommodation that may be needed. The student must bring a current **Memorandum of Accommodations** (MOA) from the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS), which is a prerequisite for receiving accommodations.

Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with Students with Disabilities Services to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students with Disabilities Services in order to receive academic accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice to the instructor prior to requesting an accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request.

- See Student Handbook:
<http://www.sds.usf.edu/content/docs/SDS%20Student%20Handbook.pdf>
- See Faculty/staff handbook:
http://www.sds.usf.edu/content/docs/Faculty-Staff_Guide.pdf?refer=FACULTY

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE ABSENCE POLICY

Students who anticipate the need of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor in writing at least two weeks prior to the anticipated absence and observed date(s).

USE OF NON-SEXIST AND PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE

A class environment that is conducive to learning requires respect for all participants. Students are expected to arrive on time and remain in class until dismissed; to conduct themselves in a respectful, considerate manner, both in class discussion and written assignments. All participants in the class need to respect the environment by putting in silence their cell phones and pagers, removing headphones, avoiding extraneous talking and refraining from texting, and reading non-class material. The use of non-sexist, culturally sensitive and professional language and attire in class is required. Guidelines regarding non-sexist language are available in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Any form of cheating on examinations or plagiarism on assigned papers constitutes unacceptable deceit and dishonesty. Disruption of the classroom or teaching environment is also unacceptable. The University of South Florida has very specific policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty or disruption of academic process.

Academic Integrity Regulation: <http://regulationspolicies.usf.edu/regulations/pdfs/regulation-usf3.027.pdf>

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS

The School of Social Work is committed to resolving issues at the earliest possible point. The Problem Resolution Process is internal to the School and is not meant to replace the University Academic Grievance Procedure (AGP). If at the end of the School's Problem Resolution Process a student feels that s/he has been treated in a manner that violates University policy, the student may file a formal Academic Grievance. The Academic Grievance Process provided in USF Policy

School of Social Work Problem Resolution Process:
http://socialwork.cbcs.usf.edu/assets/docs/bsw_studentHandbook.pdf

Academic Grievance Policy: <http://regulationspolicies.usf.edu/policies-and-procedures/pdfs/policy-10-002.pdf>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to be on time and prepared to participate when class begins as well as be present throughout the whole class meeting. Students are responsible for any material missed due to absence such as obtaining lecture notes or handouts and so on. Classroom exercises, discussions, lectures, and other in-class experiential exercises are essential for a student's professional learning and continued development. This form of learning cannot be "made up" once missed. Accordingly, attendance is required at all class meetings. Excused absences are limited to the following instances: documented illness, deaths in the immediate family, other documented crises, military duty, jury duty, religious holidays (consistent with University policy 10-045), court imposed legal obligations other than jury duty, and special requirements of other courses (must be documented by the faculty member of record. A student is considered absent if they arrive more than 30 minutes late to class, leave 30 or more minutes early or do not come to class. Students are allowed to miss 1 class (if class meets once per week) or 2 classes (if course meets twice a week) without penalty. After that, 5% off the total grade will be deducted for each missed class. Students are responsible for any missed material due to absences or lateness.

EMERGENCY PLAN

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.

GRADING SCALE

Papers, presentations, volunteer experience, exams, attendance, and participation in class will be used to determine grades. Writing ability and skills will also be used to determine grades. This course will use the University's plus/minus grading system. Points from assignments will be totaled together and the final grade computed on the scale shown.

Grading Scale Breakdown:

A+ =	97-100	C+ =	77 -79
A =	94-96	C =	74 -76
A- =	90-93	C- =	70 -73
B+ =	87-89	D+ =	67 -69
<u>B =</u>	<u>84-86</u>	D =	64-66
B- =	80-83	D- =	60 - 63
		F =	59 -below

Quiz 1	100 points	20%
Quiz 2	100 points	20%
Quiz 3	100 points	20%
Evidence-based practice paper	50 points	10%
Vol. Exp., Paper, Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 pts. for vol. hours • 90 pts. for Quest. 1 - 9 • 20 pts. for Quest. 10 • 15 pts. for presentation 	150 points	30%
TOTAL POINTS	500 points	100%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & OTHER MATERIAL

Kirst–Ashman, K. K. (2016). *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare: Critical Thinking Perspectives*. (5th Ed). Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

National Association of Social Workers. (Approved 1996, revised 2008). *Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers*. Washington, DC: Author.

[The instructor has uploaded the NASW Code of Ethics in Canvas.]

RIGHT TO CHANGE SYLLABUS

It may be necessary to adjust the content, assignments, timeline, point system, and due dates for assignments during the semester. If this is necessary, the Instructor has the right to change the syllabus. However, these changes will be announced in class or via Canvas and posted on Canvas. The students are responsible for any such announced changes and for checking Canvas.

COURSE CALENDAR		
Date	Topic	Readings & Assignments to be completed before class
Tues/Jan 10	Introductions, Syllabus, Course Expectations, 20 hours of Volunteer Experience.	Questions/Discussion Volunteer Form
Thurs/Jan 12	Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 1 & Epilogue
Tues/Jan 17	Social Work Values and Ethics Evidence –based Practice	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 2 <i>Listen to the following podcast:</i> Parrish, D. E. (2011). The process of evidence-based practice. Social Work Podcast retrieved from http://socialworkpodcast.blogspot.com/
Thurs/Jan 19	Social Work Values and Ethics Evidence–based Practice continued. • Video: Bill Moyer’s Journal – “Expose on the Journal: Chemicals in food” (http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/05232008/watch2.html)	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 2 continued
Tues/Jan 24	Empowerment and Human Diversity	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 3
Thurs/Jan 26	Empowerment and Human Diversity	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 3
Tues/Jan 31	Process of Generalist Practice	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 4
Thurs/Feb 2	Process of Generalist Practice	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 4 Evidence-based practice paper due!
Tues/Feb 7	Practice Settings	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 5
Thurs/Feb 9	Exam #1 (Chapt. 1-5)	

Tues/ Feb 14	Overview of Social Welfare and Social Work History	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 6 Signed Business Card due!
Thurs/Feb 16	Overview of Social Welfare and Social Work History; Video – Orphan Trains	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 6
Tues/Feb 21	Policy and Programs to Combat Poverty	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 8
Thurs/Feb 23	Policy and Programs to Combat Poverty	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 8
Tues/Feb 28	Social Work and Services for Children and Families	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 9
Thurs/Mar 2	Social Work and Services for Children and Families	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 9
Tues/Mar 7	Social Work and Services for Older Adults	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 10
Thurs/Mar 9	Social Work and Services for Older Adults	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 10
March 13-18	SPRING BREAK	
Tues/Mar 21	Social Work and Services for People with Disabilities	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 11
Thurs/Mar 23	Exam #2 Chapt. 6-11 (not #7)	
Tues/Mar 28	Social Work & Services in Health Care	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 12
Thurs/Mar 30	Social Work & Services in Health Care	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 12
Tues/April 4	Social Work and substance Use, Abuse, and Dependence	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 14
Thurs/April 6	Social Work and Services in Mental Health	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 13 Volunteer Paper Due!
Tues/April 11	Social Work and Services in Mental Health	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 13
Thurs/April 13	Social Work and Services in the Criminal Justice System	<i>Reading:</i> Chapter 16
Tues/April 18	Volunteer experience power point presentations!	
Thurs/April 20	Volunteer experience power point presentations! Course Summary	
Tues/April 25	Exam #3 Chapt. 12-16 (not #15)	

GENERAL REFERENCE TEXTS:

- Administration for Children and Families. *Sexual abuse prevention programs*. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/programs/types/sexualabuse.cfm>
- Birkett, M., Espelage, D. L., & Koenig, B. (2009). LGB and questioning students in schools: The moderating effects of homophobic bullying and school climate on negative outcomes. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 38, 989-1000.
- Council on Social Work Education (2008; revised 2010). *Educational policy and accreditation standards*. Washington, DC: Author
- Dolgoff, R., Harrington, D., & Loewenberg, F. M. (2011). *Empowerment series: Ethical decisions for social work practice (ninth edition)*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Dykema, C. R. (2013). *Forty years in social work: Reflections on practice and theory*. Washington, D.C: NASW press.
- Edwards, L. V. (2006). Perceived social support and HIV/AIDS medication adherence among African American women. *Qualitative Health Research*, 16, 679-691.
- Franklin, D. (1986). Mary Richmond and Jane Addams: From moral certainty to rational inquiry in social work practice. *Social Service Review*, 60(1), 504-525.
- Grobman, B. (ed.) (2005) *More days in the lives of social workers: 35 "real life" stories of advocacy, out-reach and other intriguing roles in social work practice*. Harrisburg, PA: White Hat
- Horton, A. (2003). Child welfare services: A story of misdirected social policy. *Journal of Human Behavior Theory*, 6, 1, 17-24.
- Itzhaky, H. & York, A. (2003). Showing results in community organization. *Social Work*, 47, 2, 125-131.
- Ka'opua, L. N. (2008). Developing a culturally responsive breast cancer screening promotion with Native Hawaiian women in churches. *Health and Social Work*, 33, 169-177.
- Kemp, S.P., Whittaker, J.K., Tracy, E.M., *Person-Environment Practice: The Social Ecology of Interpersonal Helping*. 1997. New York: Aldine De Gruyter
- Miley, K.K., O'Melia, M., & DuBois, B.I. (2012) *Generalist Social Work Practice: An Empowering Approach (7th edition)* (connecting core competencies. Pearson.
- National Association of Social Workers. (2008) *NASW Code of ethics*. Washington, DC: Author
- Post, L. A., Klevens, J., Maxwell, C. D., Shelly, G. A., & Ingram, E. (2010). An examination of whether coordinated community responses affect intimate partner violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 25, 75-93.
- Richmond, M. (1922) *What is social casework?* New York: Russell Sage Foundation
- Rose, S.M., (2000, Oct.) Reflections on Empowerment-Based Practice. *Social Work*, 45, 5, 403-412. NASW Press.

APPENDIX B

Grading Rubric for Evidence-based Practice Assignment (Maximum of 50 points).

- Students are asked to write about five (5) areas concerning evidence-based practice. (See Assignment described in syllabus.)
- Points per area will be awarded for papers that specifically address the issue identified in areas one (1) through five (5).
- Students will forfeit points in any area that does not display correct spelling, grammar and writing skills (e.g., proper use of capitalization, run-on sentences, etc). Guide sheets, sample journal articles, and a sample paper for the Evidence-based practice assignment is uploaded in Canvas.

APPENDIX C**Grading Rubric for Volunteer Experience, Paper, and Presentation**

Completed Volunteer Hours	25 points
Volunteer Paper - Questions 1 through 9 (10 pts. per question)	90 points
Volunteer Paper - Question # 10	20 points
Volunteer experience power point presentation	15 points