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SW 488.03: Practicum Seminar

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FIELD PRACTICUM SEMINAR
SW 488
Spring 2002
LA 338
Monday 3:10-5:00

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Purpose of Course

The goal of practicum seminar is to integrate the practicum experience with the classroom. Students will bring their new role as a social work professional into the seminar. The seminar gives students the opportunity to discuss and understand how theory, ethics, casework, social and agency policy, supervision and leadership weave into their work with clients.

Discussions will also include reading from current books and journals that illustrate both strengths and weaknesses of the social work practice. Emphasis in these discussions is placed on concepts and vision of what the practice should strive to become.

In addition, specific topics will be discussed directly related to the questions asked on the Competency Examination. Writing assignments will follow these discussions to adequately prepare the students for the Competency Examination.

Learning Objectives

Students will demonstrate:

1. The ability to integrate classroom theoretical knowledge and social work practice
2. Knowledge of and ability to identify ethical issue and methods to deal with those issues.
3. The ability to write measurable learning objectives
4. The ability to discuss professional learning objectives.
5. An understanding of their community and analysis of their community.
6. An understanding and analysis of relevant social policy.
7. An understanding of their agency and analysis of their agency.
8. The ability to identify legal issues in social work practice.
9. Competence in the phases of planned change.
10. An understanding of the importance of evaluation.
11. The ability to merge their professional and personal selves.
12. An understanding of the concept of diversity and differences in their agency and clients.

Grading

Pass / Fail

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Having more than two absences may result in a failing grade. A student may be excused from class for a special circumstance. If a student misses a class, the student must make arrangements with the instructor to make up for the work missed. This may include attending the missed Practicum Seminar class during the next semester.

Assigned Readings

Department of Social Work, University of Montana. (2000). Practicum Manual

Parent, M. (1996). Turning stones: my days and nights with children at risk. New York: Harcourt and Brace.

Confidentiality

Practicum seminar focuses on issues and concerns faced by students working with real clients at real agencies. It is imperative that the identity of the client is always kept confidential, even when names are not mentioned. If you have questions regarding confidentiality, please consult with your instructor.

Seminar Format

The session will be devoted to topics relevant to the practicum experience along with the readings. Students are to come prepared to discuss the weekly topic by reading the required readings and completing all assignments. Students will be expected to bring examples from their agencies to develop ideas and questions for the topic of the week. Additionally, students should respond professionally to the concerns and questions of other students.

Each student will lead the discussion one week, under the supervision of instructor.

Written Assignments

Students are to write a three to five page draft of the Competency Examination questions 1, 2, 3, and 7.

Draft of question 1 due:	February 25
Draft of question 2 due:	March 18
Draft of question 3 due:	April 8
Draft of question 7 due:	April 29

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

January 28	Introduction and Orientation
February 4	Getting Started in Practicum Turning Stones: Chapter 1
February 11	Learning Plans Turning Stones: Chapter 2
February 25	Supervision and Communication Turning Stones: Chapter 3
March 4	Safety in the Practicum Turning Stones: Chapter 4
March 11	Understanding Your Agency Turning Stones: Chapter 5
March 25	Understanding Your Community Turning Stones: Chapter 6
April 1	Social Problems and Social Policy Turning Stones: Chapter 7
April 8	Assessment and Planning Turning Stones: Chapter 8
April 15	Intervention and Evaluation
April 22	Professional Social Work and Ethics
April 29	Legal Concerns/Professionalism
May 6	Leadership/Course Wrap-up