SW 200.02: Introduction to Social Work Practice

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University of Montana - Missoula

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INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
SOCIAL WORK 200
FALL SEMESTER 2003

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Office Hrs: TH-10-12 or 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.

Course Objectives:
1. Describe social work as a profession, it’s purpose and goals, and how it differs from other helping professions
2. Demonstrate an understanding of a generalist approach to social work practice
3. Articulate the core values of the profession and discuss the challenges and possibilities for realizing the goals of social justice in social work practice
4. Describe a range of social work 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 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 the 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 and use of the genogram, ecomap, social network map and other social work assessment tools and critically assess their strengths and limitations.

Required Texts:

Selected Course Readings
Your Choice of book, involving a social problem

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

Course Requirements:

**Attendance and Participation:**
Attendance is mandatory. Three absences will lower your grade. Participation expected and encouraged.

**Assignments and Tests**
Quiz One-September 11
Assignment One-Genogram September 18
Quiz Two-September 25
Assignment Two-Nickel and Dimed Paper-October 2
Assignment Three- Group Agency Paper-October 23
Quiz Three-October 30
Assignment Four- Formal Assessment-November 20
Assignment Five-Reflection Paper-December 4
Final-December 9

**Grading:**

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Class Schedule:

Week One
Readings:  Chapter 1, 2 Social Work Practice
          Nickel and Dimed 1-50
September 2- Social work as a response to concern/need
September 4- The development of social work as a profession

Week Two
Readings:  Chapter 3, 4 Social Work Practice
          Nickel and Dimed 50-100
September 9- Social work as a blending of knowledge, values and skills
September 11- Social work as a change process
          Quiz# 1, Chapters 1-4

Week Three
Readings:  Chapter 5, 6 Social Work Practice
          Nickel and Dimed 100-Finish
September 16- The worker
September 18- The client
          Assignment #1 due- Genogram of your family

Week Four
Readings:  Chapter 7, 8 Social Work Practice
September 23- Environment
September 25- Interaction
          Quiz #2, Chapters 5-8

Week Five
Readings:  Chapter 9, 10 Social Work Practice
September 30- Assessment
October 2- Planning
          Assignment #2 due- Nickel and Dimed Paper

Week Six:
Readings:  Chapter 11, 12 Social Work Practice
October 7- Direct and Indirect Practice Actions
October 9- Evaluation and Termination

Week Seven
October 14- Agency groups
October 15- Agency groups

Week Eight
Readings:  Chapter 13, 14 Social Work Practice
October 21- Generalist Practice with Families
October 23- Generalist Practice with Groups
          Assignment 3 due, Group Agency Paper
Week Nine
Readings: Chapter 15, Social Work Practice
October 28- Generalist Practice with Organizations and Communities
October 30- Agency presentations
Quiz #3, Chapter 9-15

Week Ten
Readings: Personal Selection of book discussing social problem
November 4- Agency Presentations
November 6- Student interviews

Week Eleven
Readings: Personal Selection of book discussing social problem
November 11- Veterans' Day
November 13- Student interviews

Week Twelve
Readings: Personal Selection of book discussing social problem
November 18- Student interviews
November 20- Evaluation of student interviews
Assignment 4 due, Formal Assessment

Week Thirteen
Readings: Personal selection of book discussing social problem
November 25- Self Care for the social worker
November 27- Thanksgiving

Week Fourteen
December 2
December 4
Assignment #5- Reflection paper- “What is a social worker’s role” (discussion on your personal selection of a book on a social problem)

Week Fifteen
December 9- Review
December 11- Review

December 16- 3:20-5:20 Final