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SW 360.01: Social Work Intervention Methods II

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Social Work 360: Social Work Intervention Methods II

Tuesday & Thursday, 12:10 – 2:00 PM, Journalism 306

Tom Roy, Instructor

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Introduction

Social Work Intervention Methods I focused upon individual, family and group practice. Social Work Intervention Methods II, focuses upon community practice. Community practice is the application of practice skills to alter the behavioral patterns of community groups, organizations and institutions or people's relationships and interactions with these entities <Hardcastle, Wenour & Powers>. Communities are the context of social work practice; more important, they are the contexts in which we live our lives providing resources and opportunities in the best of circumstances and, in the worst of circumstances, denying resources and opportunities to some. Healthy individuals require healthy-supportive communities. While your interest may be in working with individuals, their welfare requires that you develop the practice skills to bring to them the community resources and supports they need. Developing those community practice skills is the chief purpose of this course.

Course Goals

In this course you will be required to:

1. develop an appreciation for the importance of community practice within generalist social work practice
2. understand conceptually what is meant by "community"
3. articulate theoretical positions that inform community practice
4. document the life of a community
5. assess a community
6. define a community issue/problem
7. design an intervention to address the issue/problem
8. learn to work as a community practitioner within your agency setting
9. develop skills at working with committees, teams and boards
10. learn skills for using networks and networking and for social marketing and case management
11. hone your skills as an advocate
12. refine your communication skills, oral and written

Text

David Hardcastle, Stanley Wenour and Patricia Powers. Community Practice: Theories and Skills for Social Workers, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Course Schedule-Readings

- I. Defining community practice, chapter 1
- II. Understanding social environment and social interaction, chapters 2, 3, and 4
- III. It's all a matter of "mindset" and confidence, chapters 7 & 14
- IV. Some "tips" to better writing
- V. Learning the life of a community, chapter 5
- VI. Assessing a community, chapter 6
- VII. Working within an agency, chapter 8
- VIII. Working with others: committees, teams, boards, chapter 9
- IX. Working interorganizationally, chapters 10 & 13
- X. Social marketing and fund raising, chapter 11
- XI. Being an effective advocate, chapter 12

Assignments

You will be given materials for the assignments in class. There will be a **summative final examination** in class on **Friday, December 21st at 10 A.M.**

Grading

You are juniors and seniors in your chosen major. I expect that you will take responsibility for your learning; translated, that means I expect you to attend class regularly, be an informed participant in class discussions, and to turn in assignments on time that reflect your best effort.

Much communication in community practice is in written form, therefore, your assignments will be graded both for content-substance and for writing. Please . . . please use this course as an opportunity to refine your writing. We shall talk about writing in class and don't be shy about asking for help.

Finally, don't bug me about your grade or your need to get such and such a grade to get into the practicum. Meet the expectations I have laid out in the preceding paragraphs and you will be in fine shape. Fail to meet those expectations and you shall be in trouble . . . but that is your own doing.

Final Thought

I want this class to be an open, interesting and fun learning experience for all of us!