Fall 9-1-2001

SW 422.01: Serving Changing Families

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Course Syllabus

Social Work 422
Serving Changing Families
Fall 2001
Tuesday and Thursday 12:10 – 1:30pm
LA 244
3 credits

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an overview of working with children and families. The course prepares students to understand the dynamics within the family, and external forces of policy, culture, and community, which affect the family. Also, attention is given to social work practice implications for each topic to prepare social work students for the field of child welfare.

Course Objectives

1. Understand family dynamics, systems and strengths, and practice implications based on these areas.
2. Understand historical and cultural factors that have an impact on the family.
3. Examine how current social policy affects children and families.
4. Identify how the community affects children and families.
5. Understand the concepts and the practice implications of out of home care.
6. Identify limits and ethics for social workers intervening with families.
7. Synthesize the factors affecting families and write a social work case plan and policy based on the synthesis.

Content Areas

1. Family assessment and strengths perspective.
2. Historical perspectives of social work and the family.
3. The effect of the current child welfare system on the family.
4. Political and cultural forces which influence the family.
5. Out of home placement, foster care, permanency, and adoption.
6. Practice implications for social workers in the field.
Required Texts


Reserve readings will be available at Mansfield Library and on ERES.

Format for Evaluation and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper #3</td>
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<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper #4</td>
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Grading

- A = 450-500 points  90%
- B = 400-449 points  80%
- C = 350-359 points  70%
- D = 300-349 points  60%
- F = 0- 299     points

Information Regarding Assignments

1. **Class participation**
   Class attendance and discussion are an important part of your learning experience. Class attendance is mandatory. It is important to share your perspective not only for grading but also for the enhancement of others’ knowledge.

2. **Writing Assignments**
   There will be writing assignments. Presentations and discussions of your papers will also be required. The first paper will respond to a case presentation. The second paper will ask for an assessment from a video shown in class. The third paper will be a report on a community service or agency that works with families. The fourth paper will be based on foster care and adoption. Specific information and directions will be given in class.
Weekly Schedule

September 4  Course Introduction
             Reserve Reading: Parents Blaming Parents

September 11 Historical perspectives on the family
              Readings: Common Purpose chapter 1
              Reserve Reading: The Dilemma in Saving from Child Labor

Sept. 18    Family assessment and strengths perspective
            Readings: Common Purpose chapter 2
            Reserve Reading: The Challenge of Empowerment in Child Protective Services

Sept. 25    Community effects on the family
            Readings: Common Purpose chapter 2
            Reserve Reading: A Mighty Fortress

Oct. 2      Current policies
            Video “Surviving the Good Times”
            Readings: Common Purpose chapter 4
            Reserve Reading: After Welfare

Oct. 9      Family Group Conferencing
            Readings: Common Purpose chapter 5
            Reserve Reading: Family Group Conferencing

Oct. 16     Schools and education
            Discussion of Laura’s case
            Readings: Common Purpose chapter 8
            Reserve Reading: Watching Her Weight

Oct. 23     Culture
            Readings: Common Purpose chapter 7
            Reserve Reading: Indian Adoption Runs Afoot of the Law

Oct. 30     Youth and Family Violence
            Readings: Common Purpose chapter 9
            Reserve Reading: Two Mothers

Nov. 6      Effects of Substance Abuse on the Family
            Reserve Reading: Helping Substance Abusing Mothers
Nov. 13  Discussion of Community Resource Papers

Nov. 20  Introduction to the Foster Care System
A. Types of foster care
B. What do foster parents look like?
Reading: Can This Child Be Saved, Chapter 1

Nov. 27  Child Behaviors
A. How abuse and neglect impacts development and attachment
B. Child Behavior Video
Reading: Can This Child Be Saved, Chapter 2

Nov. 29  Take This Heart
Reading: Can This Child Be Saved, Chapter 3

Dec. 4  Who Are The Birth Parents
Birth Parent Video
Reading: Can This Child Be Saved, Chapter 4

Dec. 6  A Foster Care Experience

Dec. 11  Wrap up and Summary

Selected Bibliography


