

Northeastern State University
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Social Work Department
Tahlequah, OK
SPRING 2003

INSTRUCTOR:

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COURSE TITLE:

SOWK 2013 Introduction to Social Work
Tuesday 11:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.

PREREQUISITES:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Course presents a broad overview of the profession of social work and familiarizes students with the context in which social workers practice. Emphasizes student development of knowledge, values and skills as well as awareness of the NASW Code of Ethics in micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Course includes an awareness of diverse populations.

COURSE PURPOSE:

This course is the first required course for social work majors. Students begin the process of integrating their learning from the liberal arts and linking it to the social work professional foundation. Northeastern State University Social Work Program objectives, philosophy, and mission are introduced to the students in this course. The professional foundation includes content on social work values and ethics, diversity, social and economic justice, populations-at-risk, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy and services, social work practice, research, and field practicum.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

1. Apply introductory critical thinking and library research skills within the context of social work practice.

2. Understand the value base of the social work profession and its ethical standards and principles as they apply to generalist social work practice.
3. Understand and define the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and the need to practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skill related to the client's age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
4. Describe the history of the social work profession and the social welfare institution and their contemporary structures and issues in generalist social work practice.
5. Define generalist social work practice and identify the knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession in a **global** context.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Suppes, MaryAnn and Wells, Carolyn C. (2003). The Social Work Experience. An Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare. Fourth Edition. McGraw-Hill Higher Education, Boston Mass.

NSU Social Work Department Handbook. (Required for social work pre-majors only)

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

The class will be structured around lecture, projects, videos, small group discussions and activities, and student presentations. When relevant, social work professionals will be invited as guest speakers.

COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE:

Week 1	Orientation to course and social work program Pre-test
Week 2	Chapter 1 - The Professional Social Worker
Week 3	Chapter 2 - Theoretical Perspectives for Social Workers Exam 1
Week 4	Chapter 3 - Social Welfare Policies and the Birth of Profession
Week 5	Chapter 4 - Poverty and Populations-at-Risk Exam 2
Week 6	Chapter 5 - Family and Children's Services
Week 7	Chapter 6 - Social Work in Mental Health Settings Exam 3
Week 8	Chapter 7 - Social Work in Health Care
Week 9	Spring Break
Week 10	Chapter 8 - Social Work in the Workplace Exam 4
Week 11	Chapter 9 - Social Work in Schools

Week 12	Family Analysis, Eco-map & Genogram Due Chapter 10 - Substance Abuse Services Exam 5
Week 13	Chapter 11 - Social Work with Older Adults
Week 14	Chapter 12 - Criminal Justice Settings Exam 6
Week 15	Chapter 13 - Developmental Disabilities and Social Work
Week 16	Chapter 14 - Future Challenges and Closing Notes Agency Reports and Journal Articles Due Exam 7
Week 17	Class Presentations Post-test Course Notebooks Due

ASSIGNMENTS:

Chapter reading assignments are to be completed before the class period in which the chapter will be covered. Requirements for the Family Assessment Paper and Agency Report and Annotated Bibliography Paper is contained in the course attachments provided each student. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the date indicated in the Class Outline/Schedule. After the assignment due date, work will be accepted up to one week late with a corresponding grade reduction of one letter grade.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Professionalism refers to appropriate behavior in the classroom, participation, presentation of reports and typed materials and attendance.

- (1) Attendance is important. You are allowed four absence, per semester. Five absences result in the final grade being lowered one letter grade. If six absences have occurred, the grade for the course becomes an F.

- (2) Students are expected to be present and ready to start at class time. Late arrival to class can not be avoided in some situations, however, it is disruptive and when chronic may affect your grade. Chronically leaving class early may also affect your grade.

- (3) Participation is expected and indicates a students preparation, commitment and level of interest. Respect for other students and their divergent views and beliefs is expected. Students are expected to accept responsibility for their learning experience.

- (4) Students are to keep a Course Notebook (three ring binder) which will contain, minimally:
 - *notes from class sessions
 - *notes from readings of assigned chapters
 - *notes from group activities

STUDENT EVALUATION:

The student is evaluated by **seven examinations** given during the semester (only the 6 highest scores count towards the course grade). In addition the student will complete a **Family Analysis (including an eco-map and genogram)** and an **Agency Report and three (3) journal articles**. Students will be expected to make a brief **oral presentation** to the entire class of their agency visit. All class notes and activities, as well as other assignments, will be kept in a **Course Notebook** (three ring binder with dividers) which is turned in at the end of the semester. GRADE COMPUTATION: This a 100 point course (see course requirements). Grades are determined by the number of points accrued by the student during the semester, using the following scale:

- 90-100A
- 80-89B
- 70-79C
- 60-69D
- Below 60F

No EXTRA CREDIT opportunities are given to individual students. Extra credit opportunities, if any, are available to all students. There are NO MAKEUP EXAMS unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Each student is expected to contribute to class discussion. The student is to utilize the basic social work knowledge in evaluating social work practice from a generalist perspective.

Grades will be based on the following:

- Exams (7 exams. Highest 6 exams count towards the course grade - 10 points each)..... 60 pts.
 - Family Assessment, eco map, & genogram 15 pts.
 - Agency Report & Journal Articles.....15 pts.
 - Course Notebook 5 pts.
 - Professionalism 5 pts.
- TOTAL Course Points = 100

ADA COMPLIANCE:

If any student feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations, please advise the instructor of such disability at the first class attended.

INCLEMENT WEATHER /DISASTER POLICY:

It is assumed that class will be held as scheduled unless otherwise notified. In the event of inclement weather or disaster an official announcement of the cancellation of classes will be made through the local news media, by the university. The instructor will be as accommodating as possible to students who feel that driving to campus during inclement weather or a disaster would be hazardous to their health and well being. Students should always use good judgement when evaluating their own situation relative to inclement weather and natural disasters.