SWK 470.001

Course Title: Social Work Practicum I
Semester Year: Fall 2017

Office Hours: By appointment only

Pre-requisites: SWK 350, SWK 450, SWK 415 and all general education requirements, Social Work Major, senior level and in good standing.

Co-requisites: SWK 480, SWK 490

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students are engaged in supervised social work practice with individuals, families, and groups in a social service agency. Students employ a problem solving approach to prepare them for Generalist Social Work practice and are under the direct supervision of a professional agency social worker for 250 hours during the semester.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Text: Senior Field Practicum Manual, Revised 2016

II. CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

Generalist practice serves diverse client systems utilizing an ecological systems approach focusing on persons, families, groups, organizations and communities. It is not confined by a narrow cadre of theories; rather it is versatile enough to allow problems and situations, as well as strengths, capacities, and resources, to determine the practice approach. Generalist practice employs a problem solving framework and a broad knowledge, value, and skill base which demands ethical practice and on-going self-assessment.

Briefly, generalist social work practice:

- Is multi-level to include individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities
• Is multi-theory, allowing for the free selection of theories as appropriate
• Utilizes a problem identification and solving focus that follows a problem-solving framework
• Utilizes multiple interventions at multiple levels, as appropriate
• Addresses the complexity of individual, family, group, organizational and community system interactions
• Requires an integration of awareness, competence, and professional response to issues of values, ethics, diversity, culture, social justice, and populations-at-risk.

III. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO) CORE COMPETENCIES

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
4. Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
5. Engage in Policy Practice
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

IV. (Student Learning Outcomes: SLO) COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Student will make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.
2. Student will use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.
3. Student will demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.
4. Student will use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes.
5. Student will use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.
6. Student will apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
7. Student will present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences.

8. Student will apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

9. Student will apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels.

10. Student will engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

11. Student will use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research.

12. Student will apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.

13. Student will use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.

14. Student will identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.

15. Student will assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.

16. Student will apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

17. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.

18. Student will use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

19. Student will collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.

20. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.

21. Student will develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.

22. Student will select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.

23. Student will critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.
24. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.

25. Student will use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.

26. Student will negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.

27. Student will facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.

28. Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.

29. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes.

30. Student will critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes; and apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Through on-site supervision by an agency field instructor, students engage in educationally directed practice activities in a social service agency via a 250 block placement taken concurrently with (SWK 480 and SWK 490.) The agency field instructor provides structured educational supervision to the student for at least one hour per week. Students are also required to apply classroom theory and concepts with professional social work practice, thus practice activities, related seminar discussion and written assignments are designed to aid the student in this process. Students can expect their respective faculty liaison to visit their agency at least three times during the semester. Additional liaison visits may occur should problems/needs arise. The assigned faculty liaison is also a resource to the Agency Social worker and is utilized to assist in the identification and development of appropriate educational learning experiences for the student in agency setting.

VI. COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

This course will utilize Desire2Learn or D2L to support the delivery of course content (for help with Desire2Learn go to http://www.sfasu.edu/sfaonline/). Students can also get regarding the use of a word processor and web browser. You must have access to a computer that meets the university’s minimum computer system requirements (for
specific details go to [http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu/gettingstarted.html](http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu/gettingstarted.html). Computers are available to you through a number of labs across campus (see [www.sfasu.edu](http://www.sfasu.edu) or the instructor for details).

**VII. COURSE SCHEDULE**

Students adhere to the policies and procedures of the social service agency under the supervision and direction of the Agency Social worker and in conjunction with the faculty liaison. In this course, Seminar sessions will be integrative in nature and discussions will follow the course objectives identified above and the course content as outlined in SWK 490, weeks 1-15 and the Field Instruction Manual.

**VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students are required to complete a 250-hour block placement in an approved social service agency/program during their final semester of the BSW program. Students are required to adhere to agency policies while in the agency setting and are bound to University requirements. Practice activities take place in the agency setting under the direction and supervision of the Agency Social Worker. Students and Agency Field Instructors attend a mandatory orientation prior to the agency placement. Students are expected to intervene with individuals, families and groups singularly and/or with other agency professionals. Agency Field Instructors provide at least one hour of structured supervision and consultation weekly.

In conjunction with agency practice, students attend a two hour weekly seminar which provides opportunities to examine, discuss, and analyze field practice experiences in relation to concepts and theories previously learned in the classroom. Specific written and oral assignments are incorporated in the student learning process to facilitate the integration of academic content with practice experiences. Required seminar assignments include the following:

**GRADING:**

All field instruction and integrative seminar courses utilize the same grading format. The field instructor provides structured educational supervision to the student for at least one hour per week. Students can expect their respective faculty field liaison to visit their agency at least three times during the semester. Additional liaison visits may occur should problems/needs arise. The assigned faculty field liaison monitors the student’s progress, as well as evaluates the student’s performance in field. Student field performance is evaluated at the initial, midterm, and final liaison visit. Midterm and final evaluation are based upon the faculty liaison's evaluation of performance criteria specified in the Student Field Performance Evaluation, Individual Learning Plan, as well as written assignments and class participation in seminar. The field instructor and student provide feedback to the faculty field liaison to aid in the evaluation process through completion of the Student Field Performance Evaluation. Students’ performance in field and
seminar assignments/participation comprise a final grade. The Director of Field Education assigns the final grade.

GRADING

Grades from the Seminar assignments will be combined with Field Instruction evaluation grades and class attendance points to produce a common grade for SWK 470, SWK 480, and SWK 490. Class grades will be determined in the following way.

Field Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Behavior Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generalist Practice Paper</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary Test</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field Instruction Evaluations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Evaluation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Evaluation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Evaluation</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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MAXIMUM POINTS 1250 points

GRADING SCALE:

A=1250-1100
B=1099-975
C= 974-850
D= 849-738
F= 737 or less

The same letter grade based on accumulated points will be assigned to SWK 470, SWK 480 and SWK 490.

COMPLETION OF ALL FIELD HOURS IS REQUIRED FOR THIS CLASS. FAILURE TO COMPLETE ALL FIELD HOURS IN CURRENT SEMESTER WILL REQUIRE REPEAT OF COURSE.

IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Honesty and representing one’s knowledge and abilities appropriately are important ethical principles of the social work profession. All incidents will result in a grade of “0”. Given the limited number of graded assignments in this course, a “0” could have serious consequences for the student’s academic standing.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the Student Academic Dishonesty policy (SFA Policy 4.1) on http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

Please also read the Academic Integrity Policy on the SFA Graduate School’s website at http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (SFA Policy 5.5)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please read the complete policy on Course Grades: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf

Acceptable Student Behavior

The BSW Student Handbook and Academic and BSW Professional Integrity Code outline acceptable student behavior. Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct of Conduct (SFA Policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, visits to agencies, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate or inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please see the following link for the complete policy: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf

IX. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, read Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (SFA Policy 6.1) http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accomodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf
Bibliography


International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) http://www.ifsw.org/


