

Cuyamaca College, Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Department
Social Work Fields of Service (Social Work 110 – Section 8998)
Syllabus - Spring 2015 Semester – 16 weeks of Instruction

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Course Description/Objectives: Social Work 110 is a three unit course that provides an overview of the social work profession. Students are introduced to the major fields of social work, the values and ethics of the profession, the relevance of social work to current social issues, the implications of social work practice with diverse populations, and the impact of discrimination on the provision and delivery of social services. Students will also explore their role in creating a more equitable society along with strategies for achieving this goal. Social Work 110 adheres to the policies outlined in the Cuyamaca Course Catalogue, 2014-2015. This course meets the requirements for transfer credit to San Diego State University.

Course Content:

Historical overview of the profession, social work education, central concepts and theories, the social welfare system, modes of intervention, working with diverse populations, social work fields of practice, social work roles, values, ethics, and critical issues of the profession

Required Texts and Course Materials:

An Introduction to the Profession of Social Work, Segal, Gerdes and Steiner, 4th edition, Publisher: Cengage
Day in the Lives of Social Workers, Edited by Linda May Grobman, 4th edition, Publisher: White Hat Communications
All instructional materials are available on Blackboard.com; a copy of the main text is available in the Cuyamaca Library

Attendance and Lateness:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive promptly. Research shows that class attendance is a strong factor in student success. More than 4 absences will result in an automatic deduction of 5 points off your class participation grade. If absenteeism continues you will be dropped from the class. Any student with 4 consecutive absences will automatically be dropped from the class. More than 4 late arrivals will also result in a loss of 5 points off the class participation grade. Continued late arrivals will result in a further loss of points. Regular attendance and prompt arrival to class will have a positive impact on your grade.

Grading Requirements and Evaluations:

The course grade will be based upon 4 exams, a research term paper, homework assignments, essays, and class participation. The required format and documentation will be defined by the instructor. Make-up exams are given for documented emergencies only. All work will be graded and returned as quickly as possible. *Late assignments are automatically penalized a minimum of 10% of the grade. No assignment will be accepted after three school days past the due date.* All students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty as outlined in the Cuyamaca College Catalogue (“Academic Honesty/Dishonesty Policies” in Academic Policies and Procedures section). Please be aware that term papers will be scanned for plagiarism by the internet program, Safe Assign. Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A – 90% - 100%
- B – 80% - 89%
- C – 70% - 79%
- D – 60% - 69%
- F – below 60%

Exams: There will be 4 exams, each worth 10% of the grade, totaling 40% of the grade

Research Term Paper: 30% of the grade

Homework: 20% of the grade includes 2 essays (10%) and 1 Annotated Bibliography (10%)

Class Participation: 10% including attendance, promptness, small group exercises, and interactive discussion based on readings

Time Requirements: Students should be prepared to spend approximately five to six hours per week outside of class, reading and reflecting on the material that they read, preparing for group exercises, completing the assigned term paper, and studying for exams.

Accommodations:

Cuyamaca College recommends that students with disabilities discuss academic accommodations with their professors during the first two weeks of class. An alternative format of the syllabus and all written materials are available upon request.

Tutoring Services for Academic Success:

The General Tutoring Center is not able to provide tutoring in social work at this point in time. Please see the instructor for tutoring. The Reading and Writing Center is located in the Communication and Arts building, B167. Call 619-660-4463 for an appointment. ESL assistance is available.

Course Schedule for Social Work 110, Social Work Fields of Service

The following course schedule is subject to change as the course progresses. The goal of the course is to cover all the material but emphasis will be placed on everyone understanding and applying what is covered. Students who wish to move ahead more quickly will be provided with more challenging exercises.

Wk	Dates	Topics	Chap	Exam
1	Jan. 27	The Foundations of Social Work – Introduction Welcome, introductions, class format and protocols Brief overview of course objectives, class outlines, main text What is social work and who are social workers? <i>The Person-in-the-Environment, micro and macro practice</i> <i>Small group exercise: Identify micro and macro practice</i>	1	
1	Jan. 29	The Foundations of Social Work – The Profession <i>Student questions and review of syllabus</i> NASW Code of Ethics and ethical responsibilities of the social worker <i>Self-determination</i> – a core social work value <i>Small group exercise: Ethical dilemmas and self-determination</i>	1	
2	Feb. 3	The Foundations of Social Work – Concepts, Theories, Frameworks <i>Systems Theory and Ecological Systems Theory</i> <i>Small Group exercise: Applying Systems Theory/ Creating Eco Maps</i>	1	
2	Feb. 5	The Foundations of Social Work – Concepts and Theories <i>Review of the Research Term Paper Guidelines</i> <i>The Strengths Perspective and the Diversity Perspective</i> <i>Small group exercises: Applying the Strengths Perspective</i> <i>Ethical dilemmas in social work practice: Role-play exercise</i> <i>Should a social worker lend clients money? Why or why not?</i>	1	
	Feb. 6	Last Day to add or drop semester length class-avoid “W” transcript		
3	Feb. 10	Research Term Paper Resources <i>Essay #1 due in class today!</i> <i>Guest Speaker: Mary Graham, Director, Writing Center</i> The writing process, research writing, and services available		Essay #1 due in class today
3	Feb. 12	The Foundations of Social Work: Values and Ethics Values and ethics central to social work (NASW) <i>Small group exercise: Herman’s rights or worker safety?</i> Could Herman’s death have been prevented? (main text pages 19-20) <i>Student exam questions</i>	1	
4	Feb. 17	Exam #1 – chapter 1	1	Exam #1

4	Feb 19	The Foundations of Social Work – The Social Welfare System <i>Research term paper questions</i> What is the Social Welfare System in the United States? Private and public social welfare programs Types of social welfare programs – Institutional and Residual The packaging of social welfare programs The current threat to the “safety net”	2	
5	Feb. 24	The Foundations of Social Work: The History of Social Welfare <i>Research term paper questions</i> The Colonial Era and the Elizabethan Poor Laws The Progressive Era and the development of the social work profession Video clip: Life and work of Jane Addams by Heather Ward Charity Organization Societies and Mary Ellen Richmond <i>Readings from “Social Diagnosis,” by Mary Ellen Richmond</i> The Settlement Movement and Jane Addams Historical milestones in social welfare <i>Critical thinking questions: Social welfare and service delivery</i>	2	
5	Feb. 26	Social Work Issues: Poverty and Economic Disparity Film: Homeless Veterans in San Diego	3	
6	March 3	Social Work Issues: Poverty and Economic Disparity Part I of research term paper due today – Annotated Bibliography Defining and understanding poverty Absolute and relative poverty, poverty guidelines and poverty line <i>Brief exercise on relative poverty: List 4 things you cannot live without</i> The major causes and factors that affect poverty Concentrations of poverty: Who is more likely to be poor?	3	Part I of term paper due today
6	March 5	Social Work Issues: Poverty and Economic Disparity Concentrations of poverty: Who is more likely to be poor? <i>Small group exercise: What are the costs of poverty?</i> The effect of poverty on the individual and society Social work interventions: Strengths Perspective, Empowerment, Psycho-social interventions, and Advocacy Critical thinking question: Which is more difficult to overcome? The individual or environmental causes of poverty?	3	
7	March 10	Social Work Issues – Human Rights & Social and Economic Justice Social justice and injustice, barriers to social justice Theories of social injustice - What causes social injustice? Protection from discrimination – Constitutional Amendments Social work strategies for creating social justice <i>Small group exercise: Social justice and advocating for clients</i>	4	
7	March 12	Social Work Issues: Dimensions of Diversity Social membership groups, <i>Social Construction</i> Practice theories and strategies with diverse populations <i>Small group exercise #1: Culturally competent practice with families</i>	5	

8	March 17	Social Work Issues: Dimensions of Diversity <i>Small group exercise #2: Community practice and social justice</i> <i>Exam review and student exam questions</i>	5	
8	March 19	Exam #2 – Chapters 2-5	2-5	Exam #2
	March 21	End of First 8-Week Session		
	March 23-27	Spring Recess and Holiday – No Classes		
9	March 31	Modes of Intervention: Generalist Social Work Practice Generalist social work, micro and macro practice <i>The assessment process</i> – three steps in assessment <i>Small group exercise: Role-play assessment with client scenarios</i>	6	
9	April 2	Modes of Intervention – Three Areas of Service Delivery <i>Information and referral, network linkages, and direct service</i> <i>Small group exercise: Applying the 5 Therapeutic Interventions</i>	6	
10	April 7	Modes of Intervention - Social Work and Groups <i>Types and benefits of social group work</i> Models of community practice, social work roles and strategies Methods of creating change in social environments <i>Small group macro practice and ethics exercise – page 178, #4 in text</i>	6	
10	April 9	Social Work Fields of Service – Children and Families <i>Guest Speaker: Diana Shreckengost, Child Welfare Services</i> Investigation, protection, placement, and treatment programs	7	
11	April 14	Social Work Fields of Service – Children and Families Childhood and changing family forms Case management, therapeutic interventions, advocacy, policy building <i>Mandated Reporter, Confidentiality, and self-determination</i> <i>Small group exercise: Ethical dilemmas working with families</i>	7	
11	April 16	Social Work Fields of Service – Gerontology <i>Research term paper due today!</i> Population trends, increasing service needs of the elderly 4 major areas of specialized knowledge Practice interventions, specialized services, legal protection <i>Small group exercise: Role-play and case management with the elderly</i>	8	Term paper due today in class
12	April 21	Social Work Fields of Service – Gerontology <i>Guest Speaker: Lourdes Contreras, Community Educator</i> Advocacy for the elderly	8	
12	April 23	Social Work Fields of Service – Gerontology Social issues: Elder abuse, self neglect, dementia, assisted suicide <i>Exam review and student questions</i>	8	

13	April 28	Exam #3 – Chapters 6-8	6-8	Exam #3
13	April 30	Social Work Fields of Service – Mental Health Services Defining mental health and mental illness Mental health movements in the U.S. Understanding and treating mental illness Bio-psycho-social approach and the multi-disciplinary team <i>Small group exercise #1: Creative problem solving in mental health</i>	10	
14	May 5	Social Work Fields of Service – Mental Health Services <i>Film: coming of Age at High Risk</i> Eating disorders and self-harming behaviors	10	
14	May 7	Social Work Fields of Service – Mental Health Services <i>Essay #2 due in class today!</i> The Mental Health Care System Legislation affecting the treatment of mental illness Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5 – 2013) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) <i>Small group exercise #2: Navigating the multi-disciplinary team</i>	10	Essay #2 due in class today
15	May 12	Social Work Fields of Service – School Social Work NASW definition, goals, services, roles, skills and responsibilities At-risk students, legislation and public policy Critical issues and specific challenges in school social work <i>Small group exercise: Client problem scenario/role play</i>	11	
15	May 14	Social Work Fields of Service – Substance Abuse The far reaching effects of substance abuse in the U.S. today <i>Exercise: The role of environment in AOD problems</i> Consequences of addiction (individuals, families, and communities) Treatment philosophy and frameworks (SAMHSA) The effects of alcohol and drug (AOD) problems	13	
16	May 19	Social Work Fields of Service – Substance Abuse <i>Guest Speaker: Roxy Walnum, Substance Abuse Advocate</i> Understanding, recognizing and treating addiction	13	
16	May 21	Social Work Fields of Service – Substance Abuse <i>Independent reading and study, chapters 9 and 14</i> Drug use, abuse and addiction The causes and effects of addiction and dependency The bio-psycho-social approach to AOD problems Social work roles, practice settings, and treatment Values and ethical issues in treating AOD problems <i>Small group exercise: alcohol abuse and pregnancy</i>	13	
17	May 26	Final Exam – 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Oral case presentations in small groups		Final exam

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes for Social Work 110

Course Description and Purpose

Social Work 110 provides an overview of the profession by introducing students to the major fields of social work service. This course emphasizes the concepts, theories and approaches of the profession, along with professional values, ethics, and career options. Students will explore the relevance of social work to current social issues, the implications of social work practice with diverse populations, and the impact of discrimination on the delivery and provision of social services. Students will explore strategies for fulfilling the professional responsibility of social workers in creating a more equitable society.

Course Content and Requirements

1. Describe the major fields of social work practice and various career options.
2. Identify and describe the settings for social work practice (public and private).
3. Describe the role of the social work profession in various practice fields and settings.
4. Identify and understand the relevance of social work to current social issues. Recognize how cultural diversity, racism, sexism, ageism and other types of discrimination impact populations at risk in the struggle for social and economic justice.
5. Apply critical thinking skills when examining and making conclusions about specific field situations.
6. Demonstrate the ability to research, interpret and report information related to a specific field of social work in grammatically correct APA format, including target population and practice methods.
7. Examine personal values in relation to professional social work values and ethics.
8. Apply critical thinking skills to ethical dilemmas related to fields of social work.

Student Learning Outcomes – Students who have successfully completed the course requirements for social work 110 should be able to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and competency in the following areas:

1. Identify and describe the fields of social work practice, social work settings, and relevant social work roles.	2. Apply critical thinking skills when examining and making conclusions about specific field practice situations and client problem scenarios.	3. Identify the relevance of social work to current social issues. Recognize and understand how discrimination impacts populations at risk in the struggle for social and economic justice.
4. Identify, and describe the impact of personal values as they relate to professional social work values and ethics.	5. Apply critical thinking skills to ethical dilemmas related to the various fields of social work practice and settings.	6. Conduct research on a specific social work field of service in accordance with APA format and/or per instructor's directions and requirements.

Method of Evaluation with Representative Assignments

- Research term paper that measures a student's ability to conduct research on a specific field of social work practice. Literature review of the specific field of practice describing the target population, the practice methods, and the values and ethics that impact a social worker in the selected field.
- Exams, essays, and practical application sessions that measure a student's ability to identify and describe fields of social work by requiring students to respond to objective and subjective questions about given social work situations. Evaluation will be conducted through interactive discussions, critical thinking essays, and small group exercises that emphasize social worker/client scenarios and situations.

Bibliography

- Blank, B.T. (2006) "Racism: The Challenge for Social Workers," *The New Social Worker*, 13 (4)
- Damron-Rodriquez, J., Feldman, R., Robinson B., Sharlach, A. (2001) *Educating Social Workers for an Aging Society: A Vision for the 21st Century*. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 36 (3) 521-538
- Dolgoff, Ralph, Loewenberg, Frank M., and Harrington, Donna, "Ethical Decisions for Social Work Practice," 8th edition, Thompson – Cengage Learning, 2009
- Ehrenreich, Barbara. "Nickel and Dimed," Henry Holt and Company, 2008
- Gossett, M. and Weinman, M. L. (2007) "Evidence-Based Practice and Social Work: An Illustration of the Steps Involved," *Health and Social Work*, 32 (2) 147-150
- Gumz, E. J. (2004). "American Social Work, Corrections, Restorative Justice: An Appraisal," *International Journal of Offender therapy and Comparative Criminology*," 48 (4) 449
- Katz, Mark. "Playing a Poor Hand Well: Insights from the Lives of Those Who Have Overcome Childhood Risks and Adversities," Norton, W.W. and Company Inc., 1997
- National Association of Social Workers: *Encyclopedia of Social Work Ethics, and Standards of Practice*.
- Shulman, Lawrence, "The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities," 7th edition, Brooks/Cole - Cengage Learning (2012, 2009)
- Szuchman, Lenore T. and Thomlinson, Barbara, "Writing with Style: APA Style for Social Work", 4th edition, Brooks/Cole - Cengage Learning (2011)

Websites

1. <http://naswca.org/> (National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter)
2. <http://www.nyu.edu/socialwork/wwwrsw/> (resources for social workers)
3. <http://www.socialworker.com> (magazine for social work students and new social workers)
4. www.childrensdefense.org (child advocacy and statistics)
5. www.welfareinfo.org (welfare reform and related info)
6. www.socialworksearch.com (devoted to social work students and recent graduates)
7. www.thefriedsocialworker.com (employment information and tips on handling burn-out)