Generalist Social Work Practice
Spring 2010

Course: SWK 329 70
Credits: 3
Wednesdays 4:00-6:30 p.m.

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Course Domain:
This course will examine generalist social work practice including values, knowledge and skills needed to work with individuals, groups, communities and organizations. Attention will be paid to the links between micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice reflecting the holistic systems approach central to the social work profession. The course intends to integrate numerous case examples and practice applications to further clarify key social work practice principles and demonstrate how skills are applied in generalist social work practice settings. Key topics such as managed care, empowerment in practice, family assessment issues, human diversity and ethical dilemmas will be highlighted to challenge students to think critically.

Course Objectives:

Program Competency 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.7, 2.1.10

1. Explore by use of critical thinking skills the implications of various concepts of generalist practice on human development and well-being, on community development and individual, interpersonal and social change efforts.

Program Competency 2.1.2

2. Apply to practice a framework of social work knowledge, values and skills necessary for generalist practice.

3. Understand diversity from a range of ethnic, racial, religious and national communities.

4. Understand the major ethical issues and apply strategies of ethical reasoning in working with clients from a micro, mezzo and macro level of practice.

5. Understand the assessment of client strengths and use a generalist approach to examine problems from multiple levels of intervention.

6. Develop the ability to use generalist practice interventions in a manner consistent with professional ethics, values and the NASW Code of Ethics in order to guide professional practice.
Program Competency 2.1.3, 2.1.6

7. Identify social work research related to generalist professional practice to identify, analyze and implement evidence-based interventions designed to achieve client goals.

Program Competency 2.1.8

8. Develop an understanding of communities and organizations as systems and the impact on the client.

9. Understanding organizational theories and the effects of institutional values and organizational systems that influence client systems of various size and types.

Course Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate the knowledge, values, and skills that are needed in generalist practice with individuals, groups, communities, and organizations.

Assessment:
Students will complete three scholarly papers addressing knowledge, values, skills, and ethics in the micro, mezzo, and macro systems of practice.

Students will apply the knowledge and skills of generalist practice with client systems of various sizes and types.

Assessment:
Students will complete a written research paper that addresses systems, relevant policy, law, social work policy, the micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice, relevant values and ethics and the application of empirical knowledge to the topic.

Students will demonstrate the ability to use generalist practice in a manner consistent with professional ethics and values.

Assessment:
Students will complete an ethical analysis paper that identifies the micro, mezzo, and macro perspective, identifies the organizational context in which the ethics issue can occur, the relevant values and ethics, law, policy, and the evaluations of empirical knowledge.

Required Texts:


**Recommended Texts:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance in class prepared to discuss the material assigned for each class.

2. Research paper to address the mental health, children and youth or health care systems integrating micro, mezzo and macro practice skills. (see attached outline)

3. Ethical analysis paper – select a practice issue and analyze how social work would respond on each of the following levels: micro, mezzo and macro level to include professional values and ethical decision-making. (see attached outline)

4. 3 reaction papers – based on the text: *Case Studies in Generalist Practice.*
   - Select one case from micro practice: Work with Individuals
   - Select one case from mezzo practice: Families and Groups
   - Select one case from macro practice: Communities and Organizations

**Grading**

1. Attendance and class participation 5%
2. Reaction paper (3) 10% each 30%
3. Ethical analysis paper 35%
4. Research paper 30%
   - 100%

**Cedar Crest College - Classroom Protocol**

Appropriate classroom behavior is implicit in the Cedar Crest College Honor Code. Such behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations, cell phones and beepers, and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise students’ access to the Cedar Crest College education.

Furthermore:

Students are expected to have prompt and regular classroom attendance in accordance with the policy stated in the syllabus.

Disclosures about personal issues are not appropriate for class discussions and presentations.

Faculty are expected to make clear on the first day of class reasons for specific classroom decorum and repercussions for noncompliance. Faculty should be aware of setting boundaries and procedures for exceptions to expectation stated in the syllabus.
Honor Philosophy
The Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy is based upon the principle that, as a self-governing body, students have the ability to create an atmosphere of trust and support. Within this environment, individuals are empowered to make their own decisions, develop personal regard for the system under which they live, and achieve a sense of integrity and judgment that will guide them through life.

Any assignment turned in late will result in the grade on the assignment lowered one letter grade per day late.

Social Work Program Policy
Social work students typically meet only fourteen sessions each semester. In the interests of your development as a professional social work practitioner as well as the interests of your clients, it is vital for you to attend these class sessions. Therefore, the Social Work Program’s Attendance Policy is as follows:

1) You may miss two class sessions for whatever reasons without penalty.
2) If you miss a third class session the highest overall grade you can receive for the course is a “B”.
3) If you miss a fourth class session the highest overall grade you can receive for the course is a “C”.
4) Five or more class absences will result in your need to retake the course.

Note: Save your two accepted absences for unforeseen circumstances such as illness, transportation problems, work and child care responsibilities, etc. These will not be acceptable excuses for absence if you have already missed two class sessions.

*Late arrivals to class/early departures will cumulatively count toward your accepted absences.

Weekly Class Plan

Jan. 20  Introduction to Generalist Practice
        Understanding CSWE Content Areas
        Chapter 1: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Jan. 27  Micro Practice Skills: Working with Individuals
        Interviewing Skills, Verbal and Non-verbal Skills
        Chapter 2: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Feb. 3   Mezzo Practice Skills: Working with Groups
        Group Dynamics, Group Skills
        Chapter 3: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Feb. 10  Macro Practice Skills: Working with Organizations
        Organizational Content of Practice
        Chapter 4: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Reaction Paper #1 Due – Micro Practice Case – no late submissions
Feb. 17  Planning in Generalist Practice
        Time Management Skills
        Crisis Intervention
        Chapter 6: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text
        Chapter 7: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text
        Video – *Crisis Counseling: The ABC Model & Live Demonstrations*

Feb. 24  Engagement and Assessment in Generalist Practice
        Supervision and Professional Burnout
        Chapter 5: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text
        Video – *Legal Liability in Clinical Supervision – DVD 344.04 L4961*

Mar. 3  Recording in Generalist Practice
        Documentation and Recordkeeping
        Chapter 16: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text
        **Reaction Paper #2 Due – Mezzo Practice Case – no late submissions**

Mar. 10  **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

Mar. 17  NASW Code of Ethics
        Chapter 11: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Mar. 24  Values, Ethics and the Resolution of Ethical Dilemmas
        Chapter 11: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text
        Video – *Mental Health Ethics: Review of Ethical Principles & Situations -- DVD-174.2 M549h* –
        **Research Paper Due – no late submissions, no exceptions. The paper must comply with APA format.**

Mar. 31  Culturally Competent Practice
        Spirituality, Diverse Client Population
        Chapter 12: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Apr. 7   Gender Sensitive Social Work Practice
        Chapter 13: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Apr. 14  Brokering and Case Management
        Chapter 15: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text
        **Reaction Paper #3 Due – Macro Practice Case – no late submissions**
        Junior Interviews

Apr. 21  Advocacy
        Chapter 14: Kirst-Ashman & Hull text

Apr. 28  Course Wrap Up
        **Final Assignment Due – Ethical Analysis Paper due – no late submissions, the paper must comply with APA format.**
Outline of Assignments

Assignments:

I. Reaction Papers

*Due: February 10, 2010 – must be stapled
   Topic: Micro Practice Case: Individuals

*Due: March 3, 2010 – must be stapled
   Topic: Mezzo Practice Case – Families and Groups

*Due: April 14, 2010 – must be stapled
   Topic: Macro Practice Case – Communities and Organizations

*Length: 3-4 pages, double-spaced, typed APA format

Outline:

3 pages, APA format
Must be stapled – cover page and references attached

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to take a case to help you understand how clients, issues and agencies interact as well as understanding actual generalist social work practice.

Task: Select one case from each of the following three areas in the text Case Studies in Generalist Practice, Micro Practice: Work with Individuals, Mezzo Practice: Families and Groups and Macro Practice: Communities and Organizations.

1. Briefly overview the case – what are the relevant facts in the case?
2. What important values and ethical issues were raised in this case?
3. What population did the case study involve (i.e., race, ethnicity, culture, gender, etc.)?
4. What interventions were carried out at differing system levels? (Micro, mezzo and macro.)

II. Research Paper – with reference page in APA format. Use outside readings. Must use 8-10 social work books or journals, No unsubstantiated sources from the internet, do not use Wikipedia.

*If the paper does not conform to APA format it will be returned.

Due: March 24, 2010
Length: 8 pages, double-spaced, typed APA format – in-text, cover page, reference list.
   Must be stapled

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is for you to explore one major area of practice in order to integrate theory and practice.

Task: Select one systems area; mental health, child welfare or health care.
Address a specific area within that system: deinstitutionalization, parity in mental health coverage, health care reform, Adoption Safe Families Act, spirituality, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, foster care, etc.

In an 8-10 page, double-spaced, typewritten paper, address the following: **Must have cover page, APA compliant in-text citation and APA correct reference page.**

1. Briefly overview and describe the topic – define the issue and the population affected.

2. History of the System – (mental health, child welfare, or health care systems.)
   - Why was it put in place
   - What is the history of the problem
   - What social problem brought about a response socially

3. Policy Initiatives
   - What policy has addressed the issue
   - Why was policy passed
   - What relevant laws are in place
   - What is the social work stance on this issue (refer to Social Work Speaks – Policy Statements, on reserve in the Library)
     * You must use the NASW Policy Statements in this section

4. Agency/Practitioner
   - What agencies are most likely to work with this issue?
   - What is the role of the social worker at a micro, mezzo and macro level (be specific about the various roles – use your textbook)

5. Theory, Values, Ethics
   - Identify specific social work theory applicable to the issue
   - What social work values are relevant at a micro, mezzo and macro level (use social work values)?
   - What are relevant professional obligations (use the Code of Ethics)?

6. Implications
   - What are the implications for research (what do we need to know)?
   - What are your own personal views of the issue?
   - Identify solutions to the problem

7. Conclusion and Summary
III. Ethical Analysis Paper

*Due: April 28, 2010*

Length: 8 pages, double-spaced, typed APA format – The format of this paper must conform to APA Style recommended for the writing of scholarly papers. Reference page must be in APA format. If not in APA, the paper will be returned to you. You must cite your work using APA style, otherwise it is plagiarism. You must use 8 – 10 social work journals or books to support your work. Do not use retrieved items from the internet. Do not use Wikipedia.

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is for you to explore generalist practice in relationship to ethical issues in practice. You must use outside social work readings and books to fully develop this assignment.

Task: Select one of the following key ethical issues germane to generalist practice: (possible topics include: managed care, healthcare rationing, health care reform, substance abuse during pregnancy, open adoption, transracial adoption, physician assisted suicide, homelessness, allocation of scarce resources, whistle-blowing, HIV/AIDS ethical issues, stem-cell research, cloning, organ transplants, death penalty, confidentiality and privacy, on-line therapy, treatment of sex offenders, Megan’s Law, end-of-life issues, human trafficking, etc.)

In an 8-page, double-spaced, typewritten paper, address each of the following items *(use APA format, reference page included in APA style):* All in-text citations must be APA compliant. Use a cover page, reference list in the APA format.

1. Indicate which issue you have selected and overview the background of the issue.
   - Define the problem/issue – provide a thorough and clear overview of the problem
   - Relevance of the problem of social work
   - What makes this an ethical issue (describe the two conflicting ethical positions).
     - This must be in the 2 conflicting values, duties or obligations

2. Identify micro, mezzo and macro social work primary responsibility in relation to the ethical dilemma.
   - Describe how social work is involved at the micro level
   - Describe how social work is involved at the mezzo level
   - Describe how social work is involved at the macro level

3. Social work practice
   - Identify the practice setting most impacted by this issue – what is the agency role (macro)
   - Identify the role of the practitioner (micro, mezzo and macro)
   (roles are in textbook)

4. Social work values and ethics
   - Identify the social work professional values that are relevant specific to your ethical issue
• Identify which standards from the Code of Ethics are applicable and apply them to the topic appropriately. (You must use the standards from the Code of Ethics)
• Note: For the professional values and Code of Ethics Standards, you must apply both to the topic

5. Research
• How does research fit into the issue (i.e., what areas for future research exist, what do we still need to know)?

6. Conclusion and Summary
• Give a concluding paragraph that summarizes your work.

*Note: This paper is to be a scholarly research paper to be done in APA format and with an attached reference page. – All references to be in APA format.

**Writing Requirements for All Assignments**
APA style and format required.

Grades will be determined by the following criteria:
Depth of analysis
Completeness and accuracy of assignment
Quality of critical thinking and provision of supporting evidence
Care in the articulation of ideas
Specificity rather than vagueness