San Diego State University  
School of Social Work  
SW 483A: Generalist Social Work Practice  
Master Syllabus

I. Purpose and Description

This is the third of four required social work practice courses in the social work major taken concurrently with SW 489A, Field Practicum. The course is presents social work theories, principles, and practice interventions. It builds upon the Generalist Social Work Practice Perspective, the Generalist Intervention Model, and systems theory, introduced in SW381 and 382. Topics covered in the course include social work interventions targeting individuals, families and groups with an emphasis on crisis intervention, case management, and evidence-based group interventions. Students will increase their understanding of the change process and the factors in effecting change. Class discussions will enable students to examine values, ethics, and conscious use-of-self in practice. Skills in intervening with diverse populations of color and culture, using critical thinking will be practiced and discussed. A major goal is for students to integrate and demonstrate knowledge, values, and skills associated with the basic level of generalist social work practice.

II. Objectives: After completion of SW483A, students will demonstrate competence in the following objectives:

A. Knowledge
1. Identify the role of professional values, principles, and ethics in social work practice.
2. Describe the applicability of systems theory and the ecosystems perspective to social work practice.
3. Apply Generalist Social Work Practice and Generalist Intervention Model using micro, mezzo, and macro levels of intervention to own work and experiences in the field.
4. Describe and demonstrate use of the Strengths-Based case management.
5. Analyze the implications for practice of culture, color and other aspects of human diversity, i.e., age, gender, disability, and lifestyle choice.
6. Describe when and how to appropriately utilize crisis intervention and case management intervention with individuals, families, and groups of clients.
7. Apply knowledge related to group dynamics, roles, process, and theory to groups, within the generalist perspective, using the evidence-based process.
8. Critically examine research studies and apply evidence-based knowledge to own field work.

B. Values and Ethics
1. Value the importance of careful and sensitive data-gathering for appropriate assessments and interventions, utilizing theoretical knowledge and understanding of the diversity of human cultures and lifestyles.
2. Respect and appreciate the strengths inherent in individuals and in their environmental resources that improve social functioning.
3. Appreciate the importance of self-understanding as a social work practitioner to consciously use oneself in the change process.
4. Identify ethical dilemmas and possible solutions that may occur in social work practice.
C. Skills
1. Apply relevant theories and knowledge in working with client systems as demonstrated in a client assessment and intervention plan.
2. Utilize the NASW Code of Ethics to maintain standards of practice as a generalist social work practitioner at the initial level.
3. Apply the Generalist Intervention Model using micro, mezzo, and macro intervention knowledge and skills.
4. Demonstrate effective oral and written communications skills through interviews, case consultations and presentations, literature review paper assignments and class discussion.

III. Outcomes
1. Articulate and apply the Generalist Intervention Model with client systems, assessing and intervening at micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
2. Critically examine an evidence-based practice by examining relevant research studies and applying knowledge to own practice.
3. Utilize models of crisis intervention, case management and group facilitation skills with clients.
4. Articulate and demonstrate knowledge and skills in working with special populations differing from their own in ethnicity, life style, disability, religious or spiritual belief system, gender/sex orientation, age group, etc.

IV. Required Texts

V. Assignments and Grading
1. Group work group assignment 30%
2. Literature review paper 40%
3. Third assignment as determined by the instructor 20%
4. Attendance and participation 10%

Grades will be assigned in accordance with the grading policy in the Undergraduate catalogue.

VI. Course Topics and Outlines
1. Introduction, review of syllabus, review of material from 381/382: Systems theory and the Generalist Intervention Model, intake and engagement, data collection and assessment (3 weeks)
2. Planning and contracting (1 week)
3. Intervention and monitoring: Crisis Intervention with Individuals and Families; Ethical decision making; Diverse populations (3 weeks)
4. Intervention and monitoring: Case Management with Individuals and Families; Diverse populations; Collaborative social work (3 weeks)
5. Social work practice with Groups: Engagement and assessment, roles, dynamics, process, theories, interventions, working with diverse populations (3 weeks)
6. Evaluation, termination, and follow-up (1 week)
7. Professional development and course summary (1 week)

VI. Bibliography


and skills. (2nd ed.). Chicago: Lyceum Books.


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