ADVANCED STANDING PREPARATION SEMINAR
Social Work 650
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Department of Social Work

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

This seminar is required for all students admitted to the Advanced Standing Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at Minnesota State Mankato. Such students have already attained an undergraduate degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited program, thereby completing their “foundation” content. This seminar is designed to review and extend these students’ preparation for advanced generalist graduate-level social work, while also building a strong cohort of classmates. The Advanced Standing Preparation Seminar helps students refine their professional self-identity as advanced generalist social workers while ensuring that they are ready to enter the concentration year of the advanced generalist MSW program. The course content will focus on the CSWE foundation areas: 1) Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 2) Social Welfare Policy, with an emphasis on social and economic justice and systems change 3) Values and Ethics, 4) Diversity distinguished by age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation, 5) Micro, Mezzo, and Macro level Practice, and 6) Research. SOWK 650 will also provide students with an introductory orientation to issues impacting advanced generalist social work practice in rural and small communities.

PLACE IN THE MSW CURRICULUM

SOWK 650 Advanced Standing Preparation Seminar is taken by newly admitted Advanced Standing students during the summer prior to starting the concentration year (2nd year) of the MSW program. It builds on their already completed undergraduate social work degree and prepares them for the concentration year of the MSW program. The Seminar provides a review of the content of the foundation coursework and identifies additional content and skills needed for the advanced coursework. Successful completion of this course with a grade of “B” or better is a prerequisite for continuation in the Advanced Standing MSW program.

INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

The Preparation Seminar contributes to the University Mission related to promoting learning through effective graduate teaching and scholarship. The Seminar is also supportive of the College Mission to promote the exploration, understanding, explanation and transformation of the social world through graduate teaching and learning.

MSW PROGRAM GOALS

SOWK650 Advanced Standing Preparation Seminar grows out of the need to balance the CSWE mandate to avoid redundancy between the BSW and the MSW degrees and the program goals of preparing competent and effective graduates ready to work at an advanced level. The seminar
reviews and extends the foundation content covered in an accredited BSW program as a means to ensure readiness for advanced content in the concentration year of the MSW.

The Advanced Standing Preparation Seminar contributes the following goals of the MSW program, specifically: 1) to prepare competent and effective graduates to be advanced generalist social work practitioners with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities, emphasizing rural and small communities, 2) to prepare graduates who apply and promote at an advanced level the values, ethics, theory, and perspectives of the social work profession, 3) to prepare graduates who promote at an advanced level social and economic justice in a diverse society within a global context, and 4) to promote scholarship, professional development, and community involvement of faculty and graduates within the local, region, state and global communities.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1) Be ready to begin the Advanced Standing version of the MSW program, recognizing their strengths and responding to any deficits in their preparation, understanding graduate-level expectations, and developing self-care strategies including use of the professional cohort (MSW 4.3).

2) Possess the technological and academic skills (e.g., Library/Web research, Listserv use, D2L, APA style, critical thinking, professional writing) to successfully complete graduate education in social work (MSW 1.1, 4.3).

3) Critically analyze and apply the social work value base, ethical standard, an ethical decision-making model to advanced generalist social work practice (MSW 2.3).

4) Understand the research processes used in social science research and the application to practice and program evaluation (MSW 1.3, 2.2, 4.1).

5) Critically examine the research literature and apply to evidence-based advanced generalist social work practice

6) Critically analyze and apply the major bio-psycho-social theoretical frameworks that inform advanced generalist direct social work practice (MSW 2.2).

7) Critically analyze and apply the theoretical frameworks that inform advanced generalist indirect social work practice (MSW 2.2).

8) Understand and apply the generalist practice model and skills for social work practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels (MSW 1.2, 1.6).

9) Critically examine social problems and policy issues that impact advanced generalist social work practice and understand how to apply a policy analysis framework to guide policy practice (MSW 3.2).
10) Critically examine awareness of and knowledge about the spectrum of human diversity in order to engage in culturally competent advanced generalist social work practice, with an emphasis on understanding the cultural context of rural and small communities (MSW 1.4, 3.1).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


REQUIRED ARTICLES

This course uses required journal articles draw from the contemporary scholarly social work literature and required in the foundation year of the MSW program. The articles will be available to students in on-line formats. This will both help students to learn/relearn how to access and read articles and it will offer a more flexible format for the seminar.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Students are encouraged to refer to the required HBSE, policy, generalist practice, research, values/ethics, and other textbooks used in their undergraduate social work program. The following textbooks are required in the foundation year of the MSW program. Students who have been out of school for several years or who no longer have their UG social work textbooks are encouraged to purchase/access the following textbooks as is warranted in order to prepare for the concentration year of the MSW program.

**Required Foundation Year Textbooks**


Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole

Cournoyer, B.R. (2005). *The social work skills workbook (5th ed.).* Belmont, CA:

Thomson/Brookes/Cole.


Recommended Textbooks


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will have a set of readings due for each class, providing some of the seminal literature on the topic for this class, and including some of the major readings from each of the foundation courses. Students will be prepared to discuss those readings in class and on-line. An ongoing theme will be readiness to move to advanced study across all areas of the curriculum and students will do self-assessment assignments for each area (Practice, Values/Ethics, Diversity, HBSE, Policy, and Research). The seminal project for this course is a comprehensive case application paper incorporating all areas of the curriculum to a field of practice and client population of their choice.

Course Participation. It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions both when on-campus and on-line. While a great deal of the learning for this course will be carried out independently, it is a graduate seminar which means it will focus on discussion of readings rather than on presentation and lecture. This course is only 10 sessions, and students cannot miss more than one session without it impacting their grade. Five points will be deducted from a student’s overall earned points for each class session missed. Accommodations can be made for emergency absence (e.g., illness, injuries), but vacations, family events, and other similar situations are not considered excused emergencies.

Required Reading Critiques (30 points, 30%). Students are required to read all required readings prior to class and actively and meaningfully participate in all in-person and on-line discussions. For each in-person and on-line class session students are required to write a 300 word narrative describing the salient points/information/concepts of the required readings and examining how the information can be applied to the students evidence-based generalist social work practice. Narratives will be posted on D2L.

Application of Ethical Decision-Making Model (10 points, 10%). Students will write an essay that describes the ethical decision making process in an assigned case.

Advanced Generalist Practice Application & Integration Paper (each paper is worth 25 pts/50 points total, 50%). Students will demonstrate their ability to integrate and social work values/ethics, aspects of human diversity, theories of human behavior in the social environment, social welfare policy, and the generalist direct and indirect intervention model in a field of social work practice with a individual client system experiencing a specific social problem with services delivered by a specific type of organization within a rural community context. Students
will write two papers: 1) application and integration of theory, practice, aspects of diversity, ethics, and policy for advanced generalist direct practice at the micro level, and 2) application and integration of theory, practice, aspects of diversity, ethics, and policy for advanced generalist in-direct practice at the mezzo/macro level.

**Self-assessment Assignment** (10 pts; 10%): Students will identify their competencies for graduate-level education in the concentration year of the MSW program. In particular, they will assess their readiness to move from foundation to advanced graduate coursework in the areas of Practice at Micro, Mezzo, and Macro-levels, Social Work Values and Ethics, Diversity, HBSE, Policy, and Research.

**TEACHING METHODS**

This seminar will be a mix of didactic presentations by faculty and students, in-class discussion of readings, on-line activities, and cohort building projects. Full-attendance and active participation will be expected, as well as completion of all learning activities in preparation for each class meeting. As a summer course, time will be limited but intensive, requiring that students demonstrate those characteristics of graduate-level learners that the program values.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

A total of 100 points can be earned in this course. Points will be accumulated through successful completion of: 1) Required Reading Critiques (30 pts; 30%), 2) Application of Ethical Decision-Making Model (10 pts; 10%), 3) Comprehensive Practice Application Paper (50 pts; 50%), and 4) Self-Assessment of Preparation Assignment (10 pts.; 10%).

Grades will be awarded according to the following scale:

- **A** – 90% to 100% of possible points represents work of definitely superior performance
- **B** – 80% to 89% of possible points represents a better-than-average level of performance
- **C** – 70% to 79% of possible points represents an average-level of performance
- **D** – 60% to 69% of possible points represents a below-average performance
- **F** – 59% or below represents an unacceptable level of performance

In accordance with the MSW program Scholastic Standards Policy, students earning less than 80% will be dismissed from the Advanced Standing MSW program.

*NOTE: For complete policies please refer to the MSW Student Handbook as well as the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Graduate Studies and Research, and Minnesota State University, Mankato Policy documents for Graduate Students.*

**COURSE, DEPARTMENT, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

*NOTE: For complete policies please refer to the MSW Student Handbook as well as the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Graduate Studies and Research, and Minnesota State University, Mankato Policy documents for Graduate Students.*

Minnesota State University, Mankato, SOWK 650, 2009-2010
STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The University and Department of Social Work is committed to providing equal education and employment opportunities to all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, veteran’s status, National origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, physical and mental disabilities, creed, status due to receipt of public assistance, or any other groups against which discrimination is prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Minnesota Statute Chapter 363, and other applicable state or federal laws or State University System policy. Complaints of discrimination are filed with the Office of Affirmative Action located at 112 Armstrong Hall.

ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

In accordance with University Policy, the Department of Social Work is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunity and full participation for qualified persons with disabilities as is legally required under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 including section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. All students with a disability may request accommodation through the Office of Disability Services. Visit the Office of Disabilities Services at 132 Memorial Library or call 507-389-2825 (V/TTY). Student disability accommodations will be made by faculty based upon the advisement of the Office of Disability Services.

Student Responsibilities Policy and Academic Honesty Policy

Students are expected to comply with the Student Responsibility Policy and Academic Honesty Policy stipulated in the MSW program Graduate Student Handbook.

APA Style Writing Policy

Students are expected to comply with the stylistic guidelines of the American Psychological Association, sixth edition. The APA manual is available at the MSU Memorial Library (reference section, ready reference section, reserve collection, general collection and reference desk): call number BF76.7 .P83 2010. The reference for the APA manual is:


An on-line overview of the editorial style is at: http://www.apastyle.org/

SOWK 650 COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1
Delivery Method: In-person
Topic: Introductions & Program Orientation
- Introductions of Students & Instructor(s)
- Overview of Seminar and Orientation to Advanced Standing Program

Minnesota State University, Mankato, SOWK 650, 2009-2010
• Review the definition of generalist practice & the MSW program definition of advanced generalist practice.
• Review of the MSW program’s definition of evidence-based practice.
• Self-Assessment of Social Work Knowledge, Values, and Skills (Introduction)

Topic: Writing, Technology and Graduate-Level Research and Study
• Orientation to Desire2Learn and Library System
  ▪ Online Tutorial on use of D2L
  ▪ Article location using MSU Memorial Library Online Database services
  ▪ Discussion of assignments
  • Required Reading Critiques
  • Application of Ethical-Decision Making Model to Case Study
  • Critique of Research Article
  • Advanced Generalist Practice Application & Integration Paper

Required Reading

Week 2
Delivery Method: On-line
Topic: Social Work Values and Ethics
• NASW Code of Ethics
• Ethical Decision Making Model
• Contemporary Social Issues and Ethical Dilemmas for Social Workers

Required Readings:

Websites:

Assignments due:
• Required reading critique
• Application of Ethical Decision Making Model to Case Study

**Week 3**
Delivery Method: In-person
Topics: Applied Social Work Research: Evidence-Based Practice
• Using the research literature
• The importance of evidence-based practice
• Using the Language of Research
• Quantitative and Qualitative Research Designs
• Measurement and Data Collection

Required Readings:

Internet Resources:
• NASW Research Webpages [http://www.socialworkers.org/research/default.asp](http://www.socialworkers.org/research/default.asp)
• CSWE Responsible Conduct of Research [http://www.cswe.org/CSWE/research/research/policies/](http://www.cswe.org/CSWE/research/research/policies/)

Assignments due:
• Required reading critique
• Research article worksheet
• Advanced Generalist Practice Application & Integration Paper topic form due: field of practice, type of social problem, targeted client population, and type of organization

**Week 4**
Delivery Method: On-line
Topics: Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Part 1)
• Advances in Understanding: Neurobiological Advances

Required Readings:


Assignment Due: Required reading critique

**Week 5**
**Delivery Method:** In-person
**Topics:** Human Behavior in the Social Environment (Part 2)
  • Ecosystems Theory (systems theory and ecological model)
  • Review of macro practice theories

Required Readings:


Assignment Due: Students will be assigned a bio-psycho-social-spiritual theory of micro practice. Working in pairs, students will prepare a 1 to 2 page summary (with reference list) of the theory with a critique of the application to advanced generalist social work practice. Students will come prepared to discuss theory in class. This assignment substitutes for the required reading critique.

**Week 6**
**Delivery Method:** In-person
**Topic:** Micro-level Direct Practice
  • Overview of the generalist practice intervention model for direct practice: engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, termination, follow-up.

Required Readings:


Assignments Due:
- Required reading critique

**Week 7**

Delivery Method: On-line

Topics: Human Diversity and Cultural Competence
- Examination of the spectrum of human diversity
- Oppression, Social Justice, and Communities “at-risk”
- Cultural competence in rural and small communities

Required Readings:


Assignments Due:
- Advanced Generalist Practice Application & Integration Paper - Micro
- Students will be assigned an aspect of human diversity. Review the literature. Provide a reference list of all articles reviewed. Select three journal articles pertaining to the aspect of human diversity and apply the information to the on-line group discussion. This assignment substitutes for the required reading critique.

**Week 8**

Delivery Method: In-person

Topics: Mezzo/Macro Practice: Task Groups & Organizations
- Overview of the generalist practice intervention model for in-direct practice: engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, termination, follow-up
- Social service/human service organizations: issues in management and service delivery

Required Readings:
*Task Group Articles*


*Organization Articles*

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**Week 9**

**Delivery Method:** On-Line

**Topics:** Social Welfare Policy & Macro Practice: Policy and Community

- Social Welfare Policy Analysis; Communities and Community Organizing; Creating Change through Legislative Advocacy

**Required Readings:**

**Social Welfare Policy Articles**


**Community Practice Articles**


**Websites**

- Thomas (The Library of Congress): http://thomas.loc.gov/

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Minnesota State University, Mankato, SOWK 650, 2009-2010
Minnesota State Legislature: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/
Center on Congress: http://www.centeroncongress.org/

Assignment due:
- Required Reading Critique – policy
- Required Reading Critique – community practice

Week 10
Delivery Method: In-person
Topics: Wrap-Up of Seminar
Assignments Due:
- Advanced Generalist Practice Application & Integration Paper - Macro
- Self-Assessment of Social Work Knowledge, Values, and Skills (Revisited)

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Readings are taken from each of the courses taught in the foundation curriculum.


Minnesota State University, Mankato, SOWK 650, 2009-2010


Minnesota State University, Mankato, SOWK 650, 2009-2010


