PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE SEMINAR II
Social Work 657
Minnesota State University Mankato
Department of Social Work

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

Building on the content in SOWK 607 Professional Competence Seminar I, SOWK 657 Professional Competence Seminar II utilizes a case study approach to develop advanced skills in applying principles of ethical decision-making and cultural competence to advanced generalist social work practice. The course focuses on enhancing knowledge and developing skills for culturally competent micro level practice with individuals and families and mezzo level practice with diverse groups, including age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. Students will apply models for “culturally competent” advanced generalist social work practice and delve deeper into the literature pertaining to aspects of diversity in order to enhance their knowledge of and skills in culturally competent evidence-based practice with individuals, families, and treatment groups. Students expand their understanding of personal, professional, agency, and rural and small community values, including the extent to which social and economic justice is valued. Students also examine the predominant values espoused in the countries of origin of recent immigrant and refugee groups who have settled in Minnesota. Students explore how values from multiple perspectives affect their practice and use advanced decision making models to develop and maintain ethically grounded advanced generalist social work practice.

PLACE IN MSW CURRICULUM

Building on Professional Competence Seminar I, Professional Competence Seminar II is an advanced generalist class that further helps students deepen their knowledge of and skills for multicultural social work practice. This course is taken after students have completed the foundation year curriculum, including Foundation Practicum & Seminar I & II. SOWK 657 Professional Competence II is taken concurrently with SOWK 651 Advanced Social Work Practice with Individuals, SOWK 655 Social Welfare Policy Practice, and an elective course. This course is specifically designed to support and enhance SOWK 651 Advanced Social Work Practice with Individuals and SOWK 660 Advanced Social Work Practice with Couples, Families & Groups.

INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

Professional Competence Seminar II contributes to the University mission related to promoting learning through effective teaching and scholarship. The course is also supportive of the College mission to promote exploration, understanding, explanation and transformation of the social world through graduate teaching and learning.
MSW PROGRAM GOALS

This course supports the achievement of the MSW Program Goals, 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, and 3) to prepare graduates who promote at an advanced level social and economic justice in a diverse society within a global context.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1) Demonstrate advanced skills in applying an ethical-decision making framework for addressing value differences and ethical dilemmas in advanced generalist social work practice at the micro level with individuals and families and mezzo level with groups (MSW 1.8C, 2.3, 2.5C).

2) Demonstrate advanced skills in applying models for “culturally competent” advanced generalist social work practice at the micro level with individuals and families and at the mezzo level with groups (MSW 1.4, 1.8C, 1.9C).

3) Understand and differentially apply culturally common and culturally specific evidence-based social work approaches for working with client systems distinguished by age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation (MSW 1.4, 1.8C, 1.9C).

4) Understand and differentially apply culturally competent approaches in advanced generalist social work practice with diverse groups in rural and small communities (MSW 1.4, 1.8C, 1.9C, 2.4C).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Case Studies. Students will present an ethically ambiguous case affecting a diverse individual or group. Each case study will focus on one or more different aspects of diversity, including but not limited to age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. Students will incorporate in the presentation research that supports culturally competent practice in a rural setting. Students will conduct a critical analysis of each case study, including application of an ethical decision making framework, application of current research, and implications for advanced generalist social work.
practice. This information will be presented to the class and students will facilitate an in-depth case discussion. The other students in the class will actively participate in a discussion about the case study facilitated by the student presenting the case.

**Comprehensive Case Analysis.** *(Designated Assignment for L.O. 2.4C)* Student will develop an ethically ambiguous case in a practice area of their choosing, involving micro level practice with individuals/families or mezzo level practice with groups, representation of three aspects of diversity, and reflect issues of a rural or small community. Development of the case will include research into evidence-based culturally competent, ethical advanced generalist social work practice related to the case. Students will complete a comprehensive case analysis that integrates the evidence-based research, a systematic analysis of ethical issues, and a minimum of three interviews with “experts” in the selected aspects of diversity and proposed solutions to address the case. Students will write a 10 page comprehensive case analysis that demonstrates an understanding of ethically and culturally competent practice within a rural and small community practice context.

**TEACHING METHODS**
Teaching methods will include lectures, large/small group discussions, experiential activities, and reflective activities.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**
A total of 100 points can be earned in this course. Points will be accumulated through: 1) Case Study (30 points), 2) Comprehensive Case Analysis (60 points), and Participation in Class Discussions/Attendance (10 points).

Students will be evaluated in accordance with the following system of letter grades: A, B, C, D and F.

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

A grade of “incomplete” will only be awarded under rare circumstances. Students must meet with the instructor to request an “incomplete” as soon as possible in the semester, but at least two weeks before the last day of the semester. The request must include a plan with a timeline for completing and having evaluated all coursework prior to the first day of the subsequent semester.

**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.*

**Statement of Non-Discrimination Policy**

Minnesota State University, Mankato, SOWK 657, 2009-2010
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. To read the entire University Access for Students with Disabilities Policy go to [http://www.mnsu.edu/acada/l/policies/AccessforStudentswithDisabilities.pdf](http://www.mnsu.edu/acada/l/policies/AccessforStudentswithDisabilities.pdf).

**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/](http://www.apastyle.org/)

**Distraction and Technology Use Policy**

Students are expected to comply with the Department’s Distraction and Technology Use Policy stipulated in the MSW Program Graduate Student Handbook. Violations of this policy will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Students who are late for class or leave class early may have a reduction of participation points and/or may be recorded as absent (or partially absent). Students
using electronic devices for non-educational purposes will be asked to turn off the equipment. In the case of repeated offences, students will be asked to leave the classroom and will be recorded as absent.

SOWK 657 COURSE SCHEDULE

This syllabus is designed to guide our learning in this course. Although every effort will be made to adhere to the syllabus, it is subject to change based on factors such as realizing the course goals and objectives, student progress, etc. Changes may be made at any time during the semester and are effective with advance notification to students registered in the course.

Week 1
Topic: Icebreaker, Course Overview, Assignment Review, Select Population/Ethical Dilemma
Delivery: In-class

Week 2
Topic: Review of Ethical Decision Making Model and Case Study Format, Practice Case
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading:
Lum text: Chapter 1 Cultural Competence, Practice Stages, Client Intersectional Systems and Case Studies. Dolgoff text: Chapter 4 Guidelines for Ethical Decision Making.

Week 3
Topic: Student Case Study Presentation #1, 2
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading:
Lum text Chapter 2 Social Work Practice with First National People and Dolgoff text Appendix A –Case 1 and 2.

Week 4
Topic: Student Case Study Presentation #3, 4
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading:
Lum text Chapter 3 Social Work Practice with African American People and Dolgoff text Appendix A –Case 3 and 4.

Week 5
Delivery: On-line Assignment

Week 6
Topic: Student Case Study Presentation #5, 6
Delivery: In-class

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Required Reading:
Lum text Chapter 4 Social Work with Latino Americans People and Dolgoff text Appendix A – Case 5 and 6.

**Week 7**
Topic: Student Case Study Presentation #7, 8
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading: Lum text Chapter 5 Social Work Practice with Asian Americans People and Dolgoff text Appendix A – Case 7 and 8.

**Week 8**
Topic: Student Case Study Presentation #9, 10
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading: Lum text Chapter 6 Social Work Practice with Multiracial/Multiethnic People and Dolgoff text Appendix A – Case 9 and 10.

**Week 9 Mid-Semester Break**

**Week 10**
Topic: Student Case Study Presentation #11, 12
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading: Lum text Chapter 7 Social Work Practice with Women of Color People and Dolgoff text Appendix A – Case 11 and 12.

**Week 11**
Topic: Student Case Study Presentation #13, 14
Delivery: In-class,
Required Reading: Lum text Chapter 8 Social Work Practice with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People and Dolgoff text Appendix A – Case 13 and 14.

**Week 12**
Topic: Peer Review of Case Analysis (Section 01)
Student Case Study Presentation #15, 16 (Section 02)
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading: Lum text Chapter 9 Social Work Practice with Immigrants and Refugees People and Dolgoff text Appendix A – Case 15 and 16.

**Week 13-November 20, 2009**
Topic: Cultural Competence/Ethics Discussion (Section 01)
Peer Review of Case Analysis (Section 02)
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading: Lum text Chapter 10 Social Work Practice with Persons with Disabilities People and Dolgoff text Appendix A – Case 17 and 18.

**Week 14 THANKSGIVING BREAK**

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Week 15
Topic: Wrap-up
Delivery: In-class
Required Reading: Lum text Chapter 11 Social Work Practice with Older Adults of Color and Chapter 12 Epilogue People and Dolgoff text Appendix A –Case 19 and 22.
Assignment due: Comprehensive Case Analysis

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHY


Minnesota State University, Mankato, SOWK 657, 2009-2010


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