

SOCIAL WORK (SW) 220
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK

Wednesday / 6:30-9:40 / Room 2131

Fall 2012

Instructor Information

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Course Description

A survey course that introduces the field of Social Work as a profession within the context of the institution of Social Welfare. Development of an understanding of social work principles, goals, values, and methods through readings and class discussion. An unpaid assignment in an agency setting is required.

Course Objectives:

1. Explain the development of social work and its emergence as a profession over time.
2. Describe the relationship between social work and social welfare.
3. Clarify the different levels of social work practice, differential responsibilities and training required at each level.
4. Define social work as a profession and understand the ways in which it differs from other helping professions.
5. Describe the profession's core knowledge base, including theoretical perspectives.
6. Explain the principle methods of social work intervention including case work, group work, and community organization.
7. Explain the integrated generalist model of social work practice.
8. Describe the structure and process of the social service delivery system.
9. Define and describe the impact of social policy on the social work profession.
10. Analyze ethical dilemmas/problems faced by social workers intervening with different populations.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the completion of this course, students are expected to demonstrate (through course activities, assignments, and/or exams) the ability to:

1. Define within a global perspective social welfare, social institutions, social services, and social work and identify the different populations that are served by these systems (ISO 1, 2, & 5)
2. Distinguish social welfare from other major social institutions and social work from other helping professions (ISO 1, 2, & 5)
3. Demonstrate a beginning knowledge of the role of information technology in provision of social services ((ISO 4)
4. Make an informed career decision by means of a volunteer assignment in a human service agency as well as the experience of taking this course (ISO 1, 2, 3, 4, &5)

Required Textbooks

Segal, Elizabeth A. (2013). An Introduction to the Profession of Social Work, 4th ed., Brooks/Cole Publishing Co.

Grading Process

1. Exam #1 (50)
2. Exam #2 (50)
3. Exam #3 (50)
4. Quizzes (150)
5. Thought Papers (150)

6. Volunteer Experience (100)
7. Reflection Paper (50)
8. Interview (50)

Grading Scale

- 585-650 pts A**
520-584 pts B
455-519 pts C
390-454 pts D
Below 389 F

Three Exams (50 pts each)

There will be three exams given throughout the semester. The first exam will cover the first six chapters (Chapters 1-5). The second exam will cover the next five chapters (6-10). The third exam will cover the last four chapters (11-14). The exams will be multiple choice, T/F, fill in the blank, and short answer. The content for these exams will be based on course competencies 1 – 10.

Make-up examinations will be accommodated provided they are taken within one week of the scheduled examination and are pre-approved by the instructor. If approved, the make-up exam will be one grade lower.

Volunteer Experience (100 pts)

In this course, students will learn not just in the classroom, but in the community as well. Students will be participating in a volunteer experience as part of the class. The purpose of the volunteer experience is to encourage exploration of and familiarity with the nature of generalist social work practice in human service settings, which includes an understanding of the structure and functions of agencies, community service networks, and the knowledge, skills, values, and expectations of the agency worker. Volunteer work is also in keeping with the social work value of service to the community. All learning outcomes are measured (1-12) including personal responsibility, global awareness, communication skills, and critical thinking skills are used in this assignment.

- A. Students are required to complete **at least 25 clock hours** of volunteer time in a human service setting. Students who fail to complete the required 25 hours will receive an **F** for this assignment. All volunteer hours must be completed by the end of the semester in order to receive full credit. The following objectives will guide the student's search for and selection of an agency volunteer experience:
1. Reinforce the role of volunteerism and service in social welfare and generalist social work practice;
 2. Provide an experience observing the application of social work knowledge, values, and skills in a human service system;
 3. Provide an experience with a disadvantaged population;
 4. Provide an experience of a direct contact with client systems preferably contact With includes some sort of communication/information exchanges; and
 5. Explore personal fit with social work/human services as a potential career Exploration decision

Reflection Paper (50 pts)

Students are expected to write a 4 page reflection paper on their volunteer experience. The paper must be typed and double-spaced. The paper must include the following: (1) description of your agency setting, (2) description of the types of services the agency provides and the mission of the agency, (3) description of the types of individuals employed in the agency and the degrees required, (4) description of the types of services you provided to the client systems who utilize the agency, (5) a reflection of the social work values demonstrated in the agency and that you utilized, (6) a summary of your own responses to the agency, (what were your strengths, weaknesses, discoveries about yourself) and, (7) what your thoughts about your continued involvement in the field of social work. In addition to this summary paper, you must attach (a) a time sheet that has been signed by your agency supervisor, (b) a Volunteer Placement agreement form, (c) and a Volunteer Evaluation form that was completed by your volunteer supervisor.

Thought Papers (150 pts)

These papers are to be written after each chapter. Their content is about anything pertaining to the chapter or lecture. The thought papers are to be at the most 1 page long. At the end of the semester you will have 15 papers. Late papers will lose points each week it is late.

Late papers may be submitted, however, they will receive a 10 point reduction in points with each week they are late (1 week = 10 pts off, 2 weeks = 20 points off, etc). E-papers may be accepted with prior approval from the instructor; however, they must be submitted prior to the starting time of the class session on the day they are due. E-papers are subject to the same rules regarding lateness as regular papers.

Quizzes (150 pts)

There will be quizzes at the beginning of each class. The quizzes will be multiple choice and will help in introducing the topics for that class. Quizzes cannot be made up; if absent ask instructor for missing quiz. There will be a total of 15 quizzes. The content for these quizzes will be based on course competencies 1 – 8.

Interview with Social Worker (50 pts)

A 3 page paper summarizing an interview with a social worker from different settings (i.e. school, hospital, social service agency, day care, nursing home) and/or practice fields (i.e. family and children, elderly, mental health, community action). It is expected that the social worker hold a BSW or MSW. The paper is expected to compare their setting in relation to the mission or purpose of the services, the population served, the agency structures and governance (i.e. public/private, private non-sectarian/private religious affiliated, public school/ public social service), the primary social work responsibilities, and the social worker's perceptions of their work. Special attention must be given to the social workers' practice that reflects acknowledging diversity of client populations, colleagues, and community members. Please let me know (as soon as possible) if you need assistance finding a social worker to interview. This assignment evaluates each student's understanding of course competencies.

Last Day to Drop Course with a "W" is November 10, 2012.

Attendance

The IVC General Catalog states:

"Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students enrolled. Instructors are expected to take a student's attendance record into account in computing grades. A student may be excluded from further attendance in a class during any semester when absences after the close of registration have exceeded the number of class hours which the class meets per week."

Attendance is integral to class participation. Try not to be late as it is a distraction to the class. Participation is also important to class. Be prepared to contribute to class and keep up with all the readings that are assigned each week. In addition, avoid leaving early unless it is absolutely necessary (please see me at the beginning of class). You may have drinks in class (unless otherwise told) as long as you pick up your trash. **No food!**

Academic Dishonesty

Imperial Valley College's regulations regarding cheating and plagiarism are clear:

"If cheating or plagiarism is discovered, while this behavior will not get you kicked out the class or expelled from college, you will fail that assignment and you will be reported to IVC's disciplinary officer"

Special Accommodations

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible.

DSP&S

Room 2117

Health Sciences Building

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