

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Syllabus: SW-532 - Short-Term Interventions  
Spring 2004**

**Code of Conduct:**

It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct code that is in the College of Social Work MSSW Handbook (<http://www.csw.utk.edu/mssw/>).

**The Honor Statement:**

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity. (*Hill topics, 2003*).

**Disability:**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library (865-974-6087). This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

**Course Description:**

This course examines the theory and practice of short-term interventions. The features of each intervention design and process critical to the effective practice with individuals, couples, families and small groups, particularly those from high risk and vulnerable populations are considered. Focusing on the differential use of short-term approaches, particular attention will be given to principles and techniques of assessment and intervention with vulnerable and high-risk populations and in different practice settings.

**Rationale:**

Historically, the efficiency of therapeutic services has not been of as much concern to the helping professions as has the effectiveness of those services. More recently, however, the duration of service has received increasing attention, resulting in short-term methods being preferred for many situations. Empirical support demonstrating the effectiveness of short-term interventions has influenced this shift and resulted in the articulation of a number of models of short-term practice. Thus, both the conditions of practice and the developing theoretical and empirical knowledge about short-term interventions provide the basis and rationale for this advanced, elective clinical social work course.

**Course Objectives:**

By completion of this course, students are expected to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of the theoretical underpinnings of short-term approaches and the relation of these underpinnings to the unique characteristics of short-term approaches to practice;
2. familiarity with the research on short-term approaches and with important issues concerning the theory and practice of these approaches;
- 3 knowledge of the principles of short-term practice approaches and of the use of selected strategies and techniques in the application of these principles;
4. knowledge of the similarities and differences between various short-term intervention approaches and between short-term intervention approaches and other intervention approaches to social work with individual, family and small group client(s)/client system(s) varying in racial, ethnic, gender, age, socio-economic class and sexual orientation characteristics;
5. skills in specific techniques of short-term approaches and their applicability in specific settings;
6. the ability to explicate the ethical dilemmas that may arise in short term interventions and formulate their resolution consistent with the ethics of the profession of social work.