

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

**Syllabus: SW-503 - Foundation of Social Work Practice II  
Spring 2006**

**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, 2005*).

**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 is the second of a sequence of three required Foundation practice courses. The course focuses on generalist social work with families and small groups. It incorporates content on care coordination (case management) and participation in teams in relation to direct practice. The course is framed conceptually by the "ecological opportunities and risks" for human adaptation. Specifically, the course emphasizes assessment and intervention with clients/client systems inclusive of their risk, protective factors and strengths in the context of the supports and demands of their environment. Course topics include: problem solving approaches in social work with families; methods for planning, recruiting, and implementing basic social work groups (i.e., client task, support and psycho-educational groups); care coordination (case management) strategies across the continuum from the agency/unit case manager role through intra-agency and inter-agency care coordination; evaluation in practice; analysis of and strategies for the resolution of ethical conflicts in direct practice; and the role and functions of social workers in professional and interdisciplinary intra-agency and inter-agency teams.

**Course Rationale:**

Direct generalist social work practice with clients, client families and small groups in the context of their reciprocal relationships with their environment, including social service agencies, is generic to foundation knowledge about social work practice.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to demonstrate (through class session activities, discussions, assignments and/or exams):

1. Knowledge about adaptive change in small systems including the positive and negative influences of membership in oppressed groups and high-risk populations.
2. Knowledge of the influences of interpersonal and environmental stressors in high-risk populations.
3. The ability to explicate the professional conscious use of self in developing and maintaining relationships with client systems and with colleagues.
4. Beginning knowledge about differential assessment in social work practice.
5. The ability to apply specific models of assessment and intervention planning to practice (i.e., family-centered practice, task, support and psycho-education groups, care coordination).
6. The ability to explicate appropriately the social work roles (e.g., broker, linker, advocate, planner) in care coordination for services for clients.
7. The ability to assess the reciprocal influences on clients and the systems within which they are embedded (e.g., family, community, culture, service delivery agencies and service delivery systems).
8. The ability to develop ethically sound and culturally appropriate interventions with clients of various ethnicities, races, nationalities, ages, spiritual backgrounds, socio-economic classes, abilities and sexual orientations.
9. Knowledge of the application of preventive strategies in social work with clients.
10. The ability to identify ethical dilemmas in social work practice with clients and as a social worker within an organizational system.
11. The ability to plan resolution strategies for the ethical dilemmas in social work practice with clients and as a social worker within an organizational system.
12. Knowledge of the roles and functions of the professional social worker in intra-agency and inter-agency teams.
13. The ability to plan interventions such that the outcomes of those interventions can be evaluated.