

The University of Tennessee
College of Social Work
(B.S.S.W. Program)
Spring 2004

Social Work 460 - Integrative Seminar (2-credits)

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Time: T/TH - 9:40-10:55
Location: HH 206
Office Hours: Tues: 11:00-12:30

Program Mission:

The BSSW program at the University of Tennessee exists to fulfill a need for disciplined, highly educated and trained generalist social workers to help people improve their social functioning in a technologically complex, culturally diverse and rapidly changing society. There is a focus on the reciprocal relationships between persons and their environments. Social workers are doers: they are problem-solvers who are able to intervene in multiple-level systems and perform various professional roles. Their actions are guided and informed by a broad knowledge-base, code of ethics, and professional values. Social workers are educated and trained to do things right as well as do the right thing.

The mission of the BSSW Program is to develop generalist social workers who are strategic thinkers, life-long learners, and opinion shapers. The knowledge-base, skills, and values necessary for generalist practice are taught in an environment that fosters professional development, critical thinking, and leadership and prepares students to take appropriate action guided by the best available scientific evidence. We are dedicated to preparing practitioners for the challenges of the twenty-first century. Since the amount of knowledge doubles approximately every five years, what is taught today may soon be obsolete. Our challenge, therefore, lies in the on-going development and implementation of a curriculum that prepares and energizes students for generalist practice today and in the future.

Program Goals:

Provision of education and training that enables students to become generalist practitioners who:

- 1) are committed to advancing social and economic justice and the principles, values, and ethics that guide the social work profession;
- 2) Are committed to evidence-based practice;
- 3) are grounded in systems theory and operate within a person-in-the-environment framework;
- 4) use the problem-solving process to intervene in multiple-level client systems
- 5) have an understanding of human diversity and special populations that informs practice interventions;
- 6) use critical thinking, evaluative, and leadership skills to address the needs of a complex, changing society;
- 7) are committed to continuous development of professional self.

Course Description:

Social work content for entry-level professional practice and current issues influencing the profession. Includes development of a portfolio reflecting BSW competencies. Prerequisite: Full progression. Corequisite: SW 481.

Rationale:

The seminar is designed to provide students the opportunity to further synthesize their academic experience, review previous course work, consider tasks for beginning employment and discuss challenges facing the beginning social work practitioner as well as the social work profession. The portfolio of the student's work will be the primary assignment in the course.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to provide students the opportunities and learning environment to:

1. Further synthesize their academic experience through the portfolio and research fair experiences
2. Self-evaluate their development in relation to the 11 competencies of the BSSW program.
3. Prepare for beginning practice and employment.
4. Reinforce the necessity for ongoing professional development and self evaluation.
5. Explore the ethical and value issues facing professional social workers.
6. Demonstrate the standards and commitments of the social work profession, including those related to social justice.
7. Explore grant writing components and funding streams.
8. Identify the importance of research in practice and grant writing.
9. Identify practice issues and concerns experienced by workers.
10. Further develop and demonstrate critical thinking.
11. Provide feedback to the BSSW program, college, and university regarding their education experience.

Required Texts:

Gosling, P.J. (1999). *Scientist's Guide to Poster Presentations* (ISBN: 0-306-46076-9). New York: Plenum.

Course Schedule:

This course will meet each Tuesday as scheduled. Thursday mornings from 9:30-12:30 will serve as an optional lab where you can schedule time to meet with Dr. Theriot in his office for continued consultation on your research projects and technical assistance in the design and preparation of your research poster. He can be reached at 974-8109 or at mtheriot@utk.edu to schedule an appointment. Dr. Dulmus is also available by appointment.

Blackboard:

This course uses Blackboard for announcements, online assignments, testing, and grade recording. Please check the site regularly.

Assignments:

Attendance and active participate in the seminar is required. The seminar grade will be based on the following:

1. **Portfolio (100 points)**

Each student is responsible for preparing their portfolio according to the guidelines that will be provided in class. The completed portfolio is due in Dr. Dulmus' office by noon on March 23rd. Late portfolios will be penalized 10 points. No late portfolios will be accepted after noon on April 27th. Sample portfolios are on reserve in Gina's office for your review.

2. **Research Fair Entry (60 points)**

All students are required to enter their field research study into UT's Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Fair. This requires you to develop an abstract, complete the intent to participate form, putting your research project into poster format, and then attending the Research Fair on Thursday, April 1st for the judging event, as well as the awards ceremony on Friday, April 2nd. **ATTENDANCE AT BOTH EVENTS IS REQUIRED.** Professional attire and demeanor is an expectation. Additional information on the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research Fair and related forms can be accessed at www.acad.utk.edu/honors/research_fair.htm

The assignment points are broken down as follows:

Intent to participate form	5 points (due to Dr. Dulmus on 2/10)
Abstract form	5 points (due to Dr. Dulmus on 2/17)
Poster display	20 points (displayed by 4:00pm on 4/1)
Poster presentation	20 points (event on 4/1)
Awards ceremony	10 points (event on 4/2)

3. **Resume (5 points)**

Each student will develop a professional resume to be included in their portfolio. A rough draft of your resume is due at the beginning of class on Jan. 27th. Late drafts will be penalized 1-point.

4. **Class Presentations (5 points)**

Each student is required to give a 10-minute presentation to the class related to their field research project. The presentation will provide an overview of your population, research methodology, results and implications for social work practice.

5. **Review Assignment (10 points)**

Students will be divided into small groups and assigned a curricular area to review for the comprehensive exam. Groups will work together to review particular courses in the major and to prepare a study guide. Each curricular area must also incorporate related information on cultural diversity and oppressed populations. All study guides are to be emailed to Dr. Dulmus and to each member of the class through Blackboard by March 2nd.

6. Comprehensive Exam (20 points)

All students will complete a comprehensive exam of multiple choice questions which cover course materials from all of the BSSW courses. This exam will be given on April 13th and **all** students must be present for the exam. In addition to focusing on the study guides prepared for this course, students are also strongly encouraged to review all texts and reserved readings that have been required reading for them in the social work major to date in preparation for this exam.

Attendance Policy:

This course is a professional seminar and students are expected to exercise professional behavior. Students are required to attend all scheduled classes and to arrive promptly. Each unexcused absence/tardiness will result in 5 points being deducted from your final grade. The instructor must be notified of your absence prior to the beginning of the class you will be absent from.

Grading:

Students will be evaluated by total points earned in this course as outlined above. No extra credit (except for SWO participation) or rewrites are permitted in this course. The grading scale by total points is as follows:

180-200	A	140-149	C
170-179	B+	130-139	D
160-169	B	129-below	F
150-159	C+		

Extra Credit:

It is the BSSW program's expectation that all social work majors participate in the BSSW Student Social Work Organization (SWO). All students, regardless of major who are enrolled in SW 200 (Introduction to Social Work) and/or in SW 250 (Social Welfare) are welcome. This organization meets every Tuesday from 11:10 -12:25 in room 209, Henson Hall. This time slot is built into the class schedule as a lab. Given the time of the meetings, students are encouraged to bring their lunch.

The BSSW-SWO is a student organization that provides an excellent opportunity for leadership development, community and university service, the enhancement of group skills, research opportunities, and socialization. This organization and its activities are viewed as an extension of the BSSW curriculum.

Students in this class will have the opportunity to earn five (5) final grade points for extra credit by attending and participating in the BSSW-SWO this semester. Your attendance and participation must be documented. Attendance will be taken at each meeting. You must attend seven (7) or more meetings during the term. Also, you must participate in one of the organization's standing committees. Both attendance and participation are required for extra credit. You will need to complete a form listing your activities in the organization throughout the term. The form will be signed by a committee chairperson and the faculty liaison to the BSSW-SWO. The completed, signed form must be handed in to me one week prior to the end of class.

Without the signed form verifying your attendance and participation, the extra credit will not be provided. No other extra credit is available in this class.

Disability Services:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability please contact the Office of Disability Services a 191 Hoskin Library at 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

Honor Statement:

An essential feature of the University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. By enrollment in this class, you pledge that you will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work in SW 460, thus affirming your own personal commitment to honor and integrity (*Hilltopics*, 2003).

Inclement Weather Policy:

The University of Tennessee will remain open except in the most severe weather conditions. The Chancellor may officially close or suspend selected activities of the University because of these conditions. Campus and local radio and TV stations will be notified so that appropriate announcements may be made. If a student is absent due to weather conditions they are responsible for missed class work. If missing class due to inclement weather students must notify the instructor according to the class attendance policy.

SW 460–Tentative Seminar Schedule

Spring 2003

January 13	Introduction and review of syllabus and assignments
January 20	Resume development Mary Mahoney, UT Career Services <i>Read: Gosling chapters 1 & 2</i> Rough draft of research fair abstract due via email to Dr. Dulmus
January 27	Job Interviewing Mary Mahoney, UT Career Services <i>Read: Gosling chapters 3 & 4</i> Rough draft of resume due

- February 3** BSSW '02 Alumni panel
Read: Gosling chapters 5 & 6
Rough draft of research project abstract due via email
- February 10** Research presentations
Read Gosling chapters 7 & 8
Research Fair Intent to Participate Form due
- February 17** Research presentations
Read Gosling chapters 9 & 10
Research Fair Abstract Form due
- February 24** Research presentations
Read Gosling chapters 11 & 12
- March 2** Research presentations
Review study guides due via email
- March 9** Spring break - no class
- March 16** CCTST test
Read Gosling chapters 13 & 15
- March 23** Research presentations
Portfolios Due
- March 30** Research presentations
- April 6** Grant Writing
- April 13** **Senior Comprehensive Exam**
201 & 202 Humanities Labs
- April 20** Speaker: Sandy Bell, BSSW

April 27

Resource Development
Speakers: Dean Sowers and Andy Dunsmore

Suggested Readings:

Beebe, L. (1993). *Professional writing for the human services*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Epstein, M. W., & Aldredge, P. (2000). *Good but not perfect: A study of managed care*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Gambill, E., & Pruger, R. (1997). *Controversial Issues in Social Work Ethics, Values and Obligations*. Allyn and Bacon.

Ginsberg, L. (2001). *Careers in Social Work*. Allyn and Bacon.

Rapp, C. A. (1998). *The strengths model*. New York, NY: Oxford Press.

Schatz, M. S., & Simon, S. (1999). The portfolio approach to generalist social work practice: A successful tool for students in field education. *The Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work*, 5 (1), 99-107.

Specht, H., & Courtney, M. (1994). *Unfaithful angels*. New York, NY: The Free Press.

Spicuzza, F. J. (1996). An evaluation of portfolio assessment: A student perspective. *Assessment Update*, 8 (6), 4-13.

Tierney, E. P. (1996). *How to make effective presentations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

Yaffe, J., & Gotthoffer, D. (2000). *Quick guide to the internet for social work*. New York: NY: Allyn and Bacon.