

**The University of Tennessee**  
**College of Social Work**  
**(B.S.S.W. Program)**  
**Summer 2002**

**Social Work 200 - Introduction to Social Work**  
**(3-credits)**

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**Section:** 32710

**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 to 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 and prepares students for critical thinking throughout their careers. 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 enable students to become generalist social work 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 grounded in systems theory and operate within a person-in-the-environment framework;
3. use the problem-solving process to intervene in multiple-level client systems;
4. have an understanding of human diversity and special populations that informs practice interventions;
5. use critical thinking, evaluative skills, and leadership skills to address the needs of a complex, changing society; and
6. are committed to continuous development of professional self.

**Rationale:**

The introduction course in the BSSW program focuses on the profession of social work. This course is intended to assist the prospective social worker in gaining awareness and

understanding of the breadth and depth of the profession by providing opportunities to study its historical evolution, fields of practice, consumers of service, delivery of service, rewards and challenges and relationship with social welfare.

**Course Description:**

Topics covered include the emergence of the social work profession; professional mission; knowledge, skills, values; practice settings; client groups; helping services; career patterns; practice methods. This course is designed to assist students to consider their ability for a career in social work.

**Course Objectives:**

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

1. the knowledge base, skills and values of the dominant profession within the social welfare institution, with a special focus on the mission and concern for social and economic justice;
2. the evolution of the social work profession and its relationship with the social welfare institution;
3. the interaction between the person in all of his/her diversity and environmental situations as the focus of professional practice;
4. a solution-seeking or generalist approach to social work practice and the competencies to utilize this problem-solving approach;
5. the realities of social work generalist practice in both urban and rural areas;
6. social environment and its impact on the opportunity structure for minority groups, toward an understanding of human diversity;
7. the professional literature and professional organizations as resources for continued professional growth and support.

**Behavioral Objectives:**

Successful completion of this course will result in the student being able to:

1. identify various fields of practice within the social work profession;
2. discuss basic knowledge, skills, and values for entry-level social work practice;
3. discuss the emergence and relationship of the profession of social work within the context of the social welfare institution;
4. describe the competencies which are expected of the entry-level professional social worker;
5. identify and demonstrate basic practice skills of problem-solving and interpersonal communication;
6. identify some of the major problems addressed in rural and urban areas and the special populations assisted by baccalaureate social workers;
7. discuss social work practice within a problem-solving perspective that incorporates a variety of helping roles, and is rooted in systems theory;
8. discuss the meaning of human diversity, blaming the victim, creaming the poor, and dual perspective and how these concepts influence practice;
9. discuss the rewards and challenges of the social work profession;
10. articulate your reasons for further pursuance of a B.S.S.W. or for switching into another area of interest.

**Required texts:**

Morales, A. T., & Sheafor, B. W. (2001). *Social Work: A Profession of Many Faces*, 9th Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Grobman, L. (1999). *Days in the Lives of Social Workers*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Harrisburg, PA: White Hat Communications.

**Recommended text:**

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: Author.

**Other required readings:**

In addition to assigned readings from our texts, there are several articles designated in our syllabus which are required readings. They are on reserve in Hodges Library and can be accessed through *Online@UT*.

**Blackboard:**

This course utilizes many Blackboard features through *Online@UT*. Please make sure the email address listed in the course is your current one. If additional help is needed accessing Blackboard contact [helpdesk@utk.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utk.edu)

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive punctually. If you will be missing a class or will be late the instructor must be notified prior to the beginning of the class you will be missing or late for in order to be excused. Each unexcused absence or tardiness will result in 5 points being deducted from your final grade.

**Course Requirements:**

The course format will be a combination of lecture, video, online assignments, speakers, class discussion and activities. Each class, the instructor will highlight main points and important issues. Students are expected to read, critically analyze, and discuss assigned readings. Grades will be based on 1 exam, an interview/paper, a reaction paper, online assignments, class participation, and attendance.

**Class Participation (10 points):**

Each student is expected to fully participate in class discussions and activities and to demonstrate completion of all assigned readings. Class participation points will be awarded based on this criteria.

**NASW News Review and Reaction Paper (30 points):**

The *NASW News* is a publication of the National Association of Social Workers which is distributed to its membership monthly. Hodges Library houses current editions of the newspaper in the current periodical section of the library. Each student will read and review one recent issue of *NASW News* and write a 4-5 page paper which summarizes the overall content of the newspaper and your reaction to it. The paper must follow APA format (page one is the title page and the last page is the reference page where you list the issue you reviewed; do not include an abstract) and be well organized and well

written (this includes proper grammar, sentence construction, paragraph development, and spelling). The paper is due by the beginning of class on June 6th. Late papers will be penalized 4 points. No papers will be accepted after July 2nd.

### **Social Work Practitioner Interview and Reaction Paper (30 points):**

Each student will be responsible for making an appointment with a B.S.S.W. or M.S.S.W. practitioner in **agency practice** and conducting a 30-45 minute interview. Appropriate topics and questions for this activity will be discussed in class. The data collected in this interview will be utilized to construct a 4-page reaction paper focusing on the perceptions of this social worker regarding the profession and his/her practice. Relate how this person's perceptions differ or reinforce what has been discussed and read to date for this class. Also, indicate what new issues were introduced that enhanced your understanding of the profession. This paper must be in APA format (page 1 is the title page, if references they would be page 5, do not include an abstract) and is due at the beginning of class on June 25th. Late papers will be penalized 4-points. No papers will be accepted after July 2nd.

### **Blackboard Online Assignments (30 points)**

Students are required to participate in **all** online discussions and/or assignments on Blackboard. Each Friday 2-3 new assignments will be placed on Blackboard's main discussion board by 8:00am. Each discussion/assignment is worth 3 points and must be completed prior to the next posted assignment. First assignments will be posted on May 31.

### **Exam (100 points):**

One exam will be given during this semester based on all required readings, videos, class lectures, assignments, class discussions, and speakers. The exam will be administered on Blackboard in a campus lab. No make-up exam will be allowed unless you obtain permission from the instructor to be absent from the exam prior to the start of class the day the exam is given.

### **Grading:**

Students will be evaluated by total points earned in this course as outlined above. No extra credit 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+		

### **Disability Services:**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library or 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 200, thus affirming your own personal commitment to honor and integrity (*Hilltopics*, 2002).

**Inclement Weather Policy:**

Class will be cancelled only if the University is closed due to inclement weather. Campus and local radio and TV stations will be notified so that appropriate announcements may be made. If class is cancelled, any assignments due that day will be due the next time class meets.

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

**May 30**

**Course Introduction**

- a) Review syllabus
- b) Course requirements
- c) University Honor Statement
- d) Online@UT/Blackboard

**UT Undergraduate Social Work Program**

- a. Mission
- b. Objectives
- c. Curriculum areas
- d. Progression Policies
- e. Student Social Work Organization
- f. Senior Portfolio

**Organization of the Social Work Profession**

- a. BSSW/MSSW/Ph.D.
- b. CSWE
- c. Credentials
- d. NASW and other professional social work organizations

**Baccalaureate Generalist Practice**

- a. Foundation for social work practice
- b. Person-in-environment approach
- c. Generalist as compared to a specialist
- d. Problem-solving approach
- e. Strengths based practice
- f. Career options

**Video:** [What do Social Workers Do?](#)

**June 4**

**The Nature of Social Work (Class meets in 252 Hodges Library)**

- a. Definition
- b. Emergence of the Profession
- c. Historical review
- d. Relationship with social welfare
- e. Liberalism vs. Conservatism

**Profession of Social Work**

- a. Mission

- b. Knowledge, skills and values
- c. Use of self
- d. Code of Ethics
- e. Values

**Fields of Practice**

- a. Child Welfare
- b. Mental Health
- c. Public Welfare
- d. Medical
- e. Schools
- f. Aging
- g. Others

**Practice Settings and Client Groups**

- a. Non-profit
- b. For-profit
- c. Public
- d. Voluntary
- e. Involuntary

**Video:** Professional Choices: Ethics at Work

**Class exercise:** Value conflicts

**Class exercise:** Comparing and contrasting practice settings in Grobman text.

**READ:** *Morales & Sheafor, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Grobman - chapters 1, 10*

Group #1 Manning, S. (1997). The social worker as moral citizen: Ethics in action. *Social Work, 42*(3), 223-229.

Group #2 Strom-Gottfried, K. (2000). Ensuring ethical practice: An examination of NASW Code Violations, 1986-97. *Social Work, 45*(3), 251-261.

**June 6**

**Introduction to Special Populations (Class meets in 252 Hodges Library)**

- a. Ecosystems model
- b. Societal induced stressors affecting special populations
- c. Individuals living in poverty
- d. Abused children

**Class Exercise:** Where would you set the poverty line?

**Video:** John Sterling Gardner, Jr., A Case Study

**READ:** *Morales & Sheafor - chapters 13, 16*  
*Grobman - chapters 4, 8, 34*

Group #1 Byers & Stone (1999). Roots of Activism: A Qualitative Study of BSW Students. *The Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work Education*, 5(1), 1-14.

Group #2 Royse & Riffe, (1999). Assessing students' values in an era of change. *The Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work Education*, 4(2), 71-83.

**\*NASW NEWS PAPER DUE**

**June 11**

**Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural Diversity (Class meets in 252 Hodges Library)**

- a. Demographics
- b. Trends
- c. Prejudice and discrimination
- d. Inequality and oppression

**Video:** Divided City: The Route to Racism

**Class exercise:** Identifying "isms"

**READ:** *Morales & Sheafor, chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22*  
*Grobman - chapters 27, 46*

Group #1 Carter, C. (1999). Church burning in African American communities: Implications for empowerment practice. *Social Work*, 44(1), 62-68.

Group #2 Padilla. (1997). Immigration policy: Issues for social work practice. *Social Work*, 42(6), 595-606.

**June 13**

**Practice in Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Areas (Class meets in 252 Hodges Library)**

- a. Client groups
- b. Major characteristics that influence practice
- c. Case studies

**Video:** What can we do about violence? Crisis in our inner cities

**READ:** *Morales & Sheafor, chapter 23*  
*Grobman - chapters 12, 13, 14, 25, 33, 36*

Group #1 Rapp & Wodarski. (1997). Juvenile violence: The high risk

factors, current interventions and implications for social work practice. *Journal of Applied Social Sciences*, 22 (1), 3-14.

Group #2 Evans, et al. (1999). Are rural gang members similar to their urban peers? Implications for rural communities. *Youth and Society*, 30(3), 267-282.

**June 18**

**Practice with Special Populations (Class meets in 252 Hodges Library)**

- a. Women
- b. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people
- c. Elderly
- d. Persons with disabilities and the ADA
- e. Persons with mental illness
- f. Racial and ethnic minorities within special populations

**Video:** Gay Youth

**READ:** *Morales & Sheafor*, 11, 12, 14, 15  
Grobman - 7, 20, 23, 30, 38, 50,

Group #1 Kitano & Nakaoka. (2001). Asian Americans in the Twentieth Century. *Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 3 (3/4), 7-17.

Group #2 Robin, Rasmussen, & Gonzalez-Santin. (1999). Impact of childhood out-of-home placement on a Southwestern American Indian tribe. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 2 (1/2), 69-89.

**June 20**

**Working in Organizations (Class meets in Hodges Library)**

- a. Agency-based practice
- b. Public and private agencies
- c. Host organizations
- d. Professionals within a bureaucracy
- e. Record keeping
- f. Working with other professionals
- g. Continuing education

**Realities of Practice**

- a. Changing needs
- b. Scarce resources
- c. Case management
- d. Organizational dilemmas
- e. Resistance
- f. Prejudice and discrimination

**Class exercise:** Comparing and contrasting agency settings and client populations in Grobman text.

**READ:** *Grobman - chapters 2, 5, 18, 21, 24, 40*

Group #1 Dane & Simon. (1991). Resident guests: Social workers in host settings. *Social Work*, 36(3), 208-213.

Group #2 Congress & Gummer. (1997). Is the Code of Ethics as applicable to agency executives as it is to direct service providers? In E. Gambrill and R. Pruger (Eds.), *Controversial Issues in Social Work Ethics, Values, and Obligations*. (pp. 137-150). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**June 25**

**Prevention**

- a. The Future of Social Work
- b. Gordon's model vs. Public Health Model

**Class exercise:** Application of prevention models to practice

**READ:** *Morales & Sheafor, chapters 9, 10*  
*Grobman - chapters 28, 35, 39*

Group #1 Dulmus & Wodarski. (1997). Prevention of childhood mental disorders: A literature review reflecting hope and a vision for the future. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 14(3), 181-199.

Group #2 Early & GelnMaye. (2000). Valuing families: Social work practice with families from a strengths perspective. *Social Work*, 45 (2), 118-130.

**\*SOCIAL WORKER INTERVIEW PAPER DUE**

**June 27**

**International Social Work**

- a. Global demand
- b. Global approach
- c. Employment opportunities

**Future of Social Work**

- a. New roles
- b. Issues within the profession
- c. Evidence-based practice

**Class exercise:** How the profession's issues impact clients

**READ:** *Morales & Sheafor, chapter 10*  
*Grobman - chapters 6, 15, 19, 44, 45*

Group #1 Myers & Thyer. (1997). Should social work clients have the right to effective treatment? *Social Work*, 42(3), 288-298.

Group #2 Ely, Dulmus, & Wodarski. (in review). Domestic violence: A literature review reflecting an international crisis.

**July 2 EXAM - Computer Lab 226 Henson Hall**

**Recommended readings and resources:**

Beebe, L. (1993). *Professional Writing for the Human Services*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Brieland, D. (1990). The Hull-House tradition and the contemporary social worker: Was Jane Addams really a social worker? *Social Work*, 35(2), 134-138.

Ehrenreich, J. H. (1985). *The Altruistic Imagination: A history of social work and social policy in the United States*. New York: Cornell Publishing.

Ginsberg, L. (1998). *Social Work in Rural Communities, a Book of Readings, 3rd. edition*. New York: CSWE.

Lundblad, K. S. (1995). Jane Addams and social reform: A role model for the 1990's. *Social Work*, 40(5), 661-669.

Orlin, M. (1995). The Americans with Disabilities Act: Implications for social services. *Social Work*, 40 (2), 233-239.

Peebles-Wilkins, W., & Francis, E. A. (1990). Two outstanding black women in social welfare history: Mary Church Terrell and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. *Affilia: Journal of Woman and Social Work*, 5(4), 87-100.

Rapp, C. A. (1998). *The strengths model: Case management with people suffering from severe and persistent mental illness*. New York: Oxford University Press.

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

Yaffe, J., & Gotthoffer, D. (2000). *Quick Guide to the Internet for Social Work*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.