

The University of Tennessee
College of Social Work
FALL 2008

Social Work 314 - Human Behavior in the Social Environment

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Time: T/R - 3:40-4:55
Location: Online & **PER 324**-check Course Assignments**
Office Hours: Thursdays 11-12:00pm
By Appointment

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 world without borders. 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 today's complex pluralistic world. 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, special populations, and domestic and international challenges, that informs practice interventions;
5. use critical thinking, evaluative, and leadership skills to address the needs of a complex, changing global world; and
6. are committed to continuous development of professional self.

Course Description:

The course addresses the interrelatedness of biological, social, cultural, environmental, and psychological factors in human behavior. Focus will include person-in-environment over the life span with special attention to diversity, impact of racism, sexism, and other socio-cultural factors, and integration of knowledge into a social work practice perspective. *Prerequisite: English 101 & 102. Progression or consent of instructor required.*

Rationale:

The liberal arts courses which form the foundation for this course and the Human Behavior and Social Environment course itself will enable students to develop a framework for analyzing social work practice situations by integrating concepts regarding the sources of human behavior, human diversity, social systems theory, and goal directed behavior. It is useful to learn to appraise development in a holistic manner that includes a view across the life span, with particular attention to the influence of temperament, risk and resiliency on developmental outcomes. Students also need to understand the ways in which the interrelationships of race, class, and gender shape human experience.

Baccalaureate social workers must develop the analytical and interactional skills necessary to recognize the ways in which their clients' life goals reflect cultural, social structural, psychological, and biological factors. Students will develop ways of assessing human behavior, rather than simply charting it, which honor their clients' uniqueness and right to self-determination.

Course Competencies

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

1. The applicability of biological, psychological, and social science perspectives of human behavior to the practice of social work;
2. The social systems framework as it pertains to a person-in-environment perspective of individuals, families, or people in groups;
3. The sources of human diversity in the lives of individuals, particularly those who are involved as clients in professional relationships with social workers;
4. The dual perspective of self developed by members of oppressed groups in our society;
5. Growth and development through the life cycle; the significance of risk and resilience;
6. The impact of racism, sexism, and homophobia on individual development, family systems, groups, organizations, communities, and professional social work practice;
7. Human behavior in systems of different sizes including individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities;
8. Apply knowledge of neurophysiology; understand the role(s) and effect(s) of trauma and chronic stress on brain development, and the impact on adaptive and maladaptive environments of client systems.

Required Textbooks:

van Wormer, K. (2007). *Human behavior and the social environment: Individuals and families*. New York, Oxford University Press.

van Wormer, K., Besthorn, F. H., and Keefe, T. (2007). *Human behavior and the social environment: Groups, communities, and organizations*. New York, Oxford University Press.

Perry, B.D. & Szalavitz, M. (2007). *The boy who was raised as a dog: And other stories from a child psychiatrist's notebook—what traumatized children can teach us about loss, love and healing*. New York: NY, Basic Books.

Recommended Textbook:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, (5th ed.). 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 available 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

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.

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 2227 Dunford Hall 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 314, thus affirming your own personal commitment to honor and integrity (*Hilltopics*).

Course Requirements:

The course format will be a combination of lectures, videos, online class discussions and activities, and online learning. Students are expected to review, critically analyze, and discuss assigned readings. Grades will be based on 2 written assignments, 7 online assignments, 5 exams, 5 video reflections, 5 journal entries, and 1 oral presentation.

Grading:

Students will be evaluated by total points earned in this course as outlined above. The grading scale by total points is as follows:

232-250	A	195-184	C
220-231	B+	183-179	D
219-208	B	178- below	F
207-196	C+		

COURSE READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Students will meet face to face on August 21st, 26th, and August 28th (see details in Units 1 and 2)
Monthly face to face class meetings will be identified in the August 21st class meeting.

HBSE Macro Level: Groups, Communities, & Organizations

Unit One 1. Theoretical Construction 2. Critical Thinking at the Macro Level, 3. Macro Level Research 4. Introduction to Macro Theory (ecosystems, general systems, structural functionalism, conflict and structural theory) 5. Feminist, Empowerment and Antioppressive Perspectives, 6. Historical Development(s) 7. Small Group Structure and Process 8. Practice Implications.

van Wormer, Besthorn, & Keefe: Theoretical Perspectives,
Chapter 1; The Social Psychology of Group Behavior,
Chapter 2; The Small Group as a Social System,
Chapter 3

Hardina, D. (2004). Guidelines for ethical practice in community organization.
Social Work, 49(4), 595-604.

Dumont, M.P. (2000). The mad and the bad in state institutions. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 70*(2), 148-149.

Video: ¹What I want my words to do to you: Voices from a Maximum Security Women's Prison. ² System failure: Violence, abuse and neglect in the California Youth Authority

****Complete all practice modules before coming to class****

Online Journal (record the session), Video Reflection, Case Study Assessment, & Practice Exam
Course Competencies: 2, 4, 6, 7

Unit Two 1. Ethnic Family Patterns 2. Macro Policy Issues 3. Family Violence in Global Perspective 4. Culture and Society 5. Cultural Values/Ethnocentrism 6. Political Manipulation of Cultural Values 7. Practice Implications

van Wormer, Besthorn, & Keefe: Families in Society,
Chapter 4; Culture and Society,
Chapter 5; Community & Community Development,
Chapter 6

Brooks, D., Goldberg, S. (2001). Gay and lesbian adoptive and foster care placements: Can they meet the needs of waiting children? *Social Work, 46*(2), 147-156.

Barak, M. E. M. (2000) The inclusive workplace: Ecosystems approach to diversity management. *Social Work, 45*(4), 339-352.

Poole, D. L. & Colby, I. C. (2002). Do public neighborhoods centers have the capacity to be instruments of change in human services? *Social Work*, 47(2), 142-152.

Messinger, L. (2004). Comprehensive community initiatives: A rural perspective. *Social Work*, 49(4), 535-546.

Video: ¹Small town and rural planning series. ²Rethinking high school: Best practice in action

****Complete all practice modules before coming to class****

Online Journal (record the session), Video Reflection, Case Study Assessment, & Practice Exam

****Students will attend face to face class meetings on Tuesday, August 26th and/or August 28th we will meet in PER 324 at the regular class time. You will receive email notification regarding your assigned meeting date on or before August 25th. ****

Competencies: 2-4, 6

Unit Three 1. Theories of Community Breakdown 2. Racial and Ethnic Communities/The Virtual Community 3. Restorative Justice of Healing---Social Work Values 4. What is an Organization? 5. Historical Perspectives/Adopting a Critical Perspective 6. Multiple Theoretical Perspectives on Organizations 7. Antioppressive Analysis 8. The Impact of the Market Economy on Social Work 9. Ecological Disaster and Decline: Global Challenges 10. Conventional Ideas of Community and Environment in Social Work 11. Alternative Perspectives on Person and Environment 12. Ecofeminism 13. Practice Implications

van Wormer, Besthorn, & Keefe: Human Behavior and the Organizational Environment: The Community at Work, Chapter 7

Human Behavior and the Natural Environment: The Community of the Earth, Chapter 8

Rogge, M. E. and Combs-Orme, T. (2003). Protecting Children from chemical exposure: Social work and U.S. social welfare policy. *Social Work* 48(3), 439-450.

Itzhaky, H. and York, A. S. (2002). Showing results in community organization. *Social Work*, 46(2), 127-131.

Video: ¹ Everything's cool. ² The heat is on. ³ An inconvenient truth: A global warning

Competencies: 2-4, 6, 7

Unit Four 1. Social Work's Early Religious Heritage 2. Theoretical Perspectives 3. Practice Implications

van Wormer, Besthorn, & Keefe: Human Behavior and the Religious/Spiritual Environment: The Community of Faith, Chapter 9

Cnaan, R. A., and Boddie, S. C. (2002). Charitable choice and faith-based Welfare: A call for social work. *Social Work*, 47(3), 224-235.

Hodge, D. (2002). Does social work oppress evangelical Christians? A “new class” analysis of society and social work. *Social Work*, 47(4), 401-414.

Hodge, D. (2003). Spiritual assessment: Hodge responds. *Social Work*, 48(4), 563-565.

Video: ¹ Religion & ethnics newsweekly. ² With God on our side: George W. Bush & the rise of the religious right in America. ³ A seat at the table: Struggling for American Indian religious freedom.

Competencies: 1-7

HBSE Micro Level: Individuals and Families

Unit One 1. The Study of Human Behavior 2. Theories, Concepts and Models (psychodynamic, cognitive, ecosystems framework, etc 3. Critical Thinking and Analysis of Theoretical Models 4. Social Work Empowerment Concepts 5. Nature versus Nurture 6. Brain Research and Human Behavior 7. Mental Disorders 8. Ethical Issues 9. Practice Implications.

van Wormer: Human Behavior: Theoretical Concepts, Chapter 1

Video: ¹ A Class Divided. ² Autism a world apart.

Anonymous. (2003). The wealth divide: The growing gap in the United States between the rich and the rest. *Multinational Monitor*, May 24(5), 11-15.

Collins, M. E., Stevens, J. W. & Lane, T. S. (2000). Teenage parents and welfare reform: Findings from a survey of teenagers affected by living arrangements. *Social Work*, 45(4), 327-338.

van Wormer: Biological Factors in Human Behavior, Chapter 2

Hall, J. C. (2007). An exploratory study of differences in self-esteem, kinship social support and coping responses among Black ACOAs and non-ACOAs. *Journal of American College Health*, 56(1), (July/August), 49-54.

Rutter, M. (1997). Nature-nurture integration: The example of antisocial behavior. *American Psychologist*, 52(4), 390-398.

Hobfoll, S. E. (2002). Social and psychological resources adaptation. *Review of General Psychology*, 6(4), 307-324.

Competencies: 1, 3, 5, 7, 8

Unit Two 1. Human Growth and Development Theories 2. Gender and Social Identity 3. Birth through Adolescence 4. Attachment Theory 5. Childhood Trauma 6. Childhood Resilience 7. Practice Implications

van Wormer: The Psychology of Human Behavior, Chapter 3

Video: ¹ Understanding traumatized and maltreated children. ² Early childhood and brain development: How experiences shape children, community and culture.

Duncan, G., Yeung, W., Brooks-Gunn, J., & Smith, J. R. (1998). How much does poverty affect the life chances of children? *American Sociological Review*, 63(3), 406-423.

Baker, P. L. & Carson, A. (1999). I take care of my kids: Mothering practices of substance-abusing women. *Gender and Society*, 13(3), 347-363.

Coll, C. G. et al. (1996). An integrative model for the study of developmental competencies in minority children. *Child Development*, 67, 1891-1914.

Cicchetti, D. & Lynch, M. (1993). Toward an ecological/transactional model of community violence and child maltreatment: Consequences for children's development, *Psychiatry*, 56, 96-118.

van Wormer: Birth Through Adolescence, Chapter 4

Video: ³ Drug babies. ⁴ Young Criminals: Adult Punishment. ⁵ Teen violence: Wot u lookin' at?

Harvey, A. R. & Hill, R. B. (2004). Africentric youth and family rites of passage program: Promoting resilience among at-risk African American youths. *Social Work*, 49(1), 65-74.

Van Dorn, R. A. & Williams, J. H. (2003). Correlates associated with escalation of delinquent behavior in incarcerated youths. *Social Work*, 48(4), 523-531.

Competencies: 1, 3, 5, 7, 8

Unit Three 1. Intimacy versus Isolation 2. Sexuality/Healthy Love Relationships 3. Generativity versus Stagnation 4. Ego Integrity versus Despair 5. Cultural and Global Perspectives on Adult Life 6. Biological/Psychological Aspects of Development 7. Practice Implications

van Wormer: Early Adulthood through the End of Life, Chapter 5

Video: ¹ Overview of aging: Typical patterns in aging. ² Aging in Japan: When traditional mechanisms vanish.

Choi, N. G. (2001). Diversity within diversity: Research and social work practice issues with Asian American elders. *Journal of Human Behavior in the*

Social Environment, 3 (3/4), 301-319.

Saigeetha, J., Burts, D.C., and Pierce, S. (2000). Comparisons of parenting attitudes among five ethnic groups in the United States. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, Autumn, 31(4), 395-406.

Competencies: 1, 3, 5, 7

Unit Four 1. Families as Systems 2. Socialization 3. Family Relationships 4. Practice Implications

van Wormer: The Individual in the Family, Chapter 6

Video: ¹ Complaints of a dutiful daughter. ²Alzheimer's: Effects on patients and their families

Meyers, S. (2006). Role of social worker in old versus new culture in nursing homes. *Social Work*, 51(3), 273-277.

DeBord, K., Canu, R. F., and Kerpelman, J. (2000) Understanding a work-family fit for single parents moving from welfare to work. *Social Work*, 45(4), 313-324.

October 28th –December 2nd

Developmental Assessment Oral Presentation(s) will take place in PER 324

Case Study Assessment(s) (35 points):

Students will be placed in discussion groups on Blackboard for weekly online assignments where application of theory is done through an ongoing case study. Each *Monday* morning a new assignment will be posted, group members must post a thread by *noon*, on the following Saturday. To receive credit, **all** students must participate in **all** discussions. A synopsis of the group's discussion of the case study must be summarized in a short paragraph (15-20 sentences) and posted on Blackboard's main discussion board by *noon* on the **Sunday**, following the Monday assignment. Each online assignment is worth **5 points**. Weekly online assignment will began on **September 29th thru November 21st**.

This assignment evaluates the applicability of bio-psychosocial perspectives of human behavior, person-in-environment perspectives of individuals, families, and groups while taking into account the human diversity in the lives of micro and macro level variables of social work practice. Competencies 1-3, and 5-8

Group Video Reflection(s) (25 points):

Student groups will be assigned specific video recordings from each course unit; and are required to summarize thoughts on each of the videos (5-total). Reflection summaries should be no more than *20-30 sentences* and must incorporate assigned course readings to receive full credit on the assignment. Two points per sentence will be deducted for each reflection that exceeds the required limit. Groups are required to watch five videos and write (5) reflections; each reflection is worth **5-points**. This assignment must be completed by **Thursday, November 7th**, **late assignments will not be accepted, no exception**. This assignment evaluates the applicability of bio-psychosocial perspectives of human behavior, person-

in-environment perspectives of individuals, families, and groups while taking into account the human diversity in the lives of micro and macro level variables of social work practice. Competencies 1-3 and 5-8, are assessed.

Examinations (125 points):

Five exams will be given during this semester based on all required readings, videos, class lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, class activities, experiential exercises, and online assignments. Students will take **(4)** unit exams worth **25-pts**; you must receive at least 70% on each unit exam before you will be allowed to move on to the next unit and the final examination (multiple attempts are allowed). The final exam is worth **25-pts, multiple attempts will not be allowed on this test.** All examinations will be given online.

Each examination will include test items such as: true/false, multiple choice, fill-in the blank test questions.

Exam #1 will evaluate material covered in Unit(s) 1 & 2-Macro-level
(refer to competencies listed in each unit).

Exam #2 will evaluate material covered in Unit(s) 3 & 4

Exam #3 will evaluate material covered in Unit(s) 1 & 2-Micro level

Exam #4 will evaluate material covered in Unit(s) 3 & 4

Exam #5 will evaluate material covered in Units 1-4 Micro- and Macro-level HBSE

All course competencies are assessed by unit examinations (1-4) and comprehensively with the final examination.

Online Journal (25-points):

Students participate in group discussions of the “*The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*” by Bruce D. Perry & Maia Szalavitz. Student must write a total of five (5) blogs; points will be based on substantive dialogues and full integration of course concepts into the discussion [in other words you get all 5pts per discussion or none]. Five entries must be completed on or before **November 25th**; late assignments **will not** be accepted. This assignment evaluates the growth development through the life cycle, the significance of risk and resilience, and sociocultural factors that impact sources of human diversity in the lives of individuals. In addition, students learn to critically assess the social systems framework as it pertains to a person-in-environment perspective of micro and macro level social work practice. Competencies 1-8 are assessed.

Group Theoretical-Bio-psychosocial Assessment(s) (30 points):

Each group will complete two (2) theoretical-developmental assessment(s); each worth **15pts**. This assignment has two parts, an electronic (e.g. power point [25-50 slides], media [30-minutes], etc.) and oral report. Each group will complete two developmental assignments which examines a client system within an environmental context. Students will select a client system (e.g. micro or macro) from a book and/or media source and implement a two theories which best describe the biopsychosocial complexities. The assignment has five parts:

- Part 1 –** Provide an overview of the client system, as portrayed in a media source (play, movie, and soap opera), book and/or real life (the Osbournes, Jackson, Color Purple, Flowers in the Attic, etc)

- Part 2-** Develop an eco-map based on the client system. Include all significant social systems. Use arrows to indicate the quality and flow of relationships.
- Part 3 –** Using the four sources of human behavior, biological, psychological, social, and cultural factors, analyze the clients' development. Discuss the influences you see as being significant in each area? What role might risk or vulnerability and resiliency have played? How does the information in the eco-map impact development?
- Part 4 –** Select 2 theories from: individual, family, group, organization, or community; present an overview of each theory. The theories must be compared and contrasted, each related to the social work practice perspective, and conclude with a section as to which theory you most support for your client system and why.
- Part 5-** Discuss probable social work issues as related to factors in the client's developmental analysis. Include issues of spirituality, if relevant.

You will be graded on the basis of the quality of your analysis, use of concepts from the course, organization of material, and writing skills. Abstract is required and you must incorporate a minimum of 10 references (majority journal articles). Place a copy of the completed assignment in the [Digital Dropbox]. If your assignment contains media (e.g. audio and/or video) hosted by another server, you must provide a link for the instructor. This assignment must be completed by 8:00 am on **October 28th**, **5-pts** will be deducted from **late** assignments; no assignments will be accepted after *noon* on **October 29th**. This assignment evaluates the ability to fully integrate the biospsychosocial function of macro and macro level human behavior all course competencies 1-8 are assessed

Group Oral Theoretical-Developmental Assessment Presentations (10 points)

Each group will make an oral report based on the theoretical and developmental assessment. October 28th –December 2nd. **All Presentation(s) will take place in PER 324, attendance is mandatory.**

Recommended Readings:

Broderick, P. C. & Blewitt, P. (2006). *The life span: Human development for helping professionals*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Chadiha, L., Brown, E., & Aranda, M. (2006). Social work practice with older African Americans and other Black populations. In B. J. Berkman and S. D'Ambruso (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Social Work in Aging* (247-256). New York: Oxford University Press.

Hall, J. C. & Bowie, S. L. (2007). *African American behavior in the social environment: New perspectives*. New York: Haworth Press, Inc.

Hill-Collins, P. (2000). *Black feminist thought: Knowledge, consciousness, and the politics of empowerment*, 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.

Kirst-Ashman, K. K. and Hull, Jr., G.H. (2005). *Generalist practice with organizations and communities*, 2nd ed. United States: Brooks/Cole.

Longres, J. F. (2000). Human behavior in the social environment. 3rd ed. Illinois: F.E. Peacock Publishers, Inc.

Neely-Barnes, S.L. & Marcenko, M.O. (2004). Predicting impact of childhood disability on families: Results from the 1995 National Health Interview Survey Disability Supplement greater ratio of protective factors to risk factors facilitates the development. *Mental Retardation*, 42, 284-293

Saadeh, W., Rizzo, C., & Roberts, D. (2002). Spanking. *Clinical Pediatrics*, 41 (2), 87- 88.

Simmons, C.A., Lehmann, P., Cobb, N. & Fowler, C. (2005) Personality profiles of women and men arrested for domestic violence: An analysis of differences and similarities. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 41(4), 63-81.