

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

**Syllabus: SW-550 - Seminar in Management and Community Practice:
Community Practice and Political Social Work
Spring 2007**

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, 2006*).

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 focuses on current management and community practice trends as they impact the delivery of human services and the requisite knowledge and problem solving skills needed to address them. Students will analyze the extent to which such trends are transforming the delivery of human services. This course will focus on the trends in community practice and political social work.

Students will analyze community and political problems and develop and evaluate strategies to resolve such problems. The course provides students with the opportunity to engage in political/community change efforts through the problem solving process. Invited speakers will provide advanced discussion of community and political practice, and a mandatory trip to the state capitol will be used to enhance understanding of the political process of lobbying, testifying, and educating public officials about issues of importance to social workers.

Course Rationale:

Human service organizations exist to protect and promote the welfare of the people they serve. These organizations accomplish this through the efforts and influence of multiple

interest groups, both internal and external; as well, they are confronted by profound changes in today's increasingly complex society. Social workers at all organizational levels of decision making must be aware of these significant trends and changes and demonstrate the capacity to enlist others within their organizations and the task environment to effectively respond to such changes while at the same time serving the best interests of clients.

Course Objectives:

Upon the completion of the course, students are expected to:

- 1) identify and evaluate current trends and issues in political and community practice in social work.
- 2) participate in problem solving teams in assessing organizational/community problems and developing strategies to effectuate positive change;
- 3) describe factors related to resistance to change and ways in which to overcome such resistance;
- 4) gain advanced knowledge and skills in implementing organizational/community change;
- 5) develop and practice skills in influencing the task environment through task groups and coalitions;
- 6) develop skills in participating in the political process at the state level.