

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

**SW550 - Seminar in Management and Community Practice:
Community Practice and Political Social Work**

Course Outline
Spring 2007

Class: Tuesday, 3:40-6:20
Office Hrs.: Tuesday, 2:30-3:30,
Thursday, 2:30-3:30
and by appointment

Instructor: Cynthia Rocha, Ph.D
Phone: 974-7513 (office)
470-9174 (home)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Community Practice Paper 35%.
2. Political Social Work paper. 35%
3. Reading Summaries, 25%
4. Class/Trip Participation, 5%

Readings and Required Texts

A readings packet is available from Library Reserve online, although it is suggested that students purchase "Burkey - People first", which is available at the bookstore. This book is a good source for community development and there are several chapters out of it used in this course.

**Criteria for Assignments in
SW550, Advanced Seminar in Management and Community Practice**

1. Community Practice Paper (35% of total grade) 7-10 pages, typed, double-spaced

The Community Practice paper should provide an in depth understanding of a specific topic related to Community-based practice. Topics may include how to effectively perform specific methods (eg. empowerment practice or participatory methods in various areas of social work, organizing, development, administration, supervision, etc.); or it can focus on a specific community practice area. For example, you might want to follow a debate in the literature or discuss best practices described in the literature for a specific area of organizing; community, neighborhood, or international development; or social planning. One way to organize this is to see what other disciplines are doing (eg. Urban planning literature, sociology).

Whatever you choose, make sure that you follow the criteria below:

- a. Introduce your paper. Describe the thesis of your paper. What are you planning to do? What argument will you propose, or what are you going to educate your reader about? Outline what you are going to do. Make sure you provide a framework for the paper. (20 Pts.)
- b. What does the literature say regarding your topic? Analyze your topic given your argument or thesis using the literature to back you up. (40 pts.)
- c. Conclusion, integration, implications, etc. What's it all mean? (10 pts.)
- d. From what academic discipline does the literature come? (10 pts.)
- e. Make sure you use appropriate headings, subheadings, APA style, etc. (10 pts.)

f. Give a 5-10 minute presentation providing a brief synopsis of what you learned. (10 pts.)

2. Political Social Work paper. (worth 35% of the total grade). 7-10 pages, typed double-spaced

This paper is very open. Educate yourself and the class on some topic in political social work. Some examples might include 1) How much lobbying can a 501(c)(3) do before they lose their status? What law governs this policy? 2) Do a literature review on running for political office. 3) How to effectively build a coalition for a specific type of political social change effort. 4) A historical analysis on some issue that passed into law – in depth analysis of the process and implementation of the lobbying efforts that went into getting the law passed. What worked, didn't work, etc.

Again, write this as a conceptual paper with:

- a. Introduction the issue that you will analyze (10 pts.),
- b. Provide a framework, thesis, or hypothesis - what will you argue in this paper? (15 pts.)
- b. Literature review of your issue and analysis of topic (35 pts.)
- c. Conclusions and implications of your findings (15 pts.)
- d. Headings for each part of the framework, APA style, page numbers, etc. (15 pts.)
- e. Give a 5-10 minute presentation providing a brief synopsis of what you learned. (10 pts.)

Or you may choose to do an international comparison of a U.S. Policy

Compare a major social program or policy internationally. You may choose to compare two or more similar countries with the U.S. Or you may want to compare third world with first world countries. You choose the type of comparison you wish as long as the U.S. is one of the countries analyzed, and you have a sound rationale for doing so. Use the criteria below.

- a. What is the problem or policy you wish to address. Introduce to the reader (10%).
- b. Describe your framework that you will use to analyze the chosen policy or problem. What is your thesis, hypothesis or argument? (15%)
- c. What are the countries being analyzed? Why did you choose these countries (you should have a reason)? What is the social policy or program you will compare? Give a reasonable explanation why comparing this policy with these countries makes sense and adds to our understanding (15%).
- d. Analyze in depth the policy or programs in the chosen countries. (25%)
- e. What are the implications of your findings? (15%)
- f. Use APA style and make appropriate use of headings and sub-headings. (10%)
- e. Give a 5-10 minute presentation providing a brief synopsis of what you learned. (10 pts.)

Grading Scale

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|-----|--------|
| A = | 90-100 |
| B+= | 87-89 |
| B= | 80-86 |
| C+= | 77-79 |
| C= | 70-76 |
| D+= | 67-69 |
| D= | 60-66 |
| F= | <60 |

COURSE CALENDAR:

Week 1

Course Overview

Emerging Issues in Communities and Organizations
Community Practice, Development and Organizing
Social Marketing
Privatization, Decentralization
Political Social Work and Legislative Advocacy
Diversity and ethical considerations in contemporary Social Work
Announcements and Discussion:
Field Trip to Capitol
Guest Speaker on Grassroots Campaigns

Week 2

Topic: Trends: The Changing American Family

Readings:

Rocha, C. (1997) The Working Poor. In Richard L. Edwards (Ed.) Encyclopedia of Social Work, 19th Edition, 1997 Supplement.
O'hare, W. (2002). Tracking the trends in low-income working families. *Population Today*, 30 (6), 1-3.

Week 3:

Trends in Communities and democratic participation

Readings:

Steyaert, J. (2002). Inequality and the digital divide. Chapter 16 in *Advocacy, Activism and the Internet*
Campfens, (1997). *International Review of community Development*

Week 4:

Community Practice Models

Readings:

Weil & Gamble (1995) *Community Practice Models*
Johnson (1998). *The Revitalization of community Practice*.
Shragge (1993). *Community Economic Development: Chapter one: Politics*

Week 5:

Community Development

Readings:

Halpern, (1993). *Neighborhood-based initiatives to address poverty*.
Burkey - *People first: What is Development*.
Uehara et al., (1996). *Toward a value-based approach to multicultural social work research*. *Social Work*, 41 (6), 613-622.

Week 6:
Community Organizing

Readings:

Rivera, Erlich & Zippay (1994). Should Today's community organizer use the tactics handed down from earlier generations?

Shillington, Dotson & Faulkner (1994). Should only African-American community organizers work in African American neighborhoods? In M. Austin and J. Lowe (eds.) Controversial Issues in communities and Organizations. Mass: Allyn and Bacon.

Week 7: Participatory Change

Chetkov-Yanoov (1986). Participation as a means to community cooperation

Castelloe, P., Watson, T. & White, C. (2002). Participatory change: An integrative approach. Journal of Community Practice, 10 (4), 1-32.

Week 8: Decentralization and Participation

Readings:

Burkey. Self-reliant participatory development

Azzarto & Smith (1994) Should health and human services be decentralized?

Latting & Gummer (1994). Can administrative controls and pressure for efficiency and effectiveness be balanced with the staff's demand for decentralization and participation?

Spring Break: No class Tuesday, March 13

Week 9: Tentative Nashville Trip

Discussion: Mon, Tue, Wed.

Social Work Day on the Hill

Week 10:
Empowerment Practice

Readings:

Gutierrez, Glen, & Delois (1995) The organizational context of empowerment practice.

Burkey (1993). Agents of Change

Rose, S.M. (2000). Reflections on Empowerment-Based Practice. Social Work, 45(5), 403-412.

Week 11: Political Social Work-Computers, Coalitions and Watchdog Orgs.

Community Practice papers due.

Readings:

Satterfield, B. (2006). What can social networking do for your organization? May 5, Retrieved at www.techsoup.org/howto/articles/internet/page4455.cfm?rss=1.

Jansson (2003). Developing and using power. Chapter 9 in *Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate*.

Week 12: Influencing Legislative Bodies

Readings:

Richan (1996). Lobbying one on one.

Jansson (2003). Developing Political Strategy. Chapter 10, Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate.

Raffa, (2000). Advocay: Oh Yes, You Can... The Non Profit Quarterly, 7 (2). www.tsne.org/print/158.html

Week 13: Marketing your Issue - Reaching the Public Grassroots Political Campaigns

Readings:

Hardcastle, Wenocur & Powers (1997). Using Social marking.

Schwartz (2002) Net Activism, 2001. How citizens use the internet. In Chapter 7, Advocacy, Activism, and the Internet.

Week 14

Informal Presentations of papers.

Political Social Work Papers due Friday April 27th.

Related Readings

Gray, V. & Lowery, D. (2001). The institutionalization of state communities of organizer interests. Political Research Quarterly. 51 (2), 265-284.

Hoefler, R. (2006). Advocacy practice for social justice. Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books.

Hoff, M. & Rogge, M. (1996). Everything that rises must converge: Developing a social work response to environmental injustice. Journal of Progressive Human Services.

Miller, J. Strategies for Immigration Control: An International Comparison. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Pub.

Mizrahi, T. & Rosenthal, B. (2001). Complexities of coalition building: Leaders successes, strategies, struggles, and solutions. Social Work, 46 (1), 63-79.

National Council for Adoption (2005). Advocates next step in foster care reform. National Council for Adoption Human Services News. Online at <http://webclipper.handset.org/mt-static/archive/2005/06/national>.

O'Connor, D. (2002). Toward Empowerment: Revisioning family support groups. Social Work with Groups, 25 (4), 37-56.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2001). Devolution and Globalization: Implications for local decision makers. Paris: OECD.

NASW Delegate Assembly (1996). International Policy on Human Rights. Social Work Speaks. Policy Statement, Washington DC: NASW Press.

NASW Delegate Assembly (1996). Immigrants and Refugees. Social Work Speaks. Policy Statement, Washington DC: NASW Press.

Petter, J. Byrnes, P. & Choi, D. (2002). Dimensions and patterns in employee empowerment: Assessing what matters to street-level bureaucrats. Journal of Public Administration and Theory, 12 (3), 377-400.

Rocha, C. (1996). Use of health insurance in county funded clinics: Issues for health care reform. Health and

Social Work, 21(1), 16-22.

Verkaar, E. (1996). The development of a computerized information system for integrated home care in the Netherlands. Computers in Human Services, 13(1).

Yackee, S. (2005). Sweet talking the fourth branch: The influence of interest group comments on federal agency rulemaking. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory. 16, 103-124.

Yorke, Carl. (2003). The candidate's handbook for winning state and local elections. Political Net Press.