

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

**SW 200 – Introduction to Social Work  
Spring 2008**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Heather Parris, MSSW	<b>Time:</b>	T/TH: 12:40 - 1:55
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**BSSW 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, 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 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.

**BSSW Program Goals:**

Provision of education and training that enable students to become generalist social work practitioners who:

- are committed to advancing social and economic justice and the principles, values, and ethics that guide the social work profession.
- are committed to evidence-based practice.
- are grounded in systems theory and operate within a person-in-the-environment framework
- use the problem-solving process to intervene in multiple-level client systems
- have an understanding of human diversity, special populations, and domestic and international challenges, that informs practice interventions
- use critical thinking, evaluative skills, and leadership skills to address the needs of a complex, changing global world; and
- 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.

**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., & Scott, M. (2006). *Social Work: A Profession of Many Faces*, 11th Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

**Recommended text:**

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

Grobman, L. (2005). *Days in the lives of social workers*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Harrisburg, PA: White Hat Communications.

National Association of Social Workers. (2006). *Social Work Speaks: NASW Policy Statements*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

**Other required readings:**

In addition to assigned readings from our texts, there are several articles designated in our syllabus (look for "\*" symbol) which are required readings. They can be found via the library's home page under electronic journals and can be viewed and printed from online.

**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](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 2 exams, an interview/paper, a NASW reaction paper, a library assignment, online assignments, **class participation, and attendance.**

**Library Search Assignment (20 points):**

Each student is required to conduct a thorough library search, consisting of a **minimum of 4** databases (Social Work Abstracts, PsychInfo, Medline, and one additional of your choice), that **searches POVERTY and narrows it down to a specific topic related to poverty**, whereby you have exhausted the data bases in search of abstracts. Each student must have a minimum of 3-4 "hits" per data base search. Your library search output will be turned in as proof of databases and terms used in the search process, accompanied by a 1-page overview of your search process and your reaction to the searches. This paper is due on **February 14<sup>th</sup>**. Late papers will be penalized 3 points. No papers will be accepted after 2:00 pm on April 15th, 2008.

**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 NASW News**. 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 **February 28<sup>th</sup>**. Late papers will be penalized 5 points. No papers will be accepted after 2:00 pm on April 15th, 2008.

**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** in the surround area 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 **April 15th**. Late papers will be penalized 5-points. No papers will be accepted after 2:00 pm on April 15, 2008.

**Blackboard Online Assignments (20 points):**

Students are required to participate in **all** online discussions and/or assignments on Blackboard. Each Monday morning a new discussion/assignment will be placed on the main discussion board which must be completed by the date and time noted in the assignment. Each assignment is worth 2 points. First assignment will be posted by January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Exams (100 points):**

Two exams will be given during this semester based on all required readings, videos, class lectures, assignments, class discussions, and speakers. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The exams are scheduled for **March 13<sup>th</sup>** and **April 24<sup>nd</sup>**. The exams will either be administered in the classroom or on Blackboard in a campus lab. **No make-up exams 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.**

**Extra Credit:**

It is the BSSW program's expectation that all social work majors participate in the BSSW Student Social Work Organization (BSSW-SWO) or the National Association of Black Social Workers Organization (NABSW). All students, regardless of major who are enrolled in SW 200 (Introduction to Social Work) and/or in SW 250 (Social Welfare) are welcome. The BSSW-SWO 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 NABSW-UT meetings are held on Fridays at 6:00 PM, dates to be announced.

The BSSW-SWO and NABSW 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 or NABSW 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 or NABSW. The completed, signed form must be handed into 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 or if you have emergency information to share, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 2227 Dunford Hall or 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

**Grading:**

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

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

**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*).

**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****Jan 10****Course Introduction**

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

**Jan 15****UT Undergraduate Social Work Program**

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

**Jan 17****Organization of the Social Work Profession**

- a. BSSW/MSSW/Ph.D.
- b. CSWE
- c. NASW/NABSW
- d. Other professional social work organizations

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 5

*Social Work Speaks* - Confidentiality & Information Utilization **AND** Peace and Social Justice

**Jan 22****The Nature of Social Work**

- a. Definition
- b. Relationship with social welfare
- c. Liberalism vs. Conservatism

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapters 2, 3, 4

**Jan 24      The History of Social Work**

- a. Emergence of the Profession
- b. Historical review

**READ:** *Social Work Speaks* - Capital Punishment & the Death Penalty **AND** Civil Liberties & Justice

**Jan 29      Profession of Social Work**

- a. Mission
- b. Knowledge, skills and values
- c. Use of self
- d. Code of Ethics

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 9  
*Social Work Speaks* - Client Self Determination **AND** Social Services **AND** Volunteers & Social Services

**Jan 31      Profession of SW cont....**

**Video:** Faces of Change: Social Work in the New Millenium

**Feb 5        Library Tour - Class meets in 128 Hodges**

Margaret Casado, MLS

**Feb 7        Database Searching – Class meets in 128 Hodges Library**

Margaret Casado, MLS

**Feb 12      Social Work Values and Ethics**

- a. Competencies
- b. Value conflicts

**Class Exercise:** “Value conflicts”

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 8  
*Social Work Speaks* - Correctional SW **AND** Foster Care & Adoption **AND** Senior Health, Safety, & Vitality **AND** Adolescent Pregnancy & Parenting

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

**Feb 14      Social Work Values and Ethics, con't**

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

**READ:** *Social Work Speaks* - Cultural Competence **AND** Drug Testing in Workplace **AND** Linguistic/Cultural Diversity in the US

**\*\*\*LIBRARY SEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\***

- Feb 19      Baccalaureate Generalist Practice**
- a. Foundation for social work practice
  - b. Person-in-environment approach
  - c. Generalist as compared to a specialist

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

- Feb 21      Baccalaureate Generalist Practice**
- a. Problem-solving approach
  - b. Strengths based practice
  - c. Career options

- Feb 26      Practice Settings and Client Groups**
- a. Non-profit
  - b. For-profit
  - c. Public
  - d. Voluntary
  - e. Involuntary

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 6, 7

- Feb 28      Fields of Practice**
- a. Child Welfare
  - b. Mental Health
  - c. Public Welfare
  - d. Medical
  - e. Schools
  - f. Aging
  - g. Others

**READ:** *Social Work Speaks* - Early Childhood Care **AND** Hospice Care **AND** Public Child Welfare **AND** Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Substance Abuse

**\*\*\*\*NASW NEWS REVIEW DUE\*\*\*\***

- March 4      Fields of Practice – con't**
- Speaker:** Terry Houseau-Hill, MSSW  
Knox County Schools

- March 6      Urban Social Work Practice**
- 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 13, 26  
*Social Work Speaks* - School Violence **AND** Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention **AND** School Truancy & Dropout Prevention **AND** Family Violence

**March 11 Rural Social Work Practice**

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

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 12  
*Social Work Speaks* - Rural SW **AND** Education of Children & Youths **AND** Community Development

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

**March 13 Exam 1**

**March 17-21 Spring Break!!!**

**March 25 Guest Speakers/NAMI**

**March 27 Guest Speaker**

**Video:** Welfare Reform: Social Responsibility

**April 1 Introduction to Special Populations**

- a. Ecosystems model
- b. Societal induced stressors affecting special populations
- c. Individuals and families living in poverty
- d. Children at risk

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, pp. 288-293, chapter 17  
*Social Work Speaks* - Physical Punishment of Children **AND** Youth Suicide

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

**April 3 Practice with Special Populations**

- a. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people
- b. Women
- c. Elderly
- d. Persons with mental illness
- e. Victims of War/War Veterans

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapters 14, 15, 16,18

*Social Work Speaks* - Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual Issues **AND** Transgender & Identity Issues Women's Issues **AND** Mental Health

**April 8 Practice with Special Populations, con't.**

- a. Persons with disabilities
- b. ADA
- c. Racial and ethnic minorities within special populations

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 19  
*Social Work Speaks* - People with Disabilities **AND** HIV & AIDS

**Class exercise:** "Identifying "isms"

**April 10 Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural Diversity -**

- a. Demographics
- b. Trends
- c. Racism
- d. Prejudice and discrimination

**Video:** [Divided City: The Route to Racism](#)

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapters 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25  
*Social Work Speaks* - Gender, Ethics, & Race-Based Workplace Discrimination **AND** Racism **AND** Affirmative Action

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

**April 15 The Role of Prevention**

- a. Cost effectiveness
- b. Gordon's model vs. Public Health Model

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

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 10

**\*\*\*\* SOCIAL WORKER INTERVIEW PAPER DUE\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*LAST CHANCE TO TURN IN LATE PAPERS BY 2:00 PM.\*\*\*\***

**April 17 Working in Organizations**

- 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

**April 22 Strategies for Advancing Social and Economic Justice & the Future of SW**

- a. Macro and Micro strategies
- b. International social work
- c. Changing needs and Scarce Resources
- d. New roles for SW (case management)
- e. Organizational dilemmas
- f. Resistance
- g. Prejudice and discrimination
- h. Challenges to the profession
- i. Evidence-based practice and CEU's

**Class Exercise:** Application of strategies to case studies

**READ:** Morales & Sheafor, chapter 11  
*Social Work Speaks - Immigrants & Refugees AND International Policy on Human Rights*

**April 24 Exam #2**

**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.

McNeece, C.A., & Thyer, B. (2004). Evidence-based practice and social work. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work: Advances in Practice, Programming, Research, and Policy*, 1(1), 7-25.

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.

Roberts, A., & Greene, G. (Eds.). (2002). *Social workers' desk reference*. New York: Oxford.

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.