

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

**SW535- SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK**

Course Outline  
Spring 2008

**Tuesdays 12:40-3:25 PM**

**Instructor:** David R. Dupper, Ph.D.  
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**Course Requirements/Evaluation Procedures:**

Students are expected to attend every class session. Students are expected to read all required assignments prior to each class session. Students are also expected to complete all other class assignments on time. It is essential that students notify the instructor in a timely manner if circumstances interfere with class attendance or the completion of course requirements.

Weekly on-line quizzes (12 @ 10 pts. each)	120 pts. (30%)
Social Assessment & reaction paper	60 pts. (15%)
Position Paper	100 pts. (25%)
School board meeting/workshop assignment	60 pts. (15%)
Discussion boards (4 @ 10 points each)	40 pts. (10%)
Attendance/Participation	20 pts. (5%)

**Assignment of Final Grades**

The final course grade will be based on the following point totals:

- 376-400 points = A (Superior performance, exceeds expectations)
- 348-375 points = B+ (Better than satisfactory performance)
- 328-347 points = B (Satisfactory performance, meets expectations)
- 308-327 points = C+ (Less than satisfactory performance)
- 280-307 points = C (Performance well below the standard expected of graduate students)

**Required Texts:**

Dupper, D.R. (2003). *School social work: Skills and interventions for effective practice*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Other readings may be found @ on-line library reserve

**Course Content Outline:**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Topics/Readings</i></b>
1/15/08	Course overview, introductions

***Unit I - Foundations of School Social Work Practice***

1/22/08 The ecological perspective as an organizing framework for school social work practice; NASW Code of Ethics and ethical dilemmas in school social work practice; brief history of school social work; major educational legislation and court cases; roles and tasks of school social workers.

**Readings:**

Dupper text - chapter 1

Sipple, J.W. & Banach, L. (2006). Helping schools meet the mandates of federal policies: No Child Left Behind and other cutting-edge federal policies (chapter 84). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The*

*School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Nettles, G.J. (2007). Legal issues in school social work In L. Bye & M. Alvarez (Eds.). *School social work: Theory to practice* (pp. 248-260). Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

Early, T.J. & Vonk, M.E. (2001). Effectiveness of school social work from a risk and resilience perspective. *Children & Schools*, 23, 9-31.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #1

-post your response to discussion board #1

1/29/08

The organizational structure and processes of the school; culture and climate of the school; political environment of the school; 20-60-20 theory of school change; incorporating best practices and technology in social work practice.

**Readings:**

Dupper text - chapter 2

Dupper, D.R. (2007). Incorporating best practices (pp. 212-224). In L. Bye & M. Alvarez (Eds.). *School social work: Theory to practice*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

Lindsey, B.C. & White, M.K. (2007). Technology and school social work (pp. 288-297). In L. Bye & M. Alvarez (Eds.). *School social work: Theory to practice*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #2

***Unit II - Student-Focused Interventions***

2/5/08

Bullying and peer sexual harassment in schools; guidelines for assessing potentially violent students; proven interventions that focus on externalizing behavior problems; alternatives to out-of-school suspension and expulsion; group work in schools; in-class demonstration of school survival group session(s)

**Readings:**

Dupper text - overview of section 2 (pp. 37-39) & chapter 3

Dupper, D.R. (1998). An alternative to suspension for middle school youths with Behavior problems. Findings from a "school survival" group. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 8, 354-366.

Dupper, D.R. (2006). Design and utility of life skills groups in schools (chapter 58). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Whitted, K. S. & Dupper, D.R. (2005). Best practices for preventing or reducing bullying in schools. *Children in Schools*, 27, 167-175.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #3 before next class

-post your response to discussion board #2

2/12/08

Assessment strategies; assessing and intervening with students who are anxious and fearful, lonely/shy, grieving, and/or depressed/suicidal; crisis intervention in schools

**Readings:**

Dupper text - chapter 4

Knox, K.S. & Roberts, A.R. (2006). Developing school-wide and district-wide crisis intervention/intervention protocols for natural disasters (chapter 52). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Goldman, L. (2006). Best practice grief work with students in schools (chapter 54). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Cuevas, M.C. (2006). Guidelines for confidentiality: Writing progress notes and storing confidential information (chapter 88). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #4

2/19/08

Interventions with truant students, dropouts/pushouts, homeless students, foster children, abused and neglected students, students from divorced homes or separated from parents, substance abusers, sexually active/pregnant/parenting teens; alternative schools

**Readings:**

Dupper text- chapter 5

Dupper, D.R. (2006). Guides for designing and establishing alternative school programs for dropout prevention (chapter 38). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Thompson, S.J. & Kim, J. (2006). Intervening with students and families who frequently relocate or are homeless (chapter 70). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #5

2/26/08

Overview of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); school social workers as advocates; Social Developmental Study (SDS); response to intervention; interventions with students diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity (ADHD), Learning Disabilities (LD), Autism; a parent's perspective.

**Readings:**

Dupper text- chapter 6

Timberlake, E.M. & Sabatino, C.A. (2006). Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: Translating and implementing (chapter 86). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Clark, J.P. & Thiede, C. (2007). School social work practice with students with disabilities (pp. 261-285). In L. Bye & M. Alvarez (Eds.). *School social work: Theory to practice*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #6

-post your response to discussion board #3

***Unit III - System-Focused Interventions***

***Date***

***Topics/Readings***

3/4/08

Principles of exemplary school-based prevention programs; school-based programs for preventing violence, bullying (including cyberbullying), substance abuse, truancy, sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; innovative programs designed to transform schools

**Readings:**

Dupper text- overview of section 3 (pp. 131-132) and chapter 7

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (see <http://www.pbis.org/main.htm>)

Mickelson, R.A. & Smith, S.S. (2007). Can education eliminate race, class, and gender inequality? In M.L. Andersen & P.H. Collins (Eds.), *Race, class & gender: An anthology (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*, (pp. 404-413). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Noam, G.G. & Hermann, C.A. (2002). Where education and mental health meet: Developmental prevention and early intervention in schools. *Development and Psychopathology*, 14, 861-875.

- Wilson, J. (2007). School social work at the policy and community level (pp. 66-81). In L. Bye & M. Alvarez (Eds.). *School social work: Theory to practice*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.
- Frey, A.J. & Dupper, D.R. (2005). A broader conceptual approach to clinical practice for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Children & Schools*, 27, 33-44.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #7

3/11/08 Interventions on behalf of vulnerable groups of students - victimization based on known or presumed gay or lesbian sexual orientation, working with children of color, working with students being reintegrated into school from residential and juvenile justice settings.

**Readings:**

Dupper text- chapter 8

Spencer, M.S. (1998). Reducing racism in schools: Moving beyond rhetoric. *Social Work in Education*, 20, 25-36.

Jeltova, I. & Fish, M.C. (2005). Creating school environments responsive to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender families: Traditional and systemic approaches for consultation. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation*, 16, 17-33.

Teaching Tolerance website (Southern Poverty Law Center) (located at

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/index.jsp>

**Before next class:**

-take quiz #8

-post your response to discussion board #4

3/18/08 **NO CLASS–Spring Break!**

3/25/08 **SOCIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT IS DUE**

The school social worker as consultant and team member; MSAP video

**Readings:**

Dupper text- chapter 9

Dupper, D.R. (1993). School-community collaboration: A description of a model program designed to prevent school dropouts. *School Social Work Journal*, 18, 32-39.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz # 9

**Date**  
4/1/08

***Topics/Readings***

**POSITION PAPER IS DUE**

New perspectives on the role of the school social worker; challenges in building school-community collaborations; increasing parental connectedness with schools; school social work in rural areas; proven and promising school-community collaborations and initiatives; home visiting.

**Readings:**

Dupper text- chapter 10

Gianesin, J.R. (2007). School social work and educational reform (pp. 21-40). In L. Bye & M. Alvarez (Eds.). *School social work: Theory to practice*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

Wasik, B.H. & Shaffer, G.L. (2006). Essential guidelines for home visits and engaging with families (chapter 72). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Swick, D.C., Head-Reeves, D.M. & Barbarin, O.A. (2006). Building relationships between diverse families and school personnel (chapter 77). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

- Quinn, J. (2007). Community schools: New roles for social work practitioners (pp. 105-119). In L. Bye & M. Alvarez (Eds.). *School social work: Theory to practice*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.
- Raines, J.C. (2006). SWOT! A strategic plan for school social work in the twenty-first century. *School Social Work Journal*, 30, 132-150.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz # 10

***Unit IV - Evaluating school social work practice***

4/8/08

Evaluating student-focused interventions; process versus outcome evaluations; categories of measures and research designs; time and stress management strategies for school social workers

**Readings:**

Dupper text - chapter 11

Powers, J.D. & Bowen, G.L. (2006). Coping with isolation: Guidelines for developing a professional network (chapter 110). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

Jayarathne, S. (2006). Best practices for avoiding burnout (chapter 112). In C. Franklin, M.B. Harris & P. Allen-Meares (Eds.) *The School Services Sourcebook*. Oxford University Press.

**Before next class:**

-take quiz 11 before next class

4/15/08

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING/WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENT IS DUE**

Evaluating system-focused interventions; guidelines for successfully planning, implementing, and evaluating new programs and Comprehensive Quality Programming (CQP) steps

**Readings:**

-Dupper text - chapter 12

**Before next class:**

-take quiz 12 before next week

4/22/08

Class discussion of position papers and school board workshop assignments

## Social Assessment Report

School social workers must be able to write succinct and salient social assessment reports. In this assignment, students will contact and conduct an in-depth interview with parent(s) of a school-aged child. (Students are encouraged to read Tiefertal & Charak 1999—on-line reserve) for additional information and guidelines for writing this report. Based on the information obtained in this interview, each student will write up a case study assessment. ***Each paper MUST follow the format listed below with the following subheadings clearly labeled.***

*I. Background*

*II. Family background/cultural strengths*

*III. Medical history*

*IV. School information*

*V. Summary*

***On a separate page, each student must also answer the following questions:***

- 1) What did you learn from this experience?
- 2) What would you do differently next time?
- 3) How would you evaluate your strengths & weaknesses in conducting interviews and writing up the results of your interview?

***Grading Criteria:***

- To what extent did the writer concisely summarize the content from the protocol in each section of the social developmental study?
- To what extent were findings in the social developmental study supported by direct quotes and/or observations rather than personal bias (e.g., personal hunches, gut feelings, practice wisdom)?
- Is the summary a presentation of the major points from each section of the report? (the summary should not contain any new information)

The written report must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 5-7 pages (12 point font size) (excluding the separate sheet). **This assignment is due on or before March 25, 2008.**

## Position Paper

In this assignment, each student will select a controversial topic related to K-12 education and examine the topic from various points of view. Each student will be expected to find out as much as he/she can about the pros and cons of your topic from journal articles, book chapters, newspaper articles and articles from news magazines, interviews with school personnel and/or students, etc...

Make sure that your paper presents an in-depth description of your topic, a thorough discussion of the arguments in favor and arguments against, and conclude your paper with a discussion of *your position* on this topic based on these pros and cons. *Each student is strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor to obtain his approval and guidance before writing this paper.*

### Possible topics:

- Is grade retention helpful or harmful?
- Is zero tolerance discipline effective?
- Does ability grouping enhance academic achievement?
- Do school uniforms improve student behavior?
- Should corporal punishment be banned in Tennessee public schools? Why or why not?
- Should we establish separate schools for gay and lesbian youth? Why or why not?
- Should we establish separate schools for homeless youth? Why or why not?
- Should religious activities be allowed in public schools (e.g., Tennessee School Crusade)? Why or why not?
- Should comprehensive sex education be taught in Tennessee's public schools? Why or why not?

This paper must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 8 pages (12 point font size). This paper must include a minimum of five references (i.e., refereed journal articles, book chapters). **This assignment is due on or before April 1, 2008.**

## **School board meeting/workshop assignment**

Each student will be expected to attend at least one local school board meeting or school board workshop during the semester and write a brief paper that focuses on the following questions:

- 1) State the name of the county, number of school board members, demographic characteristics of members (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, age, occupations, etc...)
- 2) What specific issues were discussed at the school board meeting/workshop?
- 3) What decisions, if any, were made? Describe the group process that resulted in these decisions. Was this decision-making process what you expected it to be?
- 4) Based on your observations, how would you go about preparing to make a presentation to this school board in the future? What would you emphasize or de-emphasize in your presentation?

*The written report must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 2-3 pages (12 point font size).*

**This assignment is due on or before April 15, 2008.**