

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

SW 535 SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

Course Outline
Spring 2008

Instructor: Mrs. Susan Elswick, LSSW

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Class: Tuesday 5:30-8:30pm

Course Requirements/ Evaluation Procedures:

Students are expected to attend every class session. Assigned readings and other course requirements are expected to be completed on time. It is imperative that students contact the instructor regarding any circumstances that interfere with punctual weekly attendance and participation, or the completion of course requirements.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

On-line Quizzes (10 @ 10 pts. Each)	100 pts
Psychosocial-Psychoeducational Assessment	100 pts
Position Paper with Sample Interventions	100 pts
School Law Paper	50 pts
School Board Meeting/ Parent Workshop	50 pts

Assignment of Final Grades

A	376-400 Points (Superior performance)
B+	349-375.9 Points (Better than satisfactory performance)
B	328-347.9 Points (Satisfactory performance)
C+	308-327.9 Points (Less than satisfactory performance)
C	280-307.9 Points (Performance well below graduate level standard)

Required Text

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

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

Punctual weekly attendance is expected of all graduate students. Students are required to be on time to class, and attend the entire class session. Students are required to participate in classroom ethical discussions, group forums and demonstrate critical thinking skills in responses in related classroom discourse. Each class absence results in a deduction of 2 points from your final grade. Perfect attendance results in 2 points added to your final grade.

Classroom participation in weekly Ethical Dilemma Discussions

A portion of 10 class periods will be devoted to an Ethical Dilemma Discussion relevant to School Social Work Practice. Students are required to keep a copy of the **NASW Code of Ethics** and bring it to class each week.

Furthermore students will obtain a copy of the **NASW Standards for School Social Work Services** for reference during the course.

On-line Quizzes (100 points)

There will be 10 on-line quizzes. The schedule for on-line quizzes is provided on course outline.

School Law Paper (50 points)

Special Education and Education Law will be presented in the second class session. Each student will pick a topic related to Special Education and Educational Law. The student will submit a written report to the instructor and provide a report to the class on the assigned school law topic. Specific report requirements will be provided in the second class session.

School Board Meeting/ Parent Meeting (50 points)

Each student will attend either a school board meeting or parenting class before midterm. The student will write a brief paper that focuses on the following issues:

- 1) Identify location and participants in meeting/ group: demographics, positions, status, etc.
- 2) Specify issues added and discussed
- 3) Report how issues were resolved or unresolved
- 4) Describe the process. Was it effective or ineffective?
- 5) Select an issue discussed at the meeting and prepare a statement describing and addressing the issue, or explain how the process could be improved in order to benefit the school, students, parents, and community.

This report is not to exceed 3 pages (12 point font) and is due on or before 3/ /2008.

Psychosocial-Psychoeducational Assessment (100 points)

Evaluation and assessment of student needs is an integral part of School Social Work. This requires competency in providing a written document that clearly assesses and evaluates student needs. This assessment requires skills in evaluation of student needs and strengths, as well as gathering a social/developmental/educational history. A format for this process will be provided by the instructor and the students will be responsible for acquiring a case-study and submitting a comprehensive psychoeducational assessment that includes recommendations for addressing and meeting student needs. This assessment will be in a treatment plan format (sample will be given) that should include the following: tests administered, strengths, needs, educational needs, psychosocial needs, and recommendations.

Position Paper with Sample Intervention (100 points)

Each student will select a topic relevant to School Social Work practice for an issue impacting students in grades PreK-12. The student will examine the topic using critical thinking skills and consider all aspects of the issue. After conducting a comprehensive literature review and considering relevant information, interviews with teachers, students, and school social workers the student will defend a position on the topic. The student will create an approach model and design an intervention to address the issue. *Topics and issues will be discussed during class and all students must obtain instructor approval for selected topic.*

Paper must be typed and double-spaced. Not to exceed 8 pages (12 point font). This does not include Bibliography or sample intervention hand-outs.

Part 1: The Position Paper will include the following:

In-depth description of the topic and a summary defining the issue

Description of current and relevant research on the topic

Description of how the issue impacts education (specify effects on individuals or groups)

Compare and contrast previous or current approaches to the topic/ issue

Clear and informed position on how to address the issue

Identify/ create a School Social work approach model

Select an approach intervention for the issue or topic
Describe how you would determine if intervention is working

Part II: Demonstration of Sample Intervention

Each student will demonstrate a sample of the intervention (activity/ directive) as described in your position paper. This intervention should include things relevant for individuals/or groups, families/ parents, and teachers. Please consider developmental, cognitive, and emotional factors when selecting the activity/ directive. Also remember that you want to see if your intervention is working so also include a way to monitor client progress (data collection practices and tools).

Requirements for this portion of the assignment include:

- A typed description of the intervention and rationale for application (format for intervention description will be provided)
- Handout of intervention for each student in the class
- Materials needed to complete activity in class

Outline of weekly class topics, assignments, and reading Tuesday 5:30-8:30 pm

01/15/2008

Introduction and Discussion of Expectations
School Social Work in Tennessee (Certification and Licensure Process)
Historical Overview, Models, Current Issues
Ecological Perspective as Organizing Framework for School Social Work practice

- Assignment: Each student will e-mail the instructor an ethical dilemma. Can be hypothetical or from a case (remember to protect confidentiality)
- Assignment: Read and familiarize yourself with the following documents-
NASW Code of Ethics
<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/default.asp>
NASW Standards for School Social Work Services
www.naswdc.org/practice select School Social Work Practice
- Assigned Reading: Dupper Text- Chapters 1, 2 &9

01/22/2008

Special Education and Educational Law
Multi-Disciplinary Roles and Responsibilities: The Social Organization and Political Environment of the School Setting
Ethical Dilemma and class discussion
Handout on School Law Paper
Sign up for School Law Paper Topic and presentation dates

- Assignment: Quiz #1
- Assignment: School Law Paper

- Assigned Reading: Dupper Text- Chapters 5 & 6

01/29/2008

Group 1: School Law Paper Due and presentation

Special Education and Educational Law continued
 Major Legislation and Court Cases
 Impact of Educational Law on School Social Work Practice
 Review: Disability Categories, definitions, and eligibility criteria
 Ethical Dilemma and class discussion

- Assignment: Quiz #2
- Assignment: School Law Paper
- Assigned Reading: Dupper Text- review 5& 6

02/05/2008

Group 2: School Law Paper Due and Presentation

Assessment of Individuals and Families
 Look at assessment tools/ Testing instruments
 Demonstration of Social History Interviews
 Hand out sample Psychoeducational Assessment for Assignment
 Ethical Dilemma Discussion

- Assignment: Review samples of Psychosocial-Psychoeducational Assessment and prepare for assignment
- Assignment: Quiz #3
- Assigned Reading: Dupper Text- Chapters 3,7, &10

02/12/2008

Assessments and Psychoeducational Evaluations
 Application to School Social Work Practice
 Ethical Dilemma

- Assignment: Quiz #4
- Assignment: School Board/ Parent meeting assignment due next week
- Assigned Reading: Dupper Text- Chapters 4, 8, & 11

02/19/2008

School Board Meeting/ Parent Meeting Assignment Due

Interventions in School Social Work Practice
 Interventions related to Externalizing Behaviors (Truancy, Substance Abuse, Aggression, Sexual Activity)
 Discussion about Vulnerable Groups of Students in School (Gay and Lesbian students, Ethic and Cultural Minorities)
 Ethical Dilemma
 Look at Position Paper Topics and Sign up for dates

- Assignment: Quiz #5

- Assigned Reading: Dupper Text- Chapters 4, 8, & 11
- Assignment: Prepare outline, bibliography, and summary on position paper for next week

02/26/2007

Outline, Bibliography, and Summary on Position paper due

Interventions for Vulnerable Students

In-class activities on parent education, sample interventions, and managing a group

-Abused and/or Neglected Children, Children of Divorce, homeless students, substance abuse, grief groups, conflict resolution, ADHD, anger management, bullying, empathy, and social skills

-Discuss Blue Ribbon, RISE, RTI, and Inclusion

Ethical Dilemma

- Assignment: Quiz #6
- Assignment: Psychosocial Psychoeducational Assessment due next week
- Assigned Reading: Dupper Text- Chapter 12

03/04/2008

Psychosocial-Psychoeducational Assessment Due

Measuring Outcomes to Evaluate both micro- and macro- level interventions

Ethical Dilemma

03/11/2008

Questions about class/ needs

Discuss (art therapy, music, play therapy, materials, books, etc)

Review sample interventions on display

Use remainder of class time for Paper/ Presentation preparation

Discuss SW portfolios, "lesson plans," licensure/ certification questions, resources, and sample interventions

- Assignment: Prepare for Presentations
- Assignment: Quiz #7

03/18/2008

Spring Break: No Class

03/25/2008

Begin Position Paper Reports and Sample Interventions

Current Issues: Presentation/ Activity/ Discussion

Ethical Dilemma

- Assignment: Quiz #8

04/01/2008

Current Issues: Presentation/ Activity/ Discussion

Ethical Dilemma

- Assignment: Quiz #9

04/08/2008

Current Issues: Presentation/ Activity/ Discussion
Ethical Dilemma

- Assignment: Quiz #10

04/15/2008

Current Issues: Presentation/ Activity/ Discussion
Ethical Dilemma

04/22/2008

Complete Class Evaluation

Final Questions/ Answers

**Handouts of local agencies and resources, sample interventions, and
class conclusion**