

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

**SW 538 Social Work Practice with At-Risk Populations (2 credits)
Wednesdays 12:40-4:40 PM (First Session)**

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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. (www.csw.utk.edu).

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. (*Hilltopics*, 2007).

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 2227 Dunford Hall (865-974-6087). This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

Course Description

This is a required foundation course. This course provides in-depth study of evidence-informed and evidenced-based practice models with at-risk populations. Assessment and interventions focus on individuals, groups, families, and communities

Course Rationale

This is a 2 credit course that builds on the foundation introductory practice course in applying generalist practice to complex social problems and issues. Knowledge, values, and skills in advocacy and evidence-based intervention methods for practice with individuals, small groups, and families, and communities are essential to influence social change and empowering clients/client systems and populations at-risk. The course emphasizes assessment and intervention with client systems inclusive of their risk, protective factors and strengths in the context of the supports and demands of their environment.

Course Competencies

By the completion of this course, the students are expected to be able to demonstrate (through course activities, assignments and/or exams):

1. Assess complex client systems from an ecological perspective for practice with individuals, small groups, families, and communities with an emphasis on diverse strengths, resources,

natural support systems and using culturally affirming communication and available evidenced-based, culturally affirming assessment tools (*content: skills and strategies for assessing clients/client systems, problems, issues, and organizations; culturally affirming communication and assessment; critical analysis of assessment tools for evidence-bases and culturally affirmative elements; assessing family dynamics, roles, and patterns; information technology to locate evidence-based assessment tools*).

2. Evaluate the limitations and strengths of practice models and interventions and identify best practices appropriately in work with diverse client systems, families and small groups (*content: generalist group work (i.e., group dynamics, processes, roles); intra-, inter- and inter-disciplinary teams; generalist family-centered, strengths-based, evidence supported interventions; using information technological resources to identify evidence-based interventions; family configurations (e.g., single parent, step-, aging, GLBTQ) and issues (e.g., child maltreatment and abuse, mental and physical health, immigration/legal status, death and dying, disability(ies), poverty, violence)*).
3. Recognize, analyze, and resolve ethical dilemmas that arise in practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities. (*content: NASW Code of Ethics, International Code of Ethics; ethical principles; professional values; analysis of ethical dilemmas; designing resolution strategies; utilizing supervision appropriately for analysis and resolution of ethical dilemmas*).
4. Identify evidence-based prevention principles and approaches to wellbeing and social and economic justice across client systems. (*content: public health/risk and resilience framework (Fraser); EBP prevention models of practice; precautionary principle (Public Health) and traditional scientific risk assessment methodologies; at-risk populations (e.g., HIV, suicide, community, and domestic violence, and substance abuse; using information technology to identify evidence-based principles and approaches*).
5. Describe how advocacy and social change are applied to advance well-being and social and economic justice in communities, and how and when to apply such generalist strategies across larger systems. (*content: models of community practice, planned social change, and empowerment (e.g., grassroots, neighborhood, and community organizing); generalist roles, strategies and tactics in organizing functional communities, community social and economic development, program development, community liaison, social planning, coalition building, political and social action; social movements and their core components for progressive change (i.e., social work roles, scope of concern, constituencies, target systems, desired outcomes)*).

Course Requirements/Plan for Evaluation:

Class presentation of case studies.....	25% (100 pts.)
Discussion boards.....	25% (100 pts.)
Group Project.....	35% (140 pts.)
Attendance/class participation.....	15% (60 pts.)

Students are expected to attend every class session. It is essential that students notify the instructor by e-mail (chickma1@utk.edu) in a timely manner if circumstances interfere with class attendance or the completion of course assignments.

The final course grade will be based on the following:

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

Required Texts:

Dworkin, J. (2005). *Advanced social work practice: An integrative, multilevel approach*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Additional readings can be accessed on-line at the Hodges library website.

Course Content Outline:

Session 1 (Jan. 9, 2008)—

Overview of course and assignments; sign-up sheet for presentations of case studies; discussion of problem-based learning; small group discussion of cases

Required readings session 1:

Chapter 1 of Dworkin textbook

Case study: 2-4 Assessment challenges with an adult homeless male (pp. 25-28)

Case study: 2-2 Raul and Nora: A Latino couple in transition (pp. 17-19)

Session 2 (Jan. 16, 2008)—

Assessment of and multi-level interventions with complex problems facing individuals & families from an ecological perspective; identification and critique of best practices in assessing and intervening with individuals, small groups, & families; information technology to locate evidence-based assessment tools; family configurations (e.g., single parent, step-, aging, GLBTQ) and issues (e.g., child maltreatment and abuse, mental and physical health, immigration/legal status, death and dying, disability(ies), poverty, violence)

Readings for session 2:

Birman, D., Trickett, E. & Buchanan, R.M. (2005). A tale of two cities: Replication of a study on the acculturation and adaptation of immigrant adolescents from the former Soviet Union in a different community context. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 35, 83-101.

Chung, I.W. (2006). A cultural perspective on emotions and behavior: An empathic pathway to examine intergenerational conflicts in Chinese immigrant families. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, 87, 367-376.

Cox, K.F. (2005). Examining the role of social network intervention as an integral component of community-based, family-focused practice. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 14, 443-454.

Carlson, B.E. (2006). Best practices in the treatment of substance-abusing women in the child welfare system. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 6, 97-115.

Schaeffer, C.M. & Borduin, C.M. (2005). Long-term follow-up to a randomized clinical trial of

- Multisystemic therapy with serious and violent juvenile offenders. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 73, 445-453.
- Littell, J.H. (2005). Lessons from a systematic review of effects of multisystemic therapy. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27, 445-463.
- Henggeler, S.W., Schoenwald, S.K. & Swenson, C.C. (2006). Methodological critique and meta-analysis as Trojan horse (letter to the editor). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 28, 447-457.
- Littell, J.H. (2006). The case for Multisystemic Therapy: Evidence or orthodoxy? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 28, 458-472.
- Case study: 2-3 Clinical practice in a rural community with an adult survivor of sexual trauma (pp. 20-24)
- Case study: 4-2 A Cambodian woman with severe psychological and social trauma (pp. 49-51)
- Case study: 5-2 Resettlement of a Jewish refugee family from the former Soviet Union (pp. 61-64)
- Case study: 5-3 Interventions with recent Hmong immigrants (pp. 65-67)

Session 3 (Jan. 23, 2008)—

Assessment and multi-level interventions with organizations & communities from an ecological perspective; identification and critique of best practices in assessing and intervening with organizations and communities; information technology to locate evidence-based assessment tools; generalist group work (i.e., group dynamics, processes, roles).

Readings for session 3:

- Finifter, D.H., Jensen, C.J., Wilson, C.E. & Koenig, B.L. (2005). A comprehensive, multitiered, targeted community needs assessment model. *Family and Community Health*, 28, 293-306.
- Boehm, A. & Itzhaky, H. (2004). The social marketing approach: A way to increase reporting and treatment of sexual assault. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 28, 253-265.
- Botvin, G.J., Griffen, K.W. & Nichols, T.D. (2006). Preventing youth violence and delinquency through a universal school-based approach. *Prevention Science*, 7, 403-408.
- Checker, M. (2007). “But I know it’s true”: Environmental risk assessment, justice, and anthropology. *Human Organization*, 66, 112-124.
- Heflinger, C.A. & Christens, B. (2006). Rural behavioral health services for children and adolescents: An ecological and community psychology analysis. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 34, 379-400.
- Mulroy, E.A. & Lauber, H. (2004). A user-friendly approach to program evaluation and effective community interventions for families at risk of homelessness. *Social Work*, 49, 573-586.
- Case study: 2-5 The impact of agency policy on intervention with a family affected by ADHD/ODD (pp. 29-32)
- Case study: 3-3 Response to school violence: A community-based approach (pp. 40-41)
- Case study: 3-4 Community-based services for youth released on parole (pp. 42-44)
- Case study: 7-2 Integrated services in American Indian country (pp. 85-88)
- Case study: 7-3 Partners in care: Enhancing medical and psychosocial care for the elderly (pp. 89-92)
- Case study: 7-4 Restoring organizational functioning: Challenge for a new executive director (pp. 93-95)

Session 4 (Jan. 30, 2008)—

Evidence-based prevention principles and approaches across client systems; intra-, inter- and trans-disciplinary teams; public health/risk and resilience framework (Fraser); prevention approaches with at-risk populations (e.g., HIV, suicide, community, and domestic violence, and substance abuse); using information technology to identify evidence-based principles and approaches; precautionary principle (Public Health) and traditional scientific risk assessment methodologies.

Readings for session 4:

- Bronstein, L.R. (2003). A model for interdisciplinary collaboration. *Social Work, 48*, 297-306.
- Campbell, A.N., Fisher, D.S., Picciano, J.F., Orlando, M.J., Stephens, R.S. & Roffman, R.A. (2004). Marketing effectiveness in reaching the non-treatment seeking marijuana smoker. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions, 4*, 39-59.
- Glisson, C. & Schoenwald, S.K. (2005). The ARC organizational and community intervention strategy for implementing evidenced-based children's mental health treatments. *Mental Health Services Research, 7*, 243-259.
- Haber & Toro (2004). Homelessness among families, children, and adolescents: An ecological-developmental perspective. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review, 7*, 123-163.
- Jenson, J.M. (2006). Advances and challenges in preventing childhood and adolescent problem behavior. *Social Work Research, 30*, 131-134.
- Jenson, J.M. (2007). Research, advocacy, and social policy: Lessons from the risk and resilience model. *Social Work Research, 31*, 3-5.
- Mann, E.A. & Reynolds, A.J. (2006). Early intervention and juvenile delinquency prevention: Evidence from the Chicago Longitudinal Study. *Social Work Research, 30*, 153-167.
- Okamoto, S.K., LeCroy, C.W., Tann, S.S., Rayle, A.D. Kulis, S., Dustman, P. & Berceci, D. (2006). The implications of ecologically based assessment for primary prevention with indigenous youth populations. *The Journal of Primary Prevention, 27*, 155-170.
- Ungar, M. (2004). A constructionist discourse on resilience: Multiple contexts, multiple realities among at-risk children and youth. *Youth and Society, 35*, 341-365.
- Case study: 7-1 Primary prevention to promote effective parenting: The Parent University (pp. 80-84)
- Case study: 3-1 A school-based program for teen parents (pp. 34-36)
- Case study: 3-2 Outreach to homeless youth at-risk (pp. 37-39)
- Case study: 6-1 Dealing with end-stage illness: Cultural issues and the interdisciplinary team (pp. 69-71)
- Case study: 6-2 AIDS in remission: Reversing direction (pp. 72-74)
- Case study: 6-3 Northeast Valley: A Latino community overcoming vulnerability (pp. 75-78)

Session 5 (Feb. 6, 2008)—

Advocacy and social change strategies that advance well-being and social and economic justice with individuals and in organizations & communities; models of community practice, grassroots, neighborhood, and community organizing; community social and economic development, program development, community liaison, social planning, coalition building, political and social action; social movements and their core components for progressive change (i.e., social work roles, scope of concern, constituencies, target systems, desired outcomes).

Readings for session 5:

- Chino, M. & DeBruyn, L. (2006). Building true capacity: Indigenous models for indigenous communities. *American Journal of Public Health, 96*, 596-599.

- Goodkind, J.R. & Foster-Fishman, P.G. (2002). Integrating diversity and fostering interdependence: Ecological lessons learned about refugee participation in multiethnic communities. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 30, 389-409.
- Hancock, T. U. (2005). Cultural competence in the assessment of poor Mexican families in the rural southeastern United States. *Child Welfare*, 84, 689-711.
- Icard, L.D. Bourjolly, J.N. & Siddiqui, N. (2003). Designing social marketing strategies to increase African Americans' access to health promotion programs. *Health and Social Work*, 28, 214-223.
- Jacobson, M. & Rugeley, C. (2007). Community-based participatory research: Group work for social justice and community change. *Social Work with Groups*, 30, 21-39.
- Peterson, N.A. & Hughey, J. (2002). Tailoring organizational characteristics for empowerment: Accommodating individual economic resources. *Journal of Community Practice*, 10, 41-59.
- Case study: 4-1 Multilevel solutions to *violence* with an African-American family using Oppression and Feminist theories (pp. 46-48)
- Case study: 4-3 Saving *STOP*: A community-based program to reduce jail recidivism among the mentally ill (pp. 52-55)

Session 6 (Feb. 13, 2008)-

Recognizing, analyzing, and resolving ethical dilemmas with individuals, families, groups, and communities; NASW Code of Ethics, International Code of Ethics; ethical principles; professional values; utilizing supervision appropriately for analysis and resolution of ethical dilemmas.

Readings for session 6:

- Miley, K. & DuBois, B. (2007). Ethical preferences for the clinical practice of empowerment social work. *Social Work, Health, and International Development*, 44, 29-44.
- International Federation of Social Workers- Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles (<http://www.ifsw.org/en/p38000398.html>)
- Carolyn Sniff Legal Brief (listed under "course documents")

Session 7 (Feb.20, 2008)-

Group projects due
Course wrap-up & evaluations

Guidelines for class presentation of case studies

- 1) answer each question under “Activities” that follow the case
- 2) summarize outside readings related to issues in this case (see “suggested readings”)
- 3) do a literature review/search and locate interventions that may be helpful in addressing the problem(s) in your particular case and rationale for choosing this intervention
- 4) hand in a paper that addresses all of the above (6-8 pages; reference list; APA format)
- 5) orally present your findings to class and facilitate a class discussion of the case (20-30 minutes)