

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
Foundations of Social Work - SOWK 2000 01

Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 07:00 PM-09:50 PM No Required Lab 3 Hours

Class Time: 07:00 – 10:00 PM Monday Room PS 119
Instructor: Leon Chamberlain III, MSW LCSW

Instructor's Office/Cell: 307-359-2430

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College Office Hours: Prior to or after class: 7 PM - Mondays

Course Description

This course introduces social work and social welfare through an overview of the history, philosophy, ethics, values, methods and fields of social work practice to generalist social work.

This course does not have any prerequisites.

Introduction:

The generalist practitioner operates within the ethical guidelines prescribed by the NASW Code of Ethics. The social worker utilizes the problem-solving model to intervene with all levels of client systems (individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and institutions). Assessment using the generalist social work practice model is grounded in a systems and person-in-environment framework with the goal of identifying multiple potential points of intervention. Interventions using the generalist social work practice model attempt to prevent or help solve difficulties within the functioning of the client system as well as enhancing and strengthening the inherent capacities of a wide range of diverse client systems. The generalist practitioner advance problem-solving methods, which are infinitely flexible in their application. The concepts of the generalist social work practice model guide the curriculum plan and student learning objectives.

Introduction to Social Work is the introductory course for the Bachelor of Social Work degree, providing the student with an overview of social work ethics and values, history, the person-in-environment perspective, systems theory, the problem-solving process, cultural diversity and fields of practice. This knowledge prepares the student to learn more in depth theory in the Human Behavior and Social Environment course sequence. Knowledge about fields of practice helps the student understand the context for the skills taught in the practice courses. History, philosophy, and ethics of social work introduce the student to policy issues, which are covered in depth in the Policy course. Students are introduced to research as a method of practice evaluation, prior to the more in depth preparation in Research Methods. In addition, research is presented as a guide for practice and the optional volunteer experience in this course helps the student begin thinking about the area in which they wish to complete their field practicum and to understand the role of social work in human service organizations.

Goal:

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of social work theory, principles and practice.
2. Understand and appreciate the social work values and ethics and have an understanding of and respect for the positive value of diversity.
3. Understand the concept of the professional use of self.
4. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and the importance of change that advances social and economic justice.
5. Understand the distinct circumstances of population-at-risk, women, people of color, and people who are gay and lesbian, and populations at-risk unique to this region, such as Native Americans living on reservations, isolated farm and ranch families, and isolated minority groups scattered throughout the state.
6. Understand the history of the social work profession and its current structures and issues.
7. Understand the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes.
8. Understand the importance of bio-psycho-social variables that affect individual development and behavior, and the use of theoretical frameworks, such as systems theory.
9. Appreciate the value of research to understand behavior of client systems at all levels.
10. Appreciate the impact and role of social policies on client systems, workers, and agencies.

Outcomes: The class will include:

1. Three (3) chapter exams
2. Weekly class journals
3. Oral presentation*
4. Comprehensive final exam

*Instructions will be discussed in class

Methodology: Lecture will be the primary method of instruction. Class discussion will be expected. Video will be used for specific information. Guest presentations will be utilized for additional information.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Three (3) chapter exams - Thirty points each (90 points total)
- Weekly class journals - Twenty (30 points)
- Class participation - Ten (20) points
- Oral presentation - Twenty Five (30) point
- Final exam - Thirty (30) points

Course grading scheme:	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	60-69	D
	Below 60	F

Required Text:

An Introduction to the Profession of Social Work – Becoming A Change Agent, Elizabeth A. Segal, Karen E. Gerdes, Sue Steiner, 4th Ed., Brooks/Cole.

Class Policies:

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: Nov 12, 2015.

All exams and homework will be expected by the date indicated on the course calendar. All students are expected to attend scheduled classes, unless prior arrangements have been made. Make-up assignments will be due the following class period. Your attendance is critical to your learning. I assume you will attend class unless you have an emergency. If you must miss class, I appreciate your letting me know, not so I can approve or disapprove the absence, but as a Courtesy. Missing more than 20% of the class (includes accumulated tardiness) may result in failure of the class.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

ADA Accommodations Policy: It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment with our Accommodative Services Counselor at 268-2557.

Calendar:

August 24 - Classes begin - course overview - NASW Code of Conduct

August 31 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner – Chapter 1 – 2

September 07 – Labor Day – NO CLASS

September 14 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner - Chapter 3

September 21 – Exam #1 – Chapters 1 - 2 - 3

September 28 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner, Chapters 4 - 5

October 05 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner – Chapter 6

October 12 - Exam #2 - Chapters 4 – 5 – 6

October 19-20 – FALL BREAK – No Class

October 26 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner - Chapters 7 - 8

November 2 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner - Chapters 9 - 10

November 9 - Exam #3 - Chapters 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

November 16 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner - Chapters 11 - 12

November 23 - Segal/Gerdes/Steiner - Chapters 13 - 14

November 30 - Oral Presentations

December 7 - Oral Presentations

December 14 – Final Examination

***** Any Changes To This Schedule Will Be Made in Advance With Written Notice