

SWK 225 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK 3 semester credit hours

Course Description:

An introduction to the Social work profession and to the philosophy, concepts and major methods of social work practice. Historical development of the profession are discussed, as well as the relationship to the development of social welfare. Also included in course content is an overview of current fields of practice.

Course Rationale:

To provide students an elective (required for Social Work majors) with an opportunity to achieve competence in understanding the profession of Social Work by stimulating their intellectual, spiritual, social and emotional development thus preparing them to perform successfully in professional enterprises, and to utilize their skills, talents and abilities in service to God and fellow man.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this courses, students should have been positively impacted at three levels:

Cognitive

- Basic understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of a generalist social work practice.
- Basic understanding of one's agency, its function, and population served.
- Understanding of the major areas of social work practice and the role of the social worker in each one of those areas.
- Understanding of how issues of human diversity and oppression are addressed by the social work profession.
- Understanding of the relationships between the historical development of social work and social welfare.
- Basic understanding of the code of ethics of the social work profession.
- Develop an understanding of how issues of human diversity and oppression are addressed by the social work profession.

Affective

- Develop a beginning understanding and appreciation of ethical considerations of the profession.

Skills

- Develop an increased level of self-awareness as related to one's own beliefs, values, and attitudes about diversity and oppression.
- Develop an increased awareness of the minority status of women and the concomitant implications for social work practice.
- Ability to describe one's volunteer experience in terms of personal response, reactions, and pro-actions.

Required Text:

Skidmore, Rex A, Thackeray, Milton G. And Farley, O. William (2000). *Introduction to Social Work* (eighth edition). Allyn & Bacon: Needham Heights, MA.

Council on Social Work Education (1999). *Curriculum Policy statement for the Baccalaureate Degree Programs in Social Work Education*. Alexandria, VA.: Author.

Additional Expectations

1. Your attendance is especially important in this class and your grade will suffer with more than a couple of absences! That is not a threat; it is an observation. See pp. 46 of the *2003-2004 General Bulletin* for details and for the appeals process; in this course, eight absences result in an automatic "F" grade. Appeals of absences may be directed according to the guidelines in *2003-2004 General Bulletin*: "If a student misses more than the number of class periods specified in university policy and believes that there are reasonable explanations for the absences {sick}, he/she may appeal the absences to the dean of the school in which the course is being taught. Students may obtain a Student Absence Appeal Form from the office of the appropriate dean" (p. 46).

2. Academic Integrity Statement: "Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of College documents, records or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal" (*MC General Bulletin*). See Mississippi College Policy 2.19 for official policy.

3. Correct spelling, sentence construction and other writing skill are deemed important in the social work profession. Poor writing skills will affect negatively the grade of a term paper.

Methods of Instruction:

The professor will be utilizing lectures, small group discussions, guest speakers, audio video presentations and field trip experiences as methods of instruction.

Special Notice: The professor reserves the right to deviate from this syllabus at any given time.

Grading Scale:

93-100 = A

85 - 92 = B

75 - 84 = C

69 - 74 = D