

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Social Work, MSW Program

Social Work Practicum I
Social Work Fieldwork Seminar I
ScWk 230 – 3 Units, Fall 2009

Faculty Field Liaisons

Section 1: Professor Jackson	Section 5: Professor Smith
Section 2: Professor Fimbres-Windley	Section 6: Professor Currie
Section 3: Professor Watkins	Section 7: Professor Blandino
Section 4: Professor Chin	Section 8: Professor Bhader

*Please refer to the “Key Field Education Documents” link on the School of Social Work web site (www.sjsu.edu/socialwork) for other important Field Education information.

Catalog Description

Development of transcultural practice skills with families, groups, and individuals in their social contexts. Emphasis on developing professional roles and relationships, applying multi-system assessment and interventions, particularly with Latino, African American, Asian American, and other diverse clients/client systems. Corequisite: ScWk 220. (4 Units)

Course Description

In the social work field practicum, students are placed as an intern in a community-based social services agency. In this placement, students receive supervised training in professional development as a social worker. During the first semester of the field practicum, each student will assess and provide intervention to individual clients in an ethical manner consistent with social work values. Students learn to develop helping relationships with clients as they utilize a transcultural generalist approach to their client work.

The Fieldwork Seminar supplements the practicum with training and support in critical issues of professional development. In the seminar, students will explore how one develops into a professional social worker, including an examination of values, roles and responsibilities, and of legal and ethical obligations. Students will gain practical knowledge to help them respond to difficult and challenging situations in their internships at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the foundation year practicum, students will:

1. Identify as professional social workers understanding, accepting and applying professional ethics and values in their interactions with clients, peers, colleagues, and field instructors. This includes:

Program Objectives: M 1.3 (Values & Ethics) M 2.3 (Communication)

- Demonstrating understanding of the structure and function of field practicum in social work as it relates to the MSW program, the agency, and the consumer community.
 - Demonstrating awareness and understanding of students' own learning needs and personal values that affect practice, and the ability to separate personal, professional and student roles.
 - Engaging in purposeful professional interaction with clients, field instructor, other students and staff in the field setting and with other community agencies.
 - Analyzing and applying social work values and ethical principles in relation to diverse contexts.
2. Understand and participate in an agency setting working effectively with clients, agency staff, other professionals, and the community. This includes:

Program Objectives: M 2.2 M 2.3 (Communication)

- Demonstrating understanding of the agency setting as a system of service delivery and subsystem of human services.
 - Demonstrating understanding of how agency structure impacts and defines the social work role in the organizational setting.
 - Demonstrate ability to participate collegially with other professions and work effectively with team members.
 - Demonstrating ability to utilize agency structures for learning and growth including supervision and consultation.
3. Develop and sustain relationships and communicate and interact effectively from a transcultural perspective with clients and client systems of varying sizes from different cultural backgrounds and across the lifespan, particularly populations that are disenfranchised, oppressed or marginalized, this includes:

*Program Objectives: M 1.1 (Transcultural Perspective) M 1.2 (Diversity)
M 2.1 (Theoretical frameworks)*

- Demonstrating ability to communicate and interact effectively with individuals across the lifespan.
- Demonstrating ability to communicate and interact effectively with families, groups, organizations and communities.
- Demonstrating ability to recognize and understand cultural differences and appreciate diversity.

4. Apply generalist social work skills and a transcultural perspective in the beginning, middle, and ending phases of practice with systems of varying sizes, (i. e., micro, mezzo, and macro). This includes:

*Program Objectives: M 1.3 (Values & Ethics) M 2.4 (Generalist perspective)
M 3.1 (Power, privilege, and oppression)*

- Demonstrating basic interviewing skills, such as clarifying, interpreting, reframing and active listening.
 - Applying purposeful use of self in interaction with clients and client groups.
 - Collecting data and utilizing theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to assess the strengths and needs of client systems of varying sizes utilizing a bio-psycho-social framework.
 - Demonstrating skills in case recording, writing reports and assessments, and meeting agency requirements for documentation necessary for professional learning and accountability.
 - Employing critical thinking skills and information literacy to locate, evaluate and use reliable knowledge to inform effective social work practice.
 - Demonstrating skills in goal setting, contracting with client systems of varying sizes.
 - Applying a problem solving approach within an ecological systems framework in implementing interventions at micro, mezzo and micro levels.
 - Identifying and utilizing community resources on behalf of clients and client systems.
 - Demonstrating knowledge of issues related to power, privilege, oppression, and diversity in advocating on behalf of clients and communities from a social justice perspective.
5. Students will engage in field supervision and seek consultation as needed.

Program Objectives: M 2.2 (Self-Evaluation)

- Ability to identify gaps in knowledge and skill and develop and implement a plan to appropriately use supervision
- Ability to work within a scope of practice while still acknowledging and assessing gaps in knowledge and skills
- Separate personal, professional and student roles, and articulate their own learning needs and tactics for having those needs met in the field setting

Learning Experiences

Field training should include the following areas of practice:

1. Complete a minimum of 3-5 case assignments with individuals. All students should have the opportunity to deliver services to clients who have a cultural background other than that of themselves in order to develop skills in transcultural practice.
2. Exposure to interventions with families.
3. Exposure to group work. This could include psycho-educational groups, support groups, staffing a committee, etc.
4. Exposure to agency policies and procedure.
5. A community social work practice assignment.

Assignments

Students will be assigned, and be responsible for the following:

- Complete a minimum of sixteen (16) hours per week for fifteen (15) weeks in the MSW approved agency to which the student is assigned.
- Complete and submit agency description (see handout).
- Complete Community Project Proposal (see handout).
- Complete process recordings on assigned cases or group recording as determined by the FI, in consultation with the student. A minimum of one process recording per semester (including the Field Instructor's comments and feedback) will be reviewed by the student's FFL at each site visit.
- Meet weekly with the FI for at least one (1) hour.
- Attend staff meetings and agency training when available.
- Participate in group supervision, consultation, and case presentations.
- Complete all work related tasks assigned by Field Instructor.
- Participate in student progress evaluations with FI and FFL.
- Attendance and participation at monthly seminar sessions (dates, times and locations TBA).
- Develop a "Learning Agreement" with the field instructor in consultation with the Faculty Field Liaison.
- Completion of field placement evaluation forms.

Required Texts

MSW Student Handbook for the 2009-2010 academic year (available online through the SSW web site).

Birkenmaier, Julie & Berg-Weger, Marla (2007). *The practicum companion for social work: Integrating class and field work*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The Practicum and Fieldwork Seminar are taken as a credit/no credit course and will be evaluated by both the Field Instructor and the Faculty Field Liaison.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>

Reasonable Accommodation of Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please e-mail me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to establish record of their disability. No matter where students reside, they should contact the SJSU DRC to register. The DRC Web site: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>

(Emergency procedures for SJSU campus)

FIRES EARTHQUAKES AND OTHER DISASTERS

- Call 911 or use a blue light telephone to summon University Police assistance for all campus police, fire or medical emergencies. Give your name, the nature of the emergency and your specific location. Stay on the line until the University Police Dispatcher tells you to hang up.
- Use extinguishers for minor fires. If a fire appears uncontrollable, close all room doors to confine the fire and evacuate the area or building.
- Remain calm during an earthquake. “Duck and cover” under a desk or table or stand in a doorway or against an interior wall. Move away from exterior wall windows, overhead lights, etc. Wait at least two minutes after shaking stops before leaving a building. Move to a clear area well away from structures or overhead hazards such as trees or power lines.
- Help disabled persons evacuate the building. Follow instructions of Building Emergency Team members and University Police.
- Tune to radio station KSJS 90.7 FM for campus information.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

- Call 911. Give your name, the nature of the emergency and your specific location. Tell the University Police Dispatcher what assistance you need (ambulance, paramedics, etc.)
- Assist the victim until help arrives. If you or someone in the area is trained in CPR perform CPR or Rescue Breathing if necessary. Stop the bleeding with direct pressure to the wound. Do not move a victim unless his or her life is in immediate danger. Do not leave victims unattended.
- For first aid, report in person to the Student Health Center weekdays from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm or call University Police at 924-2222.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

- Leave by the nearest safe exit when you hear the building emergency alarm (fire alarm) or if you are told to do so by University Police or a Building Emergency Team member.
- Take keys, books, wallets or billfolds, prescription medicines and important personal belongings with you in case this building cannot be reentered immediately. Move at least 150 feet away from all structures.
- Use the stairs. Do not use elevators — in case of fire or earthquake many elevators stop in place and you may be trapped.
- Reenter a building only when University Police or Building Emergency Team members tell you that it is safe to do so.

POLICE - FIRE - MEDICAL EMERGENCY
DIAL 9 – 1 – 1

For further information visit the University Police Web site at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/police/>