

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Social Work, MSW Program**

**Social Work Practicum IV**  
**Social Work Fieldwork Seminar IV**  
**ScWk 233 – 5 Units, Spring 2009**

**Catalog Description**

Development of practice skills from a transcultural and multi-systems perspective in a field of practice: aging; children, youth, and families; health/mental health; or education. Developing culturally competent skills to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate interventions from transcultural and strengths perspectives to address family and community well-being. (5 units. CR/NC. Prerequisite: ScWk 232)

**Course Description**

In this final semester of social work practicum, students continue their placement in a community-based social service agency that coincides with the student's concentration year emphasis (e.g. aging, child welfare, health and mental health, and schools). In their practice, and with support of supervised training, student will further refine their professional skills toward becoming independent practitioners. Students continue to apply multi-systems interventions, practice in a critically self-reflective manner, and function in a collegial manner with colleagues and peers. Students continue to practice ethically and promote social justice for clients and continue to demonstrate knowledge and awareness of issues related to power, privilege, and oppression.

In the final semester of the Fieldwork Seminar, students will examine strategies to develop further into an independent social work practitioner with skills to promote social justice and client health and well-being. Students will gain practical knowledge to help them respond to difficult and challenging situations in their concentration area, including multi-systems issues and those that affect Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and other diverse, oppressed, marginalized and disenfranchised individuals, families, groups, and communities. . In addition, students also will examine professional development after the MSW program.

## Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of ScWk 232, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate skills for refining and advancing the quality of their practice and professional development. This includes:

[Program Objective: M 4.4 (*Advancing Practice*)]

- Functioning effectively and professionally within an organizational setting, including the identification of strategies for advancing the quality of their professional skills.
- Forming relationships with colleagues and staff, and working collaboratively in meeting the needs of specific populations-at-risk.
- Making viable contributions to advancing service delivery systems.
- Practicing autonomously and demonstrate leadership skills.
- Using supervision and consultation as a tool to further engage in critical self reflection.

2. Apply in multi-systems practice effective assessment and intervention skills, which are grounded in theory and based in the appropriate use of evidence. This includes:

[Program Objectives: M 2.5 (*Critically Evaluate Theory*),  
M 2.7 (*Asses & Intervene in Multi-Systems*), and  
M4.3 (*Conduct Research Relevant to Practice*)]

- Applying advanced diagnostic and analytic skills to intervene with families at the various phases of the life cycle from a transcultural multi-systems perspective.
- Conducting social work research relevant to the evaluation of practice or the examination of social work issues, particularly as they impact disenfranchised, oppressed, or marginalized populations.
- Differentially developing, selecting and applying interventions from a multi-systems perspective with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities utilizing a transcultural perspective, with particular emphasis in their concentration area.
- Selecting and effectively employing interventions that are evidenced based and grounded in theory.
- Demonstrating advanced level skills to evaluate and apply theoretical frameworks to multi-systems practice.

Demonstrate effective communication skills with diverse clients, colleagues and communities, and advocate on behalf of marginalized communities. This includes:

[Program Objectives: M 2.3 (*Effective Communication*), and M 3.6 (*Apply Multi-Systems Knowledge*)]

- Developing and maintaining coalitions, and joining in community advocacy efforts with and on behalf of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and other diverse, oppressed, marginalized and disenfranchised individuals, families, groups, and communities.
- Demonstrating advanced skills in communication, problem solving, consultation and education with diverse systems of varying sizes.

Students will demonstrate a thorough understanding of policies and programs in a specific field of practice, and skills for analyzing and influencing policies and programs. This includes:

[Program Objectives: M 3.5 (*Understand Policy & Programs*)]

- Analyzing critically the effect of social policies on client systems and social service organizations and staff, and participating in policy formulation that will affect change at organizational, local, state, or federal levels.
- Designing and implementing strategies to modify client environments, including the development of social networks and build individual competency via education and empowerment, teaching problem solving skills, and promoting leadership with emphasis on Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and other diverse, oppressed, marginalized and disenfranchised individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Students will identify strategies to resolve ethical dilemmas in practice settings in accordance with the values of the social work profession. This includes:

[Program Objectives: M 1.4 (*Resolve Ethical Dilemmas*)]

- Incorporating social work values and ethics in multi-systems level interventions with Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and other diverse, oppressed, marginalized and disenfranchised individuals, families, groups, and communities.
- Demonstrating skills to resolve professional ethical dilemmas.

## **Learning Experiences**

During the 3-day per week, 15-week semester, students will enhance their professional skills, including the following:

- Differential assessments and interventions with individuals, families, groups and communities as represented by one of the chosen population-at-risk (e.g., Aging and the

- Develop interventions and strategies that address family and community well-being;
- Organize social networks, self-help groups, and leadership among the chosen population-at-risk (e.g., Aging and the Aged, Children, Youth and Families, Children and Youth in Schools, and People with Physical and Mental Disabilities);
- Develop skills in consultation, policy analysis, and program development as the basis for transcultural advanced generalist practice.
- Practice community social work, organizational and institutional practice as represented by one of the chosen population-at-risk (e.g., Aging and the Aged, Children, Youth and Families, Children and Youth in Schools, and People with Physical and Mental Disabilities).

## Assignments

Student will be assigned and be responsible for the following:

- A minimum of 24 hours per week, for 15 weeks, in an approved agency where the student is assigned.
- Attendance at Bridging the Gap (January 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am-2pm)
- Attendance at one training per semester (provided by the SSW) on topics related to the SSW's four Fields of Practice: Aging, Children, Youth and Families, Schools, and Health/Mental Health (dates, times and locations will be sent out over the MSW list serve).
- Meeting weekly with the Field Instructor for at least one (1) hour and attending staff meetings. *Group supervision is strongly urged to supplement individual sessions.*
- Complete all work related tasks assigned by Field Instructor: structural assessment of groups, families organizations and populations (e.g., Aging and the Aged, Children, Youth and Families, Health/Mental Health, and Schools). Assigned tasks typically include assessment and interviewing, case management, group and family work, crisis intervention, consultation and education in prevention, policy making, program development, and structural changes that enhance interaction between consumers and service delivery system.
- A minimum of 6-8 case situations during the semester, to include the following: (All students shall have the experience to deal with some clients who come from other cultural backgrounds than that of the student).
- Exposure to at least 2 group work experiences represented by the student's chosen concentration area. *This could include psycho-educational groups, support groups, staffing a committee, etc.*

- Exposure to interventions with families represented by the chosen concentration.
- Completion of process recordings on assigned cases or a group recording as determined by the Field Instructor, in consultation with the student. A minimum of one (1) process recording per semester (including the Field Instructor's comments and feedback) will be reviewed by the student's FFL at each site visit.
- Completion of the ScWk 298 as planned.
- Completion of Community Project and Paper as developed in ScWk 232.
- Completion of all fieldwork evaluations.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

The Practicum and Fieldwork Seminar are taken for credit or no credit course.

### **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/>

### **Required Text**

Field Manual for the 2008-2009 academic year.

## SJSU Campus Emergency Procedures

### 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.
- 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.