COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to move students toward enhanced self-discovery by challenging them to confirm, confront, and articulate their own values and spiritual and philosophical beliefs. The classroom environment is to become a learning environment that challenges students to confront beliefs and values different from their own, engage with others in an informed and authentic manner, and in the process, discover the very value system that they bring to the clients with whom they work.

The philosophical content, anchored in Jewish social thought, elucidates the social work philosophy of helping. Students who are not Jewish are expected to investigate and articulate their differences with Judaic thought and contribute them to the class, thereby strengthening their own value system and spiritual beliefs. The basic purpose of this course is for students to develop a philosophy of helping by struggling with their spiritual identity and applying it to social work practice.

In this course, such philosophical themes as spirituality, the dual nature of the human being, conflicting conceptions of time, good and the problem of evil, loss and suffering, the Holocaust and other genocides, sin and repentance/behavior change, and social justice are studied from the value perspectives of Judaism, other religions and philosophies, and social work. Students who are Jewish or who subscribe to other religions or philosophies are encouraged to explore in class and in their final paper their own philosophies in relation to these themes. Spiritual/religious and professional systems of thought, anchored in Judaism and social work, are studied in the course of understanding the complexity of human nature. Conflicts and similarities are highlighted.

The focus of the course is on acquiring specific knowledge and on examining values. It is organized around the following questions: What is the essence of being human? What is the role of time in human functioning? How do human beings deal with the problem of evil, and how do students and clients explain tragedy and pain? Where was God during the Holocaust and other acts of genocide and natural disasters - the crisis of faith? What is the process of behavior change for people who are unhappy with their lives? How can social justice effect social change? The goal is for students to develop conceptions of human nature – a philosophy of helping - that they can apply in their work with clients.

This is a required course for all second year students, located in the Human Behavior and Social Environment sequence. Students should have worked with clients
and client systems for a year and been exposed to a range of problems and issues in social work practice. They are expected to gain insight into their experiences through the application of philosophical concepts. The course further develops themes in the Human Behavior course as we apply the duality of human beings to the stages of the life cycle and the development of the professional self. It connects to the practice courses, as students share their practice experiences to develop new ways of viewing clients and their problems. It incorporates content from Social Welfare Organization in studying the concept of social justice in social work and religion. It includes elements of feminism, substance abuse, battered women, child abuse, the elderly and minorities which are cited to illustrate various ways of understanding human nature. Research is cited in studies of behavior change.

**COURSE COMPETENCY OUTCOMES**

The course will help students achieve the following competencies:

**Competency 1 – Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior**

Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Social workers understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas. Social workers recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values. They also understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior. Social workers understand the profession's history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession. Social Workers also understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams. Social workers recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective. Social workers also understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice. Social workers: • make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context; • use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations; • demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication; • use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes; and • use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

**Competency 2 – Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice**

Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of
diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power. Social workers:

• apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;
• present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and
• apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

**Measure 1A** – Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development

**Measure 1B** – Attend to professional roles and boundaries

**Competency 2 - Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice**

Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power. Social workers:

• apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;
• present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences; and
• apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.

**Measure 2A** – Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Learning will occur through a variety of methods and experiences, but mainly through a dialogical interchange of ideas, questions and answers. Students are encouraged to ask questions and seek answers to the challenging course material.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

Students are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. Grades will be determined based on class participation and the expectation that students will do the required reading specified under each course unit. Each assignment will be weighted as follows 30% for Assignment I and 50% for the Final Assignment and 20% for class participation, attendance and completion of assignments on time.

REQUIRED TEXTS

ALL Available on E-RES


Note: All required readings are on-line through electronic reserve (ERES). Your instructor will distribute the password and directions to access these readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ASSIGNMENT 1: MIDTERM
Due Session 8

The purpose of this paper is twofold: to apply philosophical concepts to situations of everyday life, and to understand common experiences from a philosophical perspective. Use APA style. Proofread your paper and use spell check and grammar check to correct misspelled words and grammatical errors. This assignment will enable the student to begin to formulate conceptions of human beings in society in the process of
your integrating spirituality into a philosophy of helping.

Select one of the following topics:

- communication
- religion
- death
- friendship
- love
- marriage
- old age
- parent-child relationship
- spirituality
- search for meaning
- self-actualization
- sex
- singlehood
- social work

Other topics may also be acceptable. Discuss with instructor first.

**Guidelines for Completion of Assignment**

Discuss the topic from the following perspectives:

a) Briefly review Soloveitchik’s typology of human nature in The Lonely Man of Faith. (one or two pages maximum)

b) Apply the typology to the topic, i.e., how you understand your chosen topic from the perspective of Adam I and Adam II.

c) Compare and/or contrast Soloveitchik’s views with those of another philosopher or theorist who work relates to your topic. The philosopher or theorist may be from the course readings or one that is acceptable to your professor.

d) Discuss the relevance of this topic for you both personally and professionally.

Literary documentation is expected using APA style. Six pages. Proofread paper for spelling and grammar errors before submitting. Due around the seventh session of the class.

**Final Assignment – Due Session 13**

This assignment measure:

1. **Competency #1 – Engage in Ethical and Professional Behavior**
   - **Measure #1A** – Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development
   - **Measure #1B** – Attend to professional roles and boundaries
   - **Measure #1C** – Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics
(2) Competency #2 - Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
Measure #2A – Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups

Guidelines for Completion of Assignment

The purpose of this paper is to integrate the themes of the course and to help you to apply religious/spiritual/philosophical values to social work values and practice.

This assignment fulfills objectives 1, 2, 8 and 10 of the course. In this paper, you are asked to integrate knowledge and values from your religious/ethnic group, compare them to social work philosophy and practice, and articulate your own values. In stating your philosophy of helping, you need to articulate your conception of human beings, how you use yourself in the helping relationship, and how this influences your role as a professional.

Select one of the philosophical themes of the course, ie. Dual Nature of Man, Time, Gender, Loneliness, Good and Evil, and Sin and Repentance. Other sub-themes may be acceptable, but you must gain approval from the professor first.

1. Trace the origins of your topic in the sources of your own religious/ethnic/spiritual philosophy.
2. Document its relevance to social work values and ethics using the NASW Code of Ethics; how social work understands with this topic, and social work interventions that may apply to the topic.
3. Apply the topic and your understanding of this topic to a client or a client system. This is the critical section of the paper as it reflects your creativity.
4. Discuss this topic’s influence on your philosophy of helping – how you see your clients and how this influences the way you work with clients.

Literary documentation is expected. 8-10 pages. Use APA style.
Proofread your paper and use spell check and grammar check to correct misspelled words and grammatical errors.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting disability-related accommodations should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, akelsen@yue.edu, (646) 592-4280 during the first week of class. Once you have been approved for accommodations, please contact your professor directly to ensure the successful implementation of those accommodations.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) collaborates with students, faculty and staff to provide reasonable accommodations and services to students with disabilities.

http://www.yue.edu/Student-Life/Resources-and-Services/Disability-Services/

The purpose of reasonable academic accommodations is to assure that there is equal access to and the opportunity to benefit from your education at Wurzweiler. It is the student’s responsibility
to identify himself/herself to the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) and to provide documentation of a disability.

Student Responsibilities

- Register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS).
- Provide current, written documentation from a qualified practitioner that describes the nature of the disability, functional limitations associated with the disability, severity of these limitations, and recommended reasonable accommodations.
- Review accommodation requests with ODS.
- Submit accommodation letters to faculty and discuss reasonable accommodations at the start of the semester.
- Communicate with faculty to arrange each exam accommodation at least ONE WEEK before the exam.
- File documentation with appropriate individuals to request accommodations for final exam period.
- Alert the Office of Disability Services if any difficulties are encountered regarding the implementation of accommodations.

Getting Started

Students in Yeshiva University who wish to receive accommodations must self disclose by registering with The Office of Disability Services (ODS). ODS has established the following process for registration:

- Complete an Intake form.
- Gather and submit current documentation of your disability.
- To register as a student with a learning disability or ADD/ADHD, you must submit a current psycho-educational or neuro-psychological evaluation. For all other disabilities you may submit documentation completed by a qualified health professional/clinician. Please refer to our Disability Documentation Guidelines and choose the one specific to your disability to use as a guide.
- After you have submitted the Intake form and disability documentation, ODS will be happy to meet with you to discuss reasonable accommodations and other supports available to you at Yeshiva University.
- Each semester, you will meet with ODS to discuss accommodations for your courses and any accessibility needs. You will be given accommodation letters to submit to your professors.

Accommodation letters must be submitted to your professors as soon as they are received.

E-Reserves

Access full text copies of most of the "on reserve" articles for a course from your home computer. You will need Adobe Acrobat to use this service. Your professor will provide you with a password. The link for e-reserves is http://yulib002.mc.yu.edu:2262/er.php. Most of the articles mentioned in the curriculum are available on electronic reserve (E-reserves). You can access the full text articles from your home or from a university computer at no charge.
From Canvas

1. Go to your class Canvas page.
2. Click the link “Library Resources & E-Reserves” (no password required)

From Campus

1. If you wish to access e-reserves from the library home page (library.yu.edu),
2. Use “wurzweiler” all lower case, as the password.
3. If you have problems accessing e-reserves, email: Stephanie Gross, Electronic Reserves Librarian: gross@yu.edu or ereserves@yu.edu.

From Off-Campus

1. Go to the library’s online resources page: http://www.yu.edu/libraries/online_resources.asp
2. Click on E-RES; you will be prompted for your Off Campus Access Service login and password.
3. Use “wurzweiler” all lower case, as the password for all courses in all social work programs.
4. If you have problems accessing e-reserves, email: Stephanie Gross, Electronic Reserves Librarian: gross@yu.edu or ereserves@yu.edu.

Using E-Reserves

1. Click on “Search E-RES” or on “Course Index,” and search by instructor's name, department, course name, course number, document title, or document author.
2. Click on the link to your course.
3. When the article text or book record appears on the screen, you can print, email, or save it to disk. To view documents that are in PDF format, the computer you are using must have Adobe Acrobat Reader software. You can download it FREE at www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

PLAGIARISM

All written work submitted by students is to be their own. Ideas and concepts that are the work of others must be cited with proper attribution. The use of the written works of others that is submitted as one’s own constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of academic standards. The School will not condone plagiarism in any form and will apply sanction to acts of plagiarism. A student who presents someone else’s work as his or her own work is stealing from the authors or persons who did the original thinking and writing. Plagiarism occurs when a student directly copies another’s work without citation; when a student paraphrases major aspects of another’s work without citation; and when a student combines the work of different authors into a new statement without reference to those authors. It is also plagiarism to use the ideas and/or work of another student and present them as your own. It is NOT plagiarism to formulate your own presentation of an idea or concept as a reaction to someone else’s work; however, the work to which you are reacting should be discussed and appropriately cited. Any student who can be shown to have plagiarized any part of any assignment in a course will automatically FAIL the course and will be placed on Academic Probation and will be referred to the Associate Dean for disciplinary action which may include expulsion. A student may not submit the same paper or an assignment from another class for credit. If students or faculty are concerned that written work is indeed plagiarized, they can use the following “plagiarism checker” websites, easily accessible, and generally free on Google:
As a Wurzweiler student, maintaining good standing in the program is dependent on developing and maintaining high standards of ethical and professional behavior. Students are required to adhere to the Code of Ethics promulgated by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

**HIPAA ALERT**

In line with the new HIPAA regulations concerning protected health information, it is important that you understand that any case information you present from your work will need to be de-identified. What this means is that any information that would allow another to identify the person needs to be changed or eliminated. This includes obvious things like names and birth dates but may also contain other information that is so unique to the person that it will allow for identification, including diagnosis, race/ethnicity, or gender. If diagnosis, race/ethnicity, gender is directly related to the case presentation it can be included if it will not allow for identification.

**FERPA**

Wurzweiler’s policies and procedures are in line with FERPA regulations. In accordance with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Section 438 of the General Educational Provisions Act, 20 USC 1232g), also known as FERPA, the University has adopted policies to protect the privacy rights of its “Students” with respect to their “Education Records,” in each case as defined below. FERPA affords Students certain rights of access to their Education Records and limits disclosure to third parties unless the Student provides written consent. In certain circumstances, disclosure is permitted without the Student’s permission.
COURSE OUTLINE

Readings with an * are on E-RES

Unit I. Introduction to Course: Spirituality and Religion (Sessions 1-3)
Competency 2

Learning Themes

1. Attitudes about taking a "Jewish" course.
2. Content and structure of course.
3. Objectives and expectations.
4. The role of spirituality in life and in social work.
6. Chapters I and II in Genesis.

Readings

Bible. Chapters I and II in Genesis.

Readings:


Unit II. The Nature of the Human Being: Sessions 4-7
Covers learning objectives 1, 2, 8, 10,

Learning Themes:

Session #4 - man and woman as created beings; the two creation stories in Genesis and their implications for an understanding of human nature; the spiritual quality of the human experience. Competencies 1 & 2

Readings


Session #5 - the individual as a majestic being; relationship to God, relationship between the sexes, creativity and productivity, the natural community. The client and social worker as Adam I.

**Readings**


Session #6 - the individual as a spiritual being; relationship between the sexes, feminism, relationship to God; existential loneliness; the spiritual, faith community. The client and social worker as Adam IIs.

**Readings**


Session #7- the dual nature of the human being in dynamic interaction - Adam I and Adam II in the same individual. Applying the Adam I-II typology to social phenomena, developmental life stages, and social work.

**Readings:**


Unit 3. Time - (Session 8)

Covers learning objective 4

**Learning Themes:**

Conceptions of time - religious, philosophical, sociological, historical and contemporary; time as linear; time as cyclical; time phases and the social worker; the concept of process; time in a managed care environment.

Competencies 1 & 2

**Readings:**


Unit IV. Good and Evil: (Sessions 9-10)
Competencies 1 & 2

1. Conceptions of good and evil in Judaism and other religions.

**Readings**


2. The "good" and "bad" client – making value judgments about client behavior.

**Readings**


3. Theodicy - the religious legitimation of evil. How clients and social workers explain suffering and personal tragedy, or, why bad things happen to good people.

**Readings**


Unit V. Sin and Repentance/Faith after the Holocaust, other genocides and natural disasters. (Session 11-14)
Competencies ! & 2

Readings


4. The role of the social worker with survivors and children.

Readings


Unit VI. Sin and Repentance: The Psychology of Behavior Change: (Sessions 12-13)

1. Definition of sin; the impact of "sinful" behavior on the personality; the social worker's observation of clients' behaviors.

**Readings**


Linzer, N. *The nature of man in Judaism and social work*. (Chapter 5.)


2. Repentance – **Teshuvah** - the process of behavior change in religion and social work.

**Readings**


Supplemental Bibliography


