COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the second of two generalist practice courses in social work practice required of all students. It builds upon material considered in the first practice course and focuses on designing interventions based on assessments and theories of practice. A deeper exploration of clinical practice, group work, and community social work practice is initiated with attention to theoretical orientation and application of practice skills to specific case materials. An expansion of the social work role will include activities of advocacy, brokering and case management are introduced. Skills of evaluation and termination of the change effort are explicated. This course is conceptually linked to the Human Behavior, Research and Social Welfare.

The course stresses agency context as one of the defining aspects of practice, with an emphasis on values and ethics, vulnerable populations and social justice. As this course is taken in conjunction with the field practicum, it provides a theoretical basis for practice for beginning social work students.

1. COURSE COMPETENCIES

This course addresses Council on Social Work Education Competencies #3, #6, #7, #8, and #9 as described below. Competencies #3 and #9 were measured using student outcome data.

Competency 6 – Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate.

Social workers apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies; and
Social Workers use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

**Competency 7 – Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

Social workers collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.

Social workers apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.

Social workers develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies; and

Social workers select appropriate intervention.

**Competency 8 – Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of inter-professional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, inter-professional, and inter-organizational collaboration.

Social workers critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.

Social workers apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies.
Social workers use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes, negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies; and,

Social workers facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.  

**COURSE COMPETENCY OUTCOMES**

Competencies #3 and #9 were measured using student outcome data.

**Competency 3 – Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice**

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, healthcare, and education. Social workers understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about the theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

- Social workers apply their understand of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human right at the individual and system levels; and
- Social workers engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

**Competency #3 Measure**  
**Competency Indicator 3A**

Continuously discover, appraise and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological development and emerging societal trends to provide relevant social services.

**Competency 9 – Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Social workers recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness.

Social workers select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes;

Social workers apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes;

Social workers critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes; and

Social workers apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
Competency #9 Measure
Competency Indicator 9A
Analyze, monitor and evaluate interventions.

II. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Learning will occur through a variety of experiences and methods such as lecture, class discussion, role plays, and presentations from field experience.

III. COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

Students are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. Class participation is important and there is an expectation that students will do the required reading specified under each course unit. Grades are largely based on assignments. Each assignment will be weighted as follows: 75% for written assignments and 25% for class participation, attendance and completion of assignments on time. Grades are largely based primarily on written assignments.

Texts for the Course


Recommended Texts:

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

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Midterm Assignment I (Due 7th class)

This assignment addresses competencies #6, #7 and #8.

APPLICATION OF THEORY TO ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION

- Identify a client/case with whom you have had an ongoing case. Keep in mind that a case can be an individual, a family, a couple, a group, or a community and need not be a client/case that you see weekly, but one with whom you have repeated contact. Apply a
theory that has been discussed in this course that is most applicable to your current work with the client and to the fieldwork setting.

• Using the social work and other literature, describe the basic assumptions of this theory, interventions that apply to the theory, and the efficacy of this theory. What are the limitations of this theory? Discuss what makes this theory relevant to your fieldwork setting and your caseload.

• Describe how you currently apply this theory or could envision application to guide your practice with your client. How does this theory inform your assessment of your client? Discuss all aspects of intersectionality, ie. gender, ethnic/religious identity and socioeconomic class.

Using a process recording or a piece of a process recording identify three clinical interventions you were attempting to use that relate to this theory. What was your intent? What was the real outcome? What would you do differently? Discuss the clinical interventions that you could envision initiating? What outcomes would you expect or hope to accomplish with their use?

• Is this a theory that is sanctioned or suggested by the agency? If not, would utilizing this theory present conflict with the philosophy of your agency? How would you negotiate such a conflict? Would this be a value conflict between you and the agency and would it present an ethical dilemma for you?

Is there another theory that might be useful in working with your client?

This assignment requires that the student use a minimum of 5 references, beyond the required texts, including peer-reviewed journal articles, and material from suggested readings and related readings. The paper should be between 8-10 pages and needs to demonstrate integration of the literature. APA, 6th Edition is also required throughout the paper and on the Reference page.

Final Paper: Assignment II (Due 13th class)
THE PROCESS OF TERMINATION

Using the social work literature, talk about the concept of the termination process.

• Why is termination such an important part of social work? Why can’t we just say, “so long” and move on? Discuss the process of termination as it relates to your current field placement and the clients you serve.

• How will termination at your field placement and with your clients affect you? How do you relate to ending/termination in other areas of your life? Apply this to the social work knowledge related to conscious use of self and self-awareness.

• Select a client/case from your current caseload (or one with whom you have already terminated). Remember, a case can be an individual, a family, a couple, a group, or a community. Keep in mind that a case can be an individual, a family, a couple, a group, or a community and need not be a client/case that you see weekly, but one with whom you have repeated contact.

• What are the factors that led up to this termination? Is/was this a planned or unplanned termination?

• How did you introduce termination to the client/case? Were the responses/reactions what you anticipated? Discuss both yours and the client’s response to termination. What concerns do you have for the client regarding termination?

• How do you think issues of intersectionality, ie. gender, culture, and socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, age, and religion affect the termination process? How would you appraise your client’s access to and use of needed services?
What specific social work skills are necessary for a successful termination? What are some of the common pitfalls social workers often fall into around termination?

Include a part of a process recording where you talk to a client about saying goodbye and ending your working relationship. What skills are evident in this process recording? What is your self-assessment of your work in this particular area of termination? What could you have done differently?

This assignment requires that the student use a minimum of 5 references, beyond the required texts, including journal articles, and material from suggested readings and related readings. The paper should be between 8-10 pages and needs to demonstrate integration of the literature. APA, 6th Edition is also required throughout the paper and on the Reference page.

This assignment measures:

**Competency #3** – Advance Human Rights; Social Economic & Environmental Justice

**Indicator #3A** – Continually Appraise Relevant Social Services

**Competency #9** – Analyze, Monitor and Evaluate Interventions.

**Indicator #9A** - Analyze, monitor and evaluate interventions.

**V. Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting documented disability-related accommodations are asked to make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, Rochelle Kohn, Beren Campus, (646) 592-4132, rkohn1@yu.edu, Abby Kelsen, Wilf Campus, (646)592-4280, akelsen@yu.edu, during the first week of class. After approval for accommodations is granted, please submit your accommodations letter to Disability Services Office immediately.

**VI. E-Reserves**

Most of the articles mentioned in the curriculum are available on electronic reserve [E RES]. You can access the full text articles from your home or from a university computer at no charge.

**How do I Use E-RES?**

1. Go to your class Canvas page.
2. Click the link “Library Resources & E-Reserves”
3. If you wish to access e-reserves from the library home page (library.yu.edu), Please use“wurzweiler” all lower case, as the password. (January 8th, 2019 and forward)
4. If you have problems accessing e-reserves, please email: ereserves@yu.edu.

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](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html)

**VII. PLAGIARISM**

Students should remember that the School will not condone plagiarism in any form and will sanction 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 this course will automatically FAIL the course and will be referred to the Associate Dean for disciplinary action, which may include expulsion.

VIII. 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.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT I. SOCIAL WORK VALUES AND THE CONSCIOUS USE OF SELF [SESSIONS 1-2]
Competency Covered: 1

Learning Themes
Ethics and values as they impact on the on-going work with clients and client systems

Required Readings
- Hepworth, et al: Chapter 4, Operationalizing the cardinal social work values, 57-64.
- Review NASW Code of Ethics distributed last semester

Recommended Readings
UNIT II. THEORIES OF CHANGE FOR CASEWORK AND FAMILY WORK (SESSIONS 3-7)

Learning Themes
The role of theory in guiding social work practice
Various theoretical orientations for casework practice

A. Theory for Social Work Practice

Required Readings:
- Compton & Galaway: Chapter 4: Theoretical perspectives for social work practice, 118-152.
- Shulman: Chapter 1: An interactional approach to helping, 2-50 [Review]; Chapter 5: Skills in the work phase, 161-241 [Review].

B. Cognitive Theory, Solution-Focused, Narrative, Crisis Intervention, & Social Learning


Required Readings


• Greene, R.R.: Cognitive theory for social work, 173-205 ERES


C. Social Work with Families

**Required Readings**


• Shulman: Part II, Social Work with Families, Chapter 7: Family practice in the social work context, 280-317; Chapter 8: Middle and ending phases in family practice, 319-368.

**UNIT III. TRAUMA THEORY and UNDERSTANDING THE PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL WORK AND HOW TO MANAGE WORK-RELATED STRESS (SESSION 8-9)**

**Learning Themes**

Theories of Vicarious Traumatization, Secondary Traumatic Stress, Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Countertransference

How these concepts are relevant to social work practice

The importance of self care, peer support and supportive supervision for professional development and ethical care of clients

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


**UNIT IV. SOCIAL GROUP WORK PRACTICE REVISITED (SESSIONS 10-11)**

**Learning Themes**
The role and value of group in generalist social work practice
The various theoretical orientations for group work practice.
Specific social work skills of successful group work practice

**A. Social Group Work Theory**

**Required Readings**


• Hepworth, et al: Chapter 11, Forming and assessing social work groups, 295-326; Chapter 16: Intervening in social work groups, 507-533.


• Shulman: Part IV, Social Work with Groups, Chapters 10-12, 369-649. [Review].


Recommended Readings


UNIT V. TERMINATION AND TRANSITIONS IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE
SESSIONS 12-13

Learning Themes
The role and importance of the process of termination in work with clients
Specific social work knowledge and skills to guide work in the termination phase

Required Readings


Recommended Reading

Unit VII. EVALUATING PRACTICE (SESSION 14)

Learning Themes

The need and mandate for social workers to monitor and evaluate their practice. To introduce preliminary strategies for practice and research evaluation.

Required Readings
- Shulman: Chapter 17, Evidence based practice – 749-811.
- Compton & Galaway, Chapter 17: Evaluating Practice, 456-468.

Recommended Reading

BIBLIOGRAPHY


