

**SOCIAL WORK 355-Fall 2020  
SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE I  
MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY  
BALDWIN ONLINE ADULT PROGRAMS**

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**Class Dates:**

*Saturday, August 29, 2020 - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

*Saturday, September 19, 2020 - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

*Saturday, October 17, 2020 - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

*Saturday, November 7,, 2020 - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

Web-based via Blackboard Collaborate

Students unable to attend sessions at the Franklin Center will need to make up sessions via Blackboard Collaborate at times mutually scheduled between students and instructor

**Other Important Dates:**

August 24 Fall Semester classes begin

December 4 Last day of exams and all coursework due

**General Introduction**

The overall purpose of this course is to help students develop social work knowledge and skills in translating social work practice philosophy into sustainable, ethical social work practice in diverse situations. The course is the first of three Practice courses and teaches the knowledge and skills necessary for work with individuals (semester I), families and small groups (semester II), communities, and organizations (semester III).

**Important Dates:**

Course times: This is a hybrid class with Blackboard assignments and live video or in class meetings starting at 10:00 am and running until 1:00 pm on the following dates:

August 29

September 19

October 17

November 7

Live classes may be held however a location has not been determined. If live classes are held, all students are encouraged to attend the first session on August 29 in person if possible. If not, all students must participate via blackboard video on the class dates if unable to attend in person.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **Competency 2.1.1 Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly**

P.B.2.1.1.a Advocate for client access to the services of social work

P.B.2.1.1.b Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development

P.B.2.1.1.c Attend to professional roles and boundaries

P.B.2.1.1.d Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance and communication

P.B.2.1.1.e Engage in career-long learning

P.B.2.1.1.f Use supervision and consultation

### **Competency 2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice**

P.B.2.1.2.a Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice

P.B.2.1.2.b Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the NASW Code of Ethics and, as applicable, International Federation of Social workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles.

P.B.2.1.2.c Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts

P.B.2.1.2.d Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions

### **Competency 2.1.3 Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments**

P.B.2.1.3.a Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge including research based knowledge and practice wisdom

P.B.2.1.3.b Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention and evaluation

P.B.2.1.3.c Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities and colleagues

### **Competency 2.1.4 Engage diversity and difference in practice**

P.B.2.1.4.a Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power

P.B.2.1.4.b Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups

P.B.2.1.4.c Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences

P.B.2.1.4.d View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants

### **Competency 2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice**

P.B.2.1.5.a Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination

P.B.2.1.5.b Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice

P.B.2.1.5.c Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice

### **Competency 2.1.9 Respond to contexts that shape practice**

P.B.2.1.9.a Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services

P.B.2.1.9.b Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services

### **Competency 2.1.10 Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities**

P.B.2.1.10.a Engagement

1. Substantively and effectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
2. Use empathy and other interpersonal skills
3. Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes

P.B.2.1.10.b Assessment

1. Collect, organize, and interpret client data
2. Assess client strengths and limitations
3. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives
4. Select appropriate intervention strategies

P.B.2.1.10b.Assessment

1. Collect, organize, and interpret client data
2. Assess client strengths and limitations
3. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives
4. Select appropriate intervention strategies

P.B.2.1.10.c Intervention

1. Initiate actions to achieve organizational goals
2. Implement prevention interventions that enhance client capacities
3. Help clients resolve problems
4. Negotiate, mediate, and advocate for clients
5. Facilitate transitions and endings

P.B. 2.1.10.d Evaluation

1. Critically analyze, monitor and evaluate interventions

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Birkenmaier, J; Berg-Wenger, M; and Dewees, M (2017) *The Practice of Generalist Social Work, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* NY:Routledge
- ISBN: 078-1-138-67604-6 (PBK)
- [www.routledgesw.com](http://www.routledgesw.com)

This book can be rented however; you may use this book for Practice I and II. Used books may be considered at the following website: <http://www.isbns.net/isbn/>

### **Definition of social work practice**

The generalist approach to social work practice supported by concepts drawn from social systems theory and utilizing ecosystems prospective, is attentive to person and environment, and their interactions. Generalist practice is based on research-guided knowledge and uses a planned change process to determine the level or levels of intervention – individuals, family,

group, organization, and/or community – appropriate to addressing the issues presented. It recognizes the profession's dual purpose and responsibility to influence social as well as individual change. Particular attention is given to work with diverse populations incorporating ideologies of democracy, humanism and social justice. Overarching and influencing the generalist approach are the values and ethics of the profession.

### **Writing**

Professional social workers keep case records, write treatment reports for referral sources and managed care companies correspond with judges and other professionals, develop policy, and advocate for their clients. All of these tasks require excellent writing skills. Therefore, proper grammar, syntax, spelling, and appropriate referencing are expected for all assignments. You must adhere to the style guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Correct citations: <http://www.citationmachine.net>

To gain a better understanding of the APA format, please view the following YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODakMMqvls&feature=youtu.be>.

Gaining access to the Grafton Library and *The Encyclopedia of Social Work*. Go to Grafton Library, you must be logged into the MBU network since it is a restricted resource.

### **Resources**

For information on policies and academics, please refer to the Mary Baldwin catalogue.

### **Honor Code**

Believe in the principles of student government, I pledge myself to uphold the ideals and regulations of the Mary Baldwin University community. I recognize the principles of honor and cooperation as the basis of our life together. I shall endeavor faithfully to order my life accordingly. I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize or violate my pledge of confidentiality. I will not fail to report others who lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, or violate their pledge of confidentiality. I will encourage others to fulfill the ideals of the Honor System.

**ET policy** How can you get an ET in this class? The only way to get ET in this class is related to poor health/elements out of student's control and ongoing conversations with professor as soon as issues arise.

### **Attendance/Participation Policy**

You must attend class and participate in Blackboard discussions to do well in this course. Should you miss class I will connect with you individually; but you will not learn as much; you will not do as well. I am also available by phone or in person if necessary, for additional questions.

### **Personal and Professional Behavior**

Students are expected to use in class time to foster the use of professional behavior and practice skills used as a social worker. Classroom and written work offer students the opportunity for self-reflection, experimentation with unfamiliar ways of thinking and acting, the challenge of dependability and timelessness in completing assignments, and appreciation of the mutual accountability between instructor and student.

## **Assignments**

Blackboard Units Competency 2.1.1. – 2.1.10

This course is divided into four blackboard units. Each unit will have open book quizzes to be completed before class. As student answer questions relative to assessment and intervention the instructor is aware of the level of understanding and where further clarification is needed.

## **Volunteer work** Competency 2.1.1 – 2.1.10

There is a 25-hour volunteer requirement in a non-profit agency selected by the student. This gives students first-hand experience, clarifies the best fit for field placement, and is an additional reference on y our resume. Students must submit a signed statement from the program administrator describing their work and certifying its completion by December 1

## **Papers** Competency 2.1.3, 2.1.10

Three papers are required. A paper explaining your understanding of a current social work theory and a biopsychosocial assessment are each worth 15% of your grade. Some of these will be shared in class to prepare you for future work.

The final paper is an assessment of a person in their life situation applying theory to a problem situation. Students will use the social work theory developed in the first paper to develop an assessment, intervention and a treatment plan. This allows the student to show mastery of the material covered in the text, skill in developing an assessment, a plan of intervention, setting goals to be achieved, measurements of success and developing a genogram and eco map. The final paper is 25% of your grade.

## **Course Schedule**

### **First Class: August 29, 2020**

Read chapter 1 before class  
Complete Unit 1 quiz on blackboard  
Class introductions  
Syllabus review  
Class Activity: True Colors Exercise  
Video: Does this bother you?  
Introduction to social work practice  
Tensions in Social Work Practice  
Volunteer Requirement  
Personal and Professional Philosophy Due

### **Second Class: September 19, 2020**

Read chapter 2 before class  
Complete Unit 2 quiz on Blackboard prior to class  
Professional Code of Ethics  
Ethical Responsibility  
Challenges to Code  
Duty to Report; Duty to Warn  
Critical Problem-Solving Process  
Practice Dilemmas  
Sources of Power  
Power in client's lives  
Human Rights

First theory paper due and discussed

**Third Class: October 17, 2020**

Read chapter  
Complete Unit 3 quiz on Blackboard prior to class  
Dialogue Skills  
Communication pitfalls  
Role plays  
SW Role and Agenda  
Skills and Methods  
Biopsychosocial Paper Due

**Fourth Class: November 7, 2020**

Read chapter 4  
Complete Unit 4 quiz prior to class  
Classic and Contemporary Theory  
Strengths, Narrative, Solution Focused Approach  
Honest Responding and mapping skills  
Agency, Client and Social Worker Perspective  
Supporting Client's Strengths in Developing Interventions  
Supporting Client's Environments  
Traditional Social Worker Roles  
Planning the Process  
Termination and Ending  
Evaluation  
Evidence Based Practice  
Volunteer assignments presentations  
Students will present draft of final papers to class for discussion and recommendations Final papers are due by December 4.

**GRADING**

5 Chapter quizzes (5% each)	25%
Volunteer hours	15%
Class Participation	5%
First 2 papers – Application of theory & Biopsychosocial (15% each)	30%
Final Assessment Paper	25%
Total:	100%

Grades will be computed as follows according to Mary Baldwin University's policy as stated in Catalog:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 & Below

A Exceptional for college level work	Work is professionally written and argued effectively, adding new thought to the concepts and above the level expected of college students
B Above average for college level work	Work is above college level in writing and argument, often thought provoking insightful, and well-reasoned
C Average for college level work	Work is at the college level in general but meets only average expectations and shows little new thought or insight
D Below average for college level work	Work is poorly written and argued, often fails to grasp the concepts discussed
F Unacceptable level for college level work	Work is poorly written, poorly thought through, and shows limited understanding of the concepts.