

**SOCIAL WORK 355-Fall 2021
SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE I
MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY
BALDWIN ONLINE ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Instructor: Susan Goad
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Class Dates:

Saturday, September 18, 2021 -10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Saturday, October 2, 2021 - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Saturday, October 30, 2021 - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Saturday, November 13, 2021 - 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Saturday, December 4, 2021 – Final Exam – 10:00 - 12:00 PM

Web-based via Google Meet or Zoom

Students may also attend sessions at the Roanoke Higher Education Center in the Mary Baldwin suite

Other Important Dates:

August 30 Fall Semester classes begin

December 12 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 Canvas assignments and live video or in class meetings starting at 10:00 am and running until 1:00 pm on the following dates:

September 18

October 2

October 30

November 13

December 4 (?) Final exam only

Live classes will be held at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. All students are encouraged to attend the first session on September 18 in person if possible. If not, all students must participate virtually in a format to be decided (Google Meet or Zoom) on the class dates if unable to attend in person. Invitations will be sent by email a few days before class.

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 2.1.1 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, 5th Edition* NY:Routledge
- ISBN: 078-1-138-67604-6 (PBK)
- 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* (5th 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=ODakMMqvl&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 is 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 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 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

Textbook Units Competency 2.1.1. – 2.1.10

This course is divided into four 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 your resume. Students must submit a signed statement from the program administrator describing their work and certifying its completion by December 1. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, obtaining volunteer hours has been a challenge. Depending on conditions at the beginning of the semester, alternative assignment may be given. Details will be discussed in class.

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: September 18, 2020

Read chapter 1 before class
Class introductions
Syllabus review
Class Activity: True Colors Exercise
Introduction to social work practice
Tensions in Social Work Practice
Volunteer Requirement Review

Second Class: October 2, 2021

Read chapter 2 before 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 30, 2021

- Read chapter 3
- Dialogue Skills
- Communication pitfalls
- Role plays
- SW Role and Agenda
- Skills and Methods
- Biopsychosocial Paper Due

Fourth Class: November 13, 2021

- Read chapter 4
- 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 6.

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	
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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.