

SOWK375: Social Work Practice III, Macro  
Mary Baldwin University  
Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Kim Higgins, MSW  
**Phone/Text:** 540-255-3113  
**Email:** khiggins@marybaldwin.edu

**Schedule:** Class dates 8/29, 9/12, 10/3, 10/24, 11/14  
Carpenter room 208 from 9-12 pm

\*Any students residing outside of the local area must participate electronically and have a video feed capability.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Social Work Practice I and Social Work Practice II

**Required Text:** *Macro Social Work Practice: Working for Change in a Multicultural Society* by Michael Reisch, 1st edition, ISBN: 978-1-5165-0757-3, Cognella Academic Publishing

**General Introduction:** A basic tenet of social work practice is that we work with the person in the environment. Whether social workers are primarily involved in helping clients as individuals, in a family context, or on a community or organizational level, they must pay attention to the person and the environment. All social workers should be knowledgeable about how to address needs at the environmental level and feel competent and confident to do so. This course is designed to teach basic knowledge and skills that all social workers are likely to need at some time in their professional careers.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Understand the basic theories and models of macro practice and the interrelationship between micro and macro practice;
- View macro level practice in a historical context with awareness of historical and contemporary trends, including gaining knowledge of oppressed and disadvantaged populations that are often the constituents for professional social workers;
- Understand and demonstrate the social workers' entryway into a macro level change process, including how to gather information and conduct professional research into a problem;
- Know how to conduct professional research about a target population and to develop a working hypothesis about the etiology of a problem;
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic theories underpinning an understanding of communities;
- Learn and apply a framework for community assessment that would inform a macro level change plan;
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic theories of organizations as a prelude to macro level change;
- Apply an assessment framework to human service organizations as a step toward macro level change;
- Design a change intervention and learn how to build support from key systems;
- Learn to assess the political and economic context of a proposed change and to select strategies and tactics for making change; and
- Develop goals and objectives for intervention and a plan for implementation and monitoring.

**Assessment:**

Participation in Class & Communication	8 %
Chapter Assignments	19%
Chapter Quizzes	29%
Mid-term Exam & Final Exam	15%
Research Papers #1 and #2	29%

Additional credit may be awarded toward research paper for its overall quality and level of interest.

Grades will be computed as follows according to MBU's policy:

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

**Weekly Assignments** and **Quizzes** are open book.

**Mid-Term** and **Final Exams** are **CLOSED BOOK**.

**Assignments:** During this course you will be undertaking two research papers. This assignment will be checked for original content. This assignment may or may not (as determined by your instructor) be added to a global reference database to prevent further use of this original work. When you submit this assignment you are claiming this work as your own or citing appropriately the work of others, and you are agreeing to add this work to a database of existing original work. Any student who fails to appropriately cite sources will receive a zero on this assignment.

Instructions regarding formatting written assignments will be posted on CANVAS. You have the option of submitting a draft to me no later than one week before the paper is due if you wish to seek feedback that you can use to improve your grade.

I will accept assignments and papers via CANVAS or as a word doc via email.

Communication goes a long way, so you are responsible for checking with me if you have any questions or concerns about the assignments.

It is my expectation that all work will be completed by the due date. **If any work is late, a 5% penalty will be deducted for each additional day. Assignments submitted more than one week after their due date will not be accepted.** If an extension is needed, you must contact me in advance of the due date to get approval, otherwise no extensions will be permitted for any work unless for a verifiable emergency.

Grades will be assigned based on both test scores as well as level of achievement within your written work, discussion responses, and participation. You are expected to pursue a mastery of the material and familiarize yourselves with the content as well as learn about the community environment in which you live. You are encouraged to look at different perspectives, assess your own beliefs and understanding, and apply them to a generalist social work practice.

**Class Attendance and Participation:**

We meet only five times and you are expected to be there on time and for the entire class. Any absences that are not deemed emergencies will result in a deduction of points. If there is a family emergency, it is your responsibility to notify me within 24 hours (before or after) of the missed class/due date. If you have to miss a class, you are responsible for getting the information you missed. A portion of your grade will be based on your participation and your ability to respond appropriately to any absences or delays.

In the rare event I will be unable to attend class, I will make every attempt to email all of you as soon as possible, either in advance or the morning prior to class.

Honor System: Please be aware that all academic work for this course is held to the standards of the Mary Baldwin College honor code.

Texting during class and other such distractions will be noted and incidents will affect your class participation grade. No electronics (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) are to be used during class unless permission given by the professor.

**Disability Statement:** Any student with documented disabilities, who feels he/she may need academic accommodations while taking this course, should first contact the Dr. Carey Usher, 540-877-7064, [cusher@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:cusher@marybaldwin.edu).