I. COURSE PURPOSE

This course is the second part of the two-semester course continuum in which foundation knowledge, skills, and values for professional social work practice are taught. It prepares students to apply the generalist perspective to social work practice with groups, organizations, and communities, especially as these effect poor and diverse populations. Lectures, seminar discussion, agency-based case examples, and class assignments are designed to provide the student with opportunities to increase understanding and develop proficiency in the generalist intervention model.

Generalist practice is characterized by its multi-theoretical approach to assessment and multi-method approach to planned changes. Generalist practice is applicable to diverse fields of human services, agency settings, program services, populations, and human needs. It is the foundation level of professional social work practice and stems from the primary mission of the social work profession, “To enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people, who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty” (NASW, 1999, p. 1).

This course is intended to assist the student in understanding theories and methods to assess and facilitate change in organizations and communities in an effort to improve human well-being, particularly the well-being of people living in poverty. This course will offer students the opportunity to reflect on, critique, and demonstrate a beginning competence in small group, organization, and community practice.
II. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the use of small groups as an intervention tool in organizations and communities.

2. To appreciate the effect of values in shaping strategies, methods, and change goals in macro social work practice.

3. To understand ethical considerations particular to macro social work practice.

4. To demonstrate increased self-awareness of personal and professional beliefs, attitudes, and values as they influence one’s practice with diverse groups and vulnerable populations, particularly within the context facilitating task groups, and seeking change in organizations and communities.

5. To understand the role and importance of drawing on group, organization, and community strengths and assets in assessing and intervening systems for macro social work practice.

6. To appreciate the effects of policy, community, environmental, organizational, and small group factors on attitudes and patterns of behavior with diverse populations.

7. To learn a framework for analyzing or assessing power and to understand the role of power in task groups, organizations, and communities with particular attention to promoting justice for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

8. To demonstrate an understanding of the role of power and group dynamics in task groups.

9. To integrate theories of human behavior and the social environment to processes that engage groups, organizations, and communities.

10. To understand neighborhoods and communities as sociological and cultural phenomena.

11. To learn and demonstrate competency in drawing on assets and strengths to analyze communities.

12. To understand the basic models of intervention in community practice with diverse populations, i.e., community organizing, community development, and social planning.
13. To learn techniques and frameworks for organizational analysis (assessment) and community practice.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Texts


B. Recommended Texts


Reference Texts


C. Course Assignments

1. **Analysis of Individual Power: (10% of grade)**. Students should reflect on the experience of power in his or her personal life. (See assignment guidelines.) **Due class 3.**

2. **Group Assignment (20% of grade)**. Students will write an analysis and critique of the group process of her/his Coverdale experience. Students should integrate concepts introduced in the Coverdale exercise, and give special attention to the role of power in the task group process (6-8 pages). The paper will be **due Class 5.**

3. **Organization Assignment (25% of grade)**. Students will critically analyze their field agencies according to guidelines handed out in class. **Due Class 10**

4. **Community Analysis (25% of grade)**: Student groups of 4 or 5 will conduct a community analysis using skills imparted and practiced in class. The community analyses will involve having conversations with community residents; mapping neighborhood associations; mapping neighborhood institutions; analyzing census data, and coming up with a general profile of their community. Using the asset-based community development model, students groups will make recommendations on how the assets found within the community can be brought to bear on community change. Students will need to write up their community analysis profile and submit it for a group grade. Community analyses should be 15-20 pages long (not including attachments), and are **due Exam Week.**

**Community Profile Presentation (10% of grade)**: Based on their community analysis, students will need to visually
represent their assigned community in preparation for a 25-minute presentation to 606 classmates and instructors. Presentations will take place during exam week. All sections will meet together and the location will be announced.

D. Course and Instructor Evaluation
NCSSS requires written evaluation of this course and the instructor. Forms for this purpose will be distributed at the last meeting of the class. Additional, informal written or verbal feedback to the instructor during the semester is encouraged and attempts will be made to respond to requests.

E. Grading Policy
Analysis of Individual Power  10%
Group Assignment    20%
Organization Assignment 25%
Community Analysis  25%
Community Analysis Presentation  10%
Attendance and Participation  10%
IV. CLASS SCHEDULE

UNIT ONE: THE USE OF SMALL GROUPS AS VEHICLES FOR ORGANIZATIONAL, COMMUNITY, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Class 1
1/13/09

Introduction to the Macro Social Work Practice and Review of Key Group Concepts.

Required Readings


Toseland, R. W. and Rivas, R. F. (2005). An introduction to group work Practice, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Chapter 2, p. 61-63; Chapter 3, 64-91. (Chapter 3 in CUA e-reserves)

Recommended Readings


Toseland, R. W. and Rivas, R. F. (2005). An introduction to group work Practice, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Chapter 1, p. 3-43; Chapter 2, 44-60.

No Tuesday Classes January 20th – Inauguration Day

On the course discussion board, students are asked to post a response to the following: “Identify and describe one thing from your observations and/or experiences from Inauguration Day that has implications for macro social work practice.” Posting is due by January 23rd.

Class 2
1/27/09

Analyzing Power as a Component to Macro Practice: Students will develop an understanding of power, its dimensions, and its manifestations in social work practice. Students will be introduced to principles of anti-oppressive practice.

Required Reading


**Recommended Reading**


**Intervention Using Task Groups in Social Work Practice:**

Integrating content from the previous two weeks, students will learn skills and strategies for working with diverse groups, and addressing group conflict.

**Individual Power Analysis Due**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**


Class 4
2/10/09
**The Coverdale Exercise** (Class from 3:30 to 7:30. Meet on the Terrace level of Shahan Hall.)

Required Reading

No required reading for the week! Come prepared to actively participate. Snacks will be provided.

**UNIT TWO: THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK IN ORGANIZATIONS**

Class 5
2/17/09
**Social Work Practice in Organizations I: Theories of Organizations** Students will be introduced to organizational elements, and theories and contemporary perspectives on organizations as foundation for understanding organizational structures and processes.

Group Assignments Due

Required Reading


Recommended Reading
Class 6  
2/24/09  
**Social Work Practice in Organizations II: Assessing Organizations in Their Environments** Students will learn a framework for assessing organizations in their environments. The role of power in organizations will also be discussed.

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**

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Class 7  
3/10/09  
*(Comps are March 13)*

**Social Work with Organizations III: Organizational Culture and Assessing Organizations for Consistency with Social Work Values**

**Required Reading**


Recommended Reading


Class 8 3/17/09

Social Work with Organizations IV: Leadership and Promoting Change within Organizations Students will learn models for promoting change within an organization and be introduced to the notion of transformational leadership

Required Reading


Recommended Readings


Class 9 3/24/09

UNIT THREE: THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SOCIAL WORK IN COMMUNITIES AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MACRO PRACTICE
Theories of Community and Intervention Models for Community Practice. Students will review theories of community practice and be introduced to key community concepts and the primary models associated with assessing and intervening in communities.

View “Leap of Faith” Video

Required Reading


Recommended Reading


Class 10 3/31/09

Asset-Based Community Development as a Model of Community Practice: Part I Students will be introduced to Asset-Based Community Develop as a model for community practice, and learn how to Identify individual capacities and awaken power in individuals as part of the ABCD process.

Required Reading:


**Recommended Reading:**


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**Asset-based Community Development as Model of Community Practice: Part II**

Social capital as an underlying theory for community building. Discovering capacities of associations and institutions in community development.

**Organization Assignment Due**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**


**Class 12**
**4/14/09**

**Community Development: Creating a Comprehensive Community Plan for Intervention** Students will learn a process for creating an asset-based community plan based on the asset-based assessment.

**Required Reading**


Building Communities from the Inside Out, Ch. 5, p. 345-353.

**Recommended Reading**


**Class 13**
**4/21/08**

**Social Planning as a Model for Intervening in Communities.** Students will be develop a beginning understand of social planning as an intervention model for communities.

**Required Reading**


Class 14  
4/28/09  
**Ethical Dilemmas in Macro Practice.** Students will be exposed to a variety of issues associated with ethics when engaged in macro practice.

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**


Exam Week  
5/5/09  
All sections will meet together where student groups will present their community analyses. Class will run from 3:30 to 7:30.