

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Course Number: SW312	Instructor: Diane McDaniel Rhodes, PhD E-mail: diane.rhodes@utexas.edu
Unique Number: 62990	Phone: (512) 471-1831
Semester: Fall 2014	Office Room: SSW 3.116D
Meeting Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:00am	Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:00am Thursdays 11.30 – 2.00
Meeting Place: SSW 1.214	

Generalist Social Work Practice: Skills, Knowledge, & Values
(Required Course – BSW Program)

1. Standardized Course Description

This is the first course in the practice methods sequence, in which students are introduced to the fundamental values and ethics, skills, and knowledge relevant to generalist social work practice. Areas covered include the NASW Code of Ethics and Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice; the development of observation, communication, interviewing and assessment skills utilizing the problem-solving approach. Experiential learning is emphasized, including a **45-hour volunteer component** in which students have direct client contact.

2. Standardized Course Objectives

EP 2.1.1-Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly. (PB) Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development, including attending to professional roles and boundaries. (PB) Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.

EP 2.1.2-Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. (PB) Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide work. (PB) Make ethical decisions by applying strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.

EP 2.1.3-Apply critical thinking in practice. (PB) Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge and practice. (PB) Demonstrate effective oral and written communications

EP 2.1.4- Incorporate and enhance diversity and difference in practice. (PB) Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values shape life experiences as well as oppress. (PB) View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.

EP 2.1.5-Advocate for and advance human rights and social and economic justice. (PB) Identify forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. (PB) Articulate how to engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.

EP 2.1.6-Utilize research processes to inform practice. (PB) Recognize how practice experience informs scientific inquiry. (PB) Recognize how research evidence informs practice.

EP 2.1.7-Utilize and apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Explain the major dimensions of generalist social work practice and the planned change/problem-solving process with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
2. Apply Social Work knowledge, values, and skills to their participation in the learning environment.
3. Demonstrate skills in observation, communication, interviewing, assessment and problem solving.
4. Demonstrate the ability to differentially use basic social work skills to reflect the needs of clients of diverse groups distinguished by race, ethnicity, class, gender, culture, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical or mental abilities, and national origin.
5. Identify ethical issues and recognize when client, societal, and/or personal values conflict emphasizing understanding, affirmation and respect for human diversity and social justice in the practice of social work.

3. Teaching Methods

This class uses a seminar format. This course is designed to provide you with a meaningful

learning environment through use of multiple methods of instruction (e.g. discussion, lecture, and group exercises); experiential learning (e.g. service learning, role playing, & active learning) will be emphasized. You are expected to complete assigned readings prior to each class period. You are expected to participate in class. Class attendance and participation is required and essential for successful completion of this course. This course will use an electronic Canvas site. Canvas will be used for communication between students, the instructor, and the TA. Some materials, grades, and attendance will also be posted online. To reach your class site on Canvas, please go to <http://courses.utexas.edu> or go to the Social Work web page and click on Canvas. To access the course website, you must have an internet connection and computer access. You will need a UT EID and password. The Help Desk available through the UT home page (www.utexas.edu/its/help) can assist you with your computer and Canvas questions. You can also call them at 475-9400. Additionally, the Learning Resource Center at the SSW has computers and computer assistance.

4. Required Text: Birkenmaier, J., Berg-Weger, M., & Dewees, M. P. (2013). *The Practice of Generalist Social Work, Third Edition* (3 edition.). Routledge.

5. Course Required Work

Assignment	Due date(s)
Class attendance and participation (15pts)	n/a
Service Learning (40 pts total: see below)	9/8 9/15
You must complete 45 hours of volunteer work in a local social service agency.	9/17 10/6 11/3 12/1
This includes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Agency Selection Form (Required for course credit) Indicate the agency selected for volunteer work, location, supervisor, and scheduled volunteer hours. Due 9/8 • Volunteer Hour Log Sheet (Required for course credit) documenting all hours completed during the semester. 32 volunteer hours must be complete to pass this course. Due 12/1 • Volunteer Evaluation Form (Required for course credit) You will submit an evaluation of your performance in the volunteer placement by the agency volunteer supervisor. Due 12/1 • 3 Reflection Papers (10 points each): topics will be assigned. 1st paper due 9/17. 2nd paper due 10/6. 3rd paper due 11/3 • Education Contract (10 points) The education contract is a format for organizing your personal learning objectives for accomplishment at your 	

volunteer agency with specific activities designed to help you meet those objectives. Due 9/15	
Video Recording (5 points) You will need to complete two video interview sessions with a classmate. Choose one of the sessions to critique.	11/17
2 Canvas Discussion Boards: topics will be assigned. (5 point each)	9/24 10/22
Group Interactive Case Assignment (30 points) You will work in small groups with an assigned case, available on line. The group will work as a team to understand the needs and problems of the case and select two problems or needs and develop an action plan. The team will present the case, and their action plan to the class at the end of the semester.	12/1
Total: 100 points	

6. COURSE POLICIES

1. Conduct and Civility: Social work students adhere to the Student Standards for Professional Conduct of the NASW Code of Ethics and assume responsibility for their conduct. Scholastic honesty and integrity are to be consistent social work values. The instructor will comply with University guidelines regarding scholastic dishonesty, including plagiarism. Social work practitioners respect others; therefore, differences in values, opinions, and feelings of class members and guest speakers will be respected. Students will help create and support a learning environment that does not interfere with the learning of fellow students.

2. Readings and Preparatory Assignments: Students are expected to be active participants in the classroom community. Students are also expected to complete readings and preparatory assignments prior to class. Failure to demonstrate comprehension of the readings will be considered when assigning the final grade. Students are responsible for the material in the assigned readings whether or not the material is covered in class. Professor reserves the right to conduct quizzes should there be a pattern of students not demonstrating that they have completed the readings and are not prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion.

3. Professional Communication and Interactions: Refrain from private conversations during class or other disruptive behavior. Class participation is required. Speak up and contribute to class. Disrespectful behavior is against the University Honor Code and will not be tolerated.

4. Class Attendance Policy: Punctuality and timeliness are important for social work practitioners. Class attendance is required. It is your responsibility to sign the weekly attendance sheet. The instructor should be notified in advance of any planned absence and as soon as possible in the case of an unforeseen, serious emergency.

5. Assignments and Grades: Assignments should be turned in via email prior to 8.00pm on the date they are due, barring serious, unforeseen medical illness or family emergencies. Late assignments will be considered when assigning the final grade.

6. Writing Style: The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association Sixth Edition (APA) is the style manual to be used by all students.

7. Use of Canvas: The instructor uses Canvas; a Web-based course management /collective workspace. If you do not have a personal computer with personal Internet access, there are computers available for your use at the SW Learning Resource Center (LRC), the Flawn Academic Center, campus and public libraries.

8. Course Modification: To ensure achievement for course objectives, the professor reserves the right to make modifications to any part of this syllabus related to schedule and assignment due dates. Should any modifications be made, students will be notified in class and modifications will also be posted to Canvas. Students should check their email and Canvas frequently. Note that some of the links to documents and videos on the Internet may change. Documents, new links or alternate options will be provided.

VII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Professional Conduct in Class

The professor expects students to act like professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the

University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

Documented Disability Statement

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently: daily, but at minimum twice a week to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

Safety

As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's

behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions. Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Course Grading:

94.0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	B
80.0 to 83.999	B-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-
Below 60.0	F

Detailed Course Schedule

Week	Day	Topic	Assignments due
1	W 8.27	Introductions, syllabus, volunteer requirement	
2	W 9.3	Defining generalist practice	Read: Ch 1 pp 2 -11 Watch: On Any Given Day video
3	M 9.8	Human services perspectives	Read: Ch 1 pp 12 - 23
	W 9.10	Group assignments, cases and website orientation	Agency selection forms due
4	M 9.15	Values, multicultural competency	Read: Ch 1 pp 24 -

			35
	W 9.17	Ethics	Read: Ch 2 pp 39 - 47 1 st reflection paper
5	M 9.22	Strength based perspectives	
	W 9.24	Empowerment practice	Discussion board
6	M 9.29	Process: Client Engagement	Read: Ch 3 pp 67 - 97
	W 10.1	30 min Skill building role play 30 min Groups case work	
7	M 10.6	Process: Assessment	Read: Ch 4 pp 103 - 138 2 nd reflection paper
	W 10.8	30 min Skill building role play 30 min Groups case work	
8	M 10.13	Process: Intervention	Read: Ch 5 pp 173 - 208
	W 10.15	30 min Skill building role play 30 min Groups case work	
9	M 10.20	Process: Terminations and Evaluation	Read: Ch 5 pp 209 - 231 Discussion board
	W 10.22	30 min Skill building role play 30 min Groups case work	
10	M 10.27	Boundaries & Professionalism	Watch: Brene Brown video (links on Canvas)
	W 10.29	Self-care	In class handouts
11	M 11.3	Issues working with Families	Read: Ch 6 pp 235 - 260 3 rd reflection
	W 11.5	Guest speaker: caseworker	
12	M 11.10	Issues working with Groups	Read: Ch 8 pp 367 - 390
	W 11.12	Guest speaker: therapist	
13	M 11.17	Issues working with Communities	Read: Ch 10 pp 412 - 421 videotape critique
	W 11.19	Guest speaker: task force member	
14	M 11.24	Issues working with Organizations	Read: Ch 12 pp 494 - 506
	W 11.26	<i>No class - Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
15	M 12.1	In-class presentations	Group presentations due
	W 12.3	In-class presentations	

