SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE II

I. Course Description

This course builds upon Practice I by deepening students’ knowledge of the generalist social work perspective in the application of theory and practice methods for effective and ethical service delivery to diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities in conjunction with field education.

Prerequisites: This course must be taken concurrently with Field Instruction II. This class is a prerequisite for all second year concentration courses.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze professional values, ethical dilemmas and ethical decision making and their impact on service delivery, policy and practice; (PB 4, 9, 10)

2. Identify, critique, apply and evaluate social work theories and methods from a strengths based generalist perspective for effective service delivery to diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities; (PB 31, 35, 37)

3. Apply beginning practice skills in the development, leadership and evaluation of small groups in agency, organization and community settings; (PB 29, 31, 35, 36, 40)
4. Identify aspects of human diversity within and between groups and the implications for this diversity in assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation; (PB 1, 29, 35, 36, 39)

5. Demonstrate knowledge of leadership and advocacy skills, conflict management and interprofessional collaboration at all levels of social work practice to promote social and economic justice; (PB 29, 35, 36, 37, 39)

6. Apply a beginning level of skill in utilizing empirical knowledge to evaluate theoretical frameworks, intervention plans and practice effectiveness; (PB 35, 36, 37)

7. Communicate effectively and professionally, both orally and in writing, assessment, intervention and evaluation plans for diverse client systems that enhance client strengths, capacities, assets and resources. (PB 1, 4)

The School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, we engage in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE’s Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS). Several required courses in our curriculum are part of this ongoing assessment, including this course. Below is a list of the specific Educational Policies (EP) and Practice Behaviors (PB) that are assessed in this course. The complete EPAS can be optioned from your Student Handbook.

EP2.1.1 Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly. Social workers serve as representatives of the profession, its mission, and its core values. They know the profession’s history. Social workers commit themselves to the profession’s enhancement and to their own professional conduct and growth.

PB1 Advocate for client access to the services of social work
   Objectives 4, 7
   Assignments- Advocacy Assignment

PB4 Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication
   Objectives 1, 7
   Assignments- Video Role Play and Critique, Social Work Theory Application

EP2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. Social workers have an obligation to conduct themselves ethically and to engage in ethical decision-making. Social workers are knowledgeable about the value base of the profession, its ethical standards, and relevant law.

PB9 Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts
   Objectives 1, 7
   Assignments- Ethics Application

PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions
   Objectives 1
   Assignments-Advocacy Assignment, Ethics Application

EP2.1.10a Engagement

PB29 Substantively and affectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
   Objectives 3, 4, 5
   Assignments- Advocacy Assignment, Social Work Theory Application

PB31 Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes
   Objectives 2, 3
   Assignments- Social Work Theory Application

EP2.1.10b Assessment
III. Teaching Methods

This class will be taught using a variety of methods with an emphasis on experiential learning including role-play, video, class discussion, small group interaction, lecture and guest speakers. The assignments will provide the opportunity for "learning by doing" in role-play, small groups, and individual projects. For success in this class you must be willing to participate, risk yourself, stretch your creativity, and attend class! You are encouraged to ask questions, give the instructor feedback, and arrange times to see the instructor individually if you think it would be helpful for your learning.

IV. Texts and Materials

Required:


Reading packet is available at Speedway Copy in the Dobie Building at 21st and Whitis. Additional readings/handouts as assigned.

V. Course Requirements

(You will be given handouts with complete instructions.)

1. Assignment 1
   In-Class Applications
2. **Assignment 2**
   A series of three experiences/papers:
   1. Observation of Community Support Group
   2. Reflection on in-class group simulation process
   3. Choose your own adventure: Social Justice through the lens of art or Homeless Survey

3. **Assignment 3**
   Advocacy Assignment: Speak-out

4. **Assignment 4**
   Social Work Theory Application

5. **Assignment 5**
   Video role-play, consultation, critique and macro application

6. **Professional engagement** points will be determined by your attendance, timeliness, active and meaningful engagement in class activities, small group and full class discussions.

Letter grades will be determined by the following scale:

- 2 In-Class Application Activities @ 10 points each = 20 points
- 3 brief papers @ 25 points each = 75 points
- Social Work Theory Application = 100 points
- Advocacy Assignment: Speak Out = 55 points
- Video Role-Play, Consult and Macro application = 100 points

**Total: 360 points**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>338 - 360</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>324 – 337</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>313 – 323</td>
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VI. **Class Policies**

Professional behavior is expected of all students in the classroom. Professional behavior in the classroom includes the following:
1. **Attendance and Participation**

Since the overall goal of this course is to help students apply knowledge and theory to practice, the success of the course is dependent upon students assuming an active role in class discussion and activity. This form of learning cannot be “made up” once missed. Timeliness, attendance and participation for the entire class time are expected of all students. Students who fail to attend class on a regular basis (missing more than two classes without a valid excuse, e.g., medical documentation) will be dropped from the Practice course. Cumulative late arrivals may be considered as absences. Notify the professor prior to class if you cannot attend due to an illness or emergency. Students observing a religious holiday should inform the instructor in advance so that arrangements can be made to complete the work missed within a reasonable amount of time.

2. **Maintaining Confidentiality**

Information shared in class about agencies and clients is considered confidential according to the NASW Code of Ethics regarding the sharing of information for supervisory purposes. Agencies are aware that information is shared in class for this purpose. However, discussion outside of class with individuals outside of the seminar regarding information shared in class about clients, supervisors, agencies or other classmates is a breach of confidentiality.

3. **Time Management**

It is important that students manage the multiple demands of graduate work. Students will lose 5% points per calendar day that an assignment is late. Assignments are due at 8:30 am on the due date. Papers turned in after class begins are considered late. Papers will not be accepted electronically unless this is prearranged with the instructor. On subsequent days, papers must be submitted before 5:00 p.m. to avoid an additional 5% point penalty. Late papers can be submitted to the front office. Staff will place them in the instructor’s mailbox. Any adjustments in assignments due dates and/or examination MUST be discussed with the instructor at least 24 hours PRIOR to the regularly scheduled date. Students have one “free” late day per semester to be used at their discretion. The student needs to notify the instructor by the day that the assignment was due that the “free” pass is being used.

4. **Following Proper Channels for Communication and Conflict Resolution**

One of the most important aspects of becoming a professional is the understanding of the use of professional communication and use of supervision. The use of supervision includes, among other things, identifying areas for growth and the understanding of the process for communication regarding concerns. Students are expected to use identified channels for resolving concerns in the classroom. In the practice course the student is expected to bring the concern first directly to the instructor on an individual basis. Students should be prepared to discuss the concern and offer possible solutions.

5. **Respect for Colleagues**

Part of professional accountability includes treating others with respect and courtesy. Within the class this entails listening to the diverse opinions and concerns of others with openness, offering suggestions and ideas in a positive and respectful manner, and willingness to promote group cohesiveness in the learning environment. Students are encouraged to provide ongoing feedback to the instructor during class and office visits.

6. **APA Guidelines**

All written work, unless indicated by professor, requires the student to follow APA guidelines. When using information from other sources, references and the bibliography should conform to current APA style (refer to School of Social Work handout). Plagiarism, including electronic plagiarism, is a serious violation of University rules so pay close attention when giving citation credit.
7. **Concerns about grades**

Students with concerns or questions about grades are encouraged to discuss these with the instructor. The instructor will not consider grade revisions beyond two weeks after the assignment was returned to the student.

Students with concerns related to equitable distribution of work on a group project should first give the colleague in question a chance to address the concerns. If significant concerns remain, the student(s) is encouraged to approach the instructor during (not after) the assignment’s completion process.

8. **Technology use in the classroom**

For class presentations, students are expected to preview their presentations on the classroom console equipment for troubleshooting ahead of time. Technology assistance is available within our department but not guaranteed to be available at the time of a class presentation. It is part of a presenter’s responsibility to check the media and have a back-up strategy. Class time is finite and points will be deducted for time lost due to media issues that could have been addressed in advance.

Additional Tips: If you have any questions about the class or any special learning needs, please see me. Feel free to call, e-mail, or arrange for an appointment with me to address your questions. Please restrict calls to my home to emergencies.

8. **Social Media and Professional Communication**

Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and other forms of electronic communication (i.e. blogs, etc.) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image. Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students’ social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including any information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in any way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.
VII. University Policies

1. 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 are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

2. 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.

3. Documented Disability Statement

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users with hearing impairments) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. Students with learning challenges are encouraged to discuss and resolve special needs with the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.

4. 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.

5. 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 also notify instructors regarding any safety concerns.
6. **Professional Conduct in Class**

The professor expects students to demonstrate professional behavior in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show courtesy and respect for one another’s opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. This also entails listening to the opinions and concerns of others with openness, offering suggestions and ideas in a positive and respectful manner, and willingness to promote group cohesiveness in the learning environment.

7. **Religious Holidays and Observances**

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen 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.

8. **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://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/)).
### VIII. Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Text / Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td><em>Orientation to Practice II: Course overview, organization and assignments</em></td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td><em>In-class Application: Ethics and Values II</em></td>
<td><em>NASW Code of Ethics</em></td>
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<td>Advocacy packet distributed</td>
<td>Students’ Advanced Directive</td>
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<td>*Option for brief assignment #3: “Homeless Survey” event is Sunday, <em>January 22</em></td>
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Social Work Leadership, Advocacy, and the Legislative Process: Conflict and Collaboration

Guest Speakers: Nancy Walker, LMSW, Legislative Director for Representative Elliot Naishtat,
Sue Milam, Ph.D. Government Relations Director, NASW Texas and
Kymberlie Quong Charles, LMSW, Special Projects Coordinator for Center for Public Policy Priorities

Class meets at the Texas Capitol Annex, Hearing Room number E1.010 (Parking is available at State Parking Lot at 12th and San Jacinto for a nominal fee).

SWDR #130: Legislative advocacy
Handout: Advocacy Packet
Packet: Haskins: Social Science Rising
Loeb: We don’t have to be saints
Rocha. Political activities of social workers: Addressing perceived barriers to political participation
Leadership and Community Organizing: Ideals and Realities

Guest Speaker: Bob Libal from Grassroots Leadership

In-Class Application: “Choose your own Article”
Application and Peer Instruction

Planning and ordering of group role play
Planning and ordering of theory applications

Brief Assignment #3 "Homeless Survey" option verification due

SWDR, #52: Mediation and conflict resolution
Packet: Greene. Whistle-Blowing

Packet: McKee. Excavating our frames of mind
Packet: Manning. The essence of ethical leadership

SWDR article of choice relevant to your placement
Groups In Social Work Practice I: ethics, group theory, dynamics, stages of development and facilitation skills

Corey and Corey: Chs. 1-4

SWDR #97: Group Process

Hepworth et. al Ch 11
Groups in Social Work Practice: In class group role-play (Sessions one and two) and debriefing

Guest Consultant, Jean Avera, LCSW, former Clinical Associate Professor, UTSSW

Note: Co-facilitators meet professor and consultant prior to class at 8:10 to review plans for session

Brief paper #1 “Community Support Group Observation” due

Corey and Corey: Chs. 5 and 6, and review of pages 54 – 58 for co-leadership issues

Packet: Davis and Jansen. Making meaning of AA...

Handout: Kurland and Salmon on Group work
Groups in Social Work Practice: In class group role-play (Sessions three and four) and debriefing

Guest Consultant, Jean Avera, LCSW, former Clinical Associate Professor, UTSSW

Note: Co-facilitators meet professor and consultant prior to class at 8:10 to review plans for session

[Process Recording #1 due for field]

School Social Work Conference, Feb. 22 – Feb. 24: Volunteer and workshop time will count as field hours

Brief Assignment #2 "Group Role-play Reflection" due for 2/15 co-facilitators

Corey and Corey: Chs. 7 and 8 and choose your own chapter relevant to your role-play or placement from Corey and Corey: Chs. 9,10,11 or 12
Group Role-play debriefed, integrating the learning about groups

Planning and pairings for video role-play consultations

Brief paper #2 “Group Role-play Reflection” due for 2/22 co-facilitators

NASW Student Day at the Legislature March 6
Thinking about Theory: Foundational Theories in Social Work: Psychodynamic, Attachment, Psychosocial and Functional Theories

Theory outline #1 due to class

[Process recording #2 due for field]

NASW Social Work Month Celebration: March 7

Turner: Chs. 3, 10 & 26

Handout and/or Blackboard: Edmundson, Save Sigmund Freud, and Lowenstein, Baby with the Bathwater

Spring Break: Take a Breather!
Theory Workshop/Application #1

Theory outlines #2 and #3 due to class

10-11:30 Jack Otis Social Policy Lecture
Speaker: Jonah Edelman of Stand for Children
“Closing the Achievement Gap”

(Order of following readings to be adjusted to conform with order of theory presentations. These readings will be completed between 3/21 and 4/4).

Cognitive Behavioral Cluster:
Turner Chs. 6, 7, 29 & 30

Feminist Cluster: Turner Chs. 11, 13 & 27

Postmodern Cluster: Turner Chs. 2, 8, 20 & 23

Humanistic Cluster: Turner Chs. 5, 12, 14 & 16
Theory Workshop/Applications #2 and #3

Theory outline #4 due to class
Theory Workshop/Application #4

Theory Integration/class discussion and application

SWDR: #27: Common Factors, #34: Comparative Theories

Handout: Watters. Americanization of Mental Health

Packet: Bransford. Reconciling Paternalism

Packet: Tervalon & Murray-Garcia. Cultural humility
4/11

Class Plan to be Announced

Video-taped role-play sessions will be scheduled throughout day and week

[Process recording #3 due for field]

Turner: Ch. 9

SWDR: #25: Crisis Intervention,

Packet: Dillon. When the work doesn’t work

Packet: Gerdes: Importance of empathy
Revisit: Packet: Loeb. *We don’t have to be saints.*
Integration of Learning across the Spectrum of Social Work Practice & Looking to the Future

Packet: Hare. Defining social work for the 21st century.

Course Instructor survey completed in class.

Packet: Weick. Hidden voices

In-class review of Macro Projects from field

Private Troubles/Macro Issues Application due

Last day to turn in “Social Justice Through the Lens of Art”
Last class meeting at Barbara Anderson’s home

[Journal project will be presented for completion of field Practicum]

Students turn in field portfolios
Bibliography Readings for Practice II, Spring 2011


Loeb, P. (1999). We don’t have to be saints. In *Soul of a Citizen* (pp. 34-57). New York: St. Martin’s.


