Angelo State University
Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work
SWK 4309: Social Work and Health Care

Course Dates, Time, and Location

Summer II Semester, 2017:
July 10, 2017 to August 9, 2017
Online: Blackboard
Section: D 010

Instructor Contact Information

Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Social Work Program Director
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E-Mail: tstarkey@angelo.edu

Office Hours: I am available by appointment via Collaborate and by email.

Course Description

Provides knowledge and skills necessary for generalist social work practice in a hospital and other health care settings with people from diverse backgrounds. Topics include an introduction to evidence-based practice in health care environments, medical terminology, and biopsychosocial factors relating to physical illness and disease. Promotes the application of social work values, ethics, and standards in physical health care. Prerequisite: SWK 2307 and SWK 2317.

Course Introduction

The course will focus on increasing the student’s conceptual and skill level to become an effective generalist social work practitioner in a health care setting. The content areas covered will include use of different assessment tools, treatment planning and clinical intervention models, impact of acute/chronic illness on patients, social work role and contributions in a hospital setting, treatment of special populations and their unique issues, grief and loss dynamics, discharge planning, managed care, legal and ethical issues, interdisciplinary team work,

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)
organizational changes in health care settings and health care policy. This course heavily focuses on critical thinking skills, the evaluation of one’s own values in light of the social work profession’s values, and the expression of one’s own ideas and thoughts in a non prejudicial manner. This course will address health care as it relates to individuals, couples, families, and small groups (i.e., direct practice on the micro and mezzo level). Special attention will be paid to diversity in healthcare and its impacts upon clients.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies: Social Work Knowledge, Values, and Skills

EP 2.1.1 -- Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.

Students will continue to develop their knowledge of professional social work and what it means to be a professional social worker in relationship to social work roles, functions, ethical standards, professional demeanor, the importance of life-long learning, the use of supervision and consultation, self-correction, and professional development. Students will gain knowledge of the professional values of the social work profession and gain skill using social work values and ethics to guide professional activities. Students will build upon their existing skills necessary to identify as professional social workers and conduct themselves accordingly in their behavior, appearance, and communication (written and oral).

EP 2.1.2 -- Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.

Student will build upon their existing knowledge of the NASW Code of Ethics (and other appropriate social work codes of ethics) and their importance in social work practice. Students will recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice. Students will begin to learn the skills of applying their professional values to generalist social work practice.

EP 2.1.3 -- Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.

Students will gain knowledge of what critical thinking is and how it can be applied. Students will learn the value of critical thinking as it relates to scientific inquiry, reasoned discernment, and its importance to competent social work practice. Students will practice their critical thinking skills in written class assignments and discussion.

EP 2.1.5 -- Advance human rights and social and economic justice.

Students will build knowledge of the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. Students will apply social work values to advocacy in efforts to promote social and economic justice. Students will learn skills to engage in generalist social work practice that advances social and economic justice.

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EP 2.1.6 -- Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Student will gain knowledge of the social work literature (i.e., research) that can be used to inform generalist social work practice. Students will learn skills applying practice experience in scientific inquiry. Students will incorporate social work values and ethics in their discussion of research.

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

Social workers will gain the knowledge necessary to incorporate human behavior in the social environment across the lifespan to generalist social work practice. Student will learn the skills necessary to apply biological, psychological, and social theories to generalist social work practice. Students will learn the importance of employing social work ethics and the profession’s core values to guide their application of human behavior in the social environment to generalist social work practice.

EP 2.1.8 -- Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.

Student will build upon their knowledge of social welfare policy and practice in generalist social work. Students learn skills to advocate for policies that advance the social and economic well-being of all people. Students will learn to use social work values to guide their application of policies to generalist social work practice.

EP 2.1.9 -- Respond to contexts that shape practice.

Students will gain knowledge of the dynamic nature of social work practice including evolving organizational, community, and social context in which generalist practice occurs. Students will learn to apply social work values in responding to the evolving context that shape generalist social work practice. Students will learn skills to artfully employ evidence-based practice strategies in evolving and dynamic contexts where generalist social work practice may occur.

EP 2.1.10 -- Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Students will gain the knowledge necessary to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, and groups. Students will apply professional values to generalist practice activities (i.e., engagement, assessment, intervention with, and evaluation of individuals, families, and groups). Students will discuss and learn skills necessary to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate individuals, families, groups, and health care organizations.

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Required Texts:


*NOTE: All assignments submitted in this course are to be written in strict accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.).*

Grading Information

*Grading Scale:*

- 90 – 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- 59 or Below = F

*Point Values and Description for Assignments and Examinations:*

Professional Performance 10%

This is relevant to Discussion Board posting (quality, feedback, completion, professionalism in DB content, etc…) and completion of assignments in a timely manner.

Paper 25%

Each student will write a term paper over a topic of their choosing, but please clear topic with instructor prior to beginning the paper. The paper shall be no shorter than five pages (5); including one page for cover page and another for reference. The body of the paper must be at least three (3) pages. You must have at least five (5) peer reviewed journal articles. An outline of the content will be provided at a later date in Blackboard.

Group Discussion Board 25%

There will be a total of 15 weekly Group Discussion Board assignments throughout the semester. These Discussion Boards are designed to facilitate reading of the assigned material each and week, and facilitate preparation for class examinations. You will be assigned groups and post as a group the response to the weekly DB question(s), but you will respond individually to one other group response.

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Examinations

There will be four (4) online, open book, multiple attempt (no more than three attempts), timed, examinations in this course. Each of these examinations is worth 10% of your total course grade. You will take each of these examinations via Blackboard using the Respondus LockDown browser.

Course Policies

• Please do ask questions that are relevant to the course and feel free to utilize my office hours. I am here to help you and I want you to succeed.

• Classroom attendance and participation is necessary and expected. Students are responsible for understanding Angelo State University’s Class Attendance Regulations, which is available on the web at: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/2010-2011_Undergraduate_Catalog.pdf

• All students are expected to follow the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

• Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf

• Make-up examinations will be considered on a case by case basis and will only be allowed for university approved absences.

• Late assignments are not accepted for any reason unless the reason is approved by the course instructor.

• Electronic devices, including cell phones, Blackberries, laptops, and so forth, are not to be turned on or used in class. If the use of these devices is detected by the course instructor, the particular student using the device will be asked to leave the class for that day.

Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Additional information can be found at: http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/disability.html

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## Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td><strong>Course Orientation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7/10-7/14</td>
<td>Reading Chapters 2, 3, 5 and 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lecture Topic: Social Work Roles and Health-Care Settings, Ethics and Social Work in Health Care,</td>
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<td>Health Policy and Social Work and Theories of Health Behavior</td>
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<td>Discussion Board: Chapter 2, 3, 5 and 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exam 1: Chapters 2, 3, 5 &amp; 6</strong></td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Reading Chapter 8, 10, 14 and 15</td>
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<td>7/17-7/21</td>
<td>Lecture Topic: Physical and Mental Health, Communication in Health Care, Human Sexual Health and</td>
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<td>Social Work With Children &amp; Adolescents With Medical Conditions</td>
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<td>Discussion Board: Chapter 8, 10, 14 and 15</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exam 2: Chapters 8, 10, 14, &amp; 15</strong></td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Reading Chapter 16, 17, 18 and 19</td>
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<td>7/24-7/28</td>
<td>Lecture Topic: Social Work With Older Adult in Health-Care Settings, Substance Use Problems in</td>
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<td>Health Social Work Practice, Nephrology Social Work and Oncology Social Work</td>
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<td>Discussion Board: Chapter 16, 17, 18 and 19</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 3: Chapters 16, 17, 18, &amp; 19</strong></td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Reading Chapter 20 and 23</td>
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<td>7/31-8/4</td>
<td>Lecture Topic: Adherence and Mental Health Issues in Chronic Disease and End of Life Care</td>
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<td>Discussion Board: Chapter 20 and 23</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Discussion Board: Wrap Up</td>
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<td>8/7-8/9</td>
<td><strong>Paper due on 8/7 by 12 pm (noon).</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Exam 4: Chapters 20 &amp; 23 on 8/9</strong></td>
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