



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

Course Dates, Time, and Location

Fall Semester, 2011: August 22, 2011 to December 9, 2011
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm
Academic Building, Room 213

Instructor Contact Information

Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW
Assistant Professor
Academic Building, Office 104F
Office Phone: 325-942-2068, ext. 241
E-Mail: tstarkey@angelo.edu

Office Hours: MTWRF 8:00 am - 10:00 am

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, 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

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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.

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.

Required Texts:

Gehlert, S. & Browne, T. A. (Eds.) (2006). *Handbook of health social work*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-471-71431-6

Borst, J. M. (2010). *Social Work and health care: Policy, practice, and professionalism*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-826-15405-7

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5

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 attendance and engaging in class activities, including frequency and quality.

- PB1 Advocate for client access to the services of social work.
- PB2 Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- PB3 Attend to professional roles and boundaries.
- PB4 Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.
- PB7 Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.
- PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.

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Presentations

25%

Each student will present an oral presentation the last week of the semester. The content will cover a health care related topic of the student's choosing. Students are encouraged to get approval from the instructor prior to presenting topic. The presentation shall be no shorter than ten (10) minutes and no longer than fifteen (15) minutes. Students will submit an outline to the instructor before presenting. Students will include a power point in their presentation. Areas to be address include, but are not limited to: micro, mezzo, and macro practice; policy; the ecological perspective; diversity; and ethics.

- PB21 Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry.
- PB22 Use research evidence to inform practice.
- PB24 Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment.
- PB25 Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being.
- PB26 Collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action.
- PB27 Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.
- PB28 Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services.

Weekly Quizzes

25%

There will be a total of 13 weekly quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes are designed to facilitate reading of the assigned material each and week, and facilitate preparation for class discussion. I will drop the three (3) lowest quiz grades and record the 10 highest, for a total of 25% of your total course grade.

- PB5 Engage in career-long learning.
- PB6 Use supervision and consultation.
- PB8 Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles.
- PB9 Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts.
- PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB12 Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.
- PB18 Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.
- PB20 Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.
- PB22 Use research evidence to inform practice.
- PB23 Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, and evaluation.
- PB24 Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment.

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- PB29 Substantively and affectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- PB30 Use empathy and other interpersonal skills.
- PB31 Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes.
- PB32 Collect, organize, and interpret client data.
- PB33 Assess client strengths and limitations.
- PB34 Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives.
- PB35 Select appropriate intervention strategies.
- PB36 Initiate actions to achieve organizational goals.
- PB37 Implement prevention interventions that enhance client capacities.
- PB38 Help clients resolve problems.
- PB39 Negotiate, mediate, and advocate for clients.
- PB40 Facilitate transitions and endings.
- PB41 Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions.

Examinations

40%

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.

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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

Week/Dates	Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments
Week 1 8/22-8/26	<p>Course Orientation</p> <p>Reading Chapter 1 (Borst)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: The Development of Health Care Policy</p>
Week 2 8/29-9/2	<p>Reading Chapter 2 (Borst)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Health Policy and Social Injustice</p> <p>Quiz 1: Chapter 3 (Borst)</p>
Week 3 9/5-9/9 9/5 is Labor Day	<p>Reading Chapter 3 (Borst)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Health Care Insurance</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Blue Cross Blue Shield</p> <p>Quiz 2: Chapter 4 (Borst)</p>
Week 4 9/12-9/16	<p>Reading Chapter 4 (Borst)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Health Care-A Field of Practice</p> <p>Quiz 3: Chapter 2 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Exam 1: Chapters 1-4 (Borst)</p>
Week 5 9/19-9/23	<p>Reading Chapter 2 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Work Roles and Health-Care Settings</p> <p>Quiz 4: Chapter 3 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
Week 6 9/26-9/30	<p>Reading Chapter 3 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Ethics and Social Work in Health Care</p> <p>Quiz 5: Chapter 7 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
Week 7 10/3-10/7	<p>Reading Chapter 7 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Theories of Health Behavior</p> <p>Quiz 6: Chapter 8 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
	<i>Course Schedule Continued on the Next Page</i>

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<p>Week 8 10/10-10/14</p>	<p>Reading Chapter 8 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Physical and Mental Health-Interactions, Assessment, and Intervention</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Shannon Medical Center</p> <p>Quiz 7: Chapter 9 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Exam 2: Chapters 2, 3, 7, &8 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
<p>Week 9 10/17-10/21</p>	<p>Reading Chapter 9 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Communication in Health Care</p> <p>Quiz 8: Chapter 15 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
<p>Week 10 10/24-10/28</p>	<p>Reading Chapter 15 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Work Practice and Disability Issues</p> <p>Quiz 9: Chapter 18 & 12 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
<p>Week 11 10/31-11/4</p>	<p>Reading Chapter 18 & 12 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Work and Chronic Disease-Diabetes, Heart Disease, and HIV/AIDS; Human Sexuality and Physical Intimacy</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Home Health</p> <p>Quiz 10: Chapter 13 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
<p>Week 12 11/7-11/11</p>	<p>Reading Chapter 13 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Substance Abuse Problems in Health Social Work Practice</p> <p>Guest Speaker: River Crest Hospital</p> <p>Quiz 11: Chapter 14 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Exam 3: Chapters 9,12,15, & 18 (Gehlert & Browne)</p>
<p>Week 13 11/14-11/18</p>	<p>Reading Chapter 14 (Gehlert & Browne)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Work with Older Adults in Health-Care Settings</p> <p>Quiz 13: Chapter 14 & 20(Gehlert & Browne)</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Course Schedule Continued on the Next Page</i></p>

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Week 14 11/21-11/25	Reading Chapter 20 (Gehlert & Browne)
11/24-11/25 is Thanksgiving	Lecture Topic: End of Life Issues Class Presentations
Week 15 11/28-12/2	Class Presentations
Week 16 12/5-12/9	Exam 4: Chapters 13,14, & 20 (Gehlert & Browne)