

**WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  

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**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**SW 3010 PRACTICE METHODS I (4 credit hours)**

**I. COURSE DOMAIN AND BOUNDARIES**

This is the first in a sequence of four courses, (SW3010, 3020, 4010, and 4020), designed to develop the practice knowledge and skills necessary for BSW students to begin professional social work practice. The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of Generalist Practice. This course will introduce students to the value, philosophy and knowledge base considerations of social work practice.

Generalist social work practice is presented within a pluralistic eclectic framework as an orderly process of planned change with various client systems and the application of ethical and technical practice principles. Students are encouraged to explore the professional "use of self" by employing self correction to assure continued professional development as well as a means to better understand personal impact on delivery of client services.

Students will be assisted in the beginning development of such skills as: self awareness, personal values, communication, observation, building a professional helping relationship, identification of ethical conflicts and the ability to use ethical decision making.

Specific emphasis will be given in this first methods course to the integration of material from the student's knowledge of human behavior, social policy, research, student's life experience, and professional skill laboratory experiences. Particular attention is given to preparation for understanding and relating to persons of diverse backgrounds including oppressed groups, populations-at risk and racial or ethnic minorities.

<b>COMPETENCIES</b>
1-Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly 2-Apply social work principles to guide professional practice 3-Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments 4-Engage diversity and difference in practice



**Benchmarks:**

- A. Students will employ values clarification as a process regarding use of self in their professional role.
- B. Students will review issues of marginalized populations
- C. Students will interview a BSW Agency Social Worker

D. Students will write a paper of personal ethical dilemmas and value orientation

## II. Learning Outcomes:

**By the end of this course the student will be able to:**

- Describe the unique roles and services that social workers provide (Competency 1-D)
- Identify opportunities and implement strategies to advocate for clients (Competency 1-A)
- Employ values clarification as a process regarding use of self in their profession (Competency 2-B)
- Demonstrate attendance to professional roles and boundaries (Competency 1-C)
- Differentiate between personal and professional standards in the professional role with clients (Competency 1-C)
- Employ ethical standards in their professional role with clients (Competency 2-B)
- Demonstrate integrity, honesty and an ability to communicate the principles of the profession (Competency 2-B)
- Recognize personal values assumptions and biases and not impose those views on clients (Competency 1-B)
- Articulate the ethical principles of the NASW Code of Ethics (Competency 2-B)
- Recognize Competing ethics and utilize decision making steps to address ethical dilemmas (Competency 2-D)
- Employ effective oral and written language skills in their professional communications (Competency 3-C)
- Recognize at a beginning level the impact of diversity on human relationships (Competency 4-A)
- Take into account human diversity in all phases of social work practice with special attention to at-risk populations (Competency 3-B)
- Be responsive to personal feelings, behavior and thoughts and understand how these can impact professional action which may contribute to social and economic justice (Competency 1-B)
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination impact individuals, groups, families organizations and communities (Competency 4-A)

## III. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Through written assignments, quizzes, small group projects, and class participation, the student will be expected to meet the learning outcomes outlined in II above.

## IV. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS

- 15% Agency visit and interview of **BSW** practitioner, e.g., case manager, supervisor, or administrator
- 10% In class exam (s)

- 20% Process recording analyzing practice process that has been demonstrated vignettes, videos, role plays or other illustrations.
- 20% Paper illustrating the interrelationship of the three levels of practice
- 20% Values paper
- 5% Service Learning Project
- 10% Ethics Assignment

**V. GRADING POLICY**

Students may pass the course with a grade of **D** but must maintain a **C (2.0)** average during the junior and senior years. (See Undergraduate Bulletin, Wayne State University p.471.)

Grade distribution range

100-95 A	94-90 A-	89-85 B	84-80 B-
79-75 C+	74-70 C	69-65 D+	64-60 D

**VI. Role of the Student and Instructor**

See University Statement of Obligation of Students and Faculty Members of the teaching-learning process.

**VII. TEXTS AND REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Kirst-Ashman, Karen & Hull, Grafton H. (2009). *Understanding generalist practice (5<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Chicago, IL: Nelson Hall.

Hepworth, Dean H., Rooney, Ronald H., & Larson, JoAnn (2010). *Direct social work practice theory and skills (8<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Pacific Grove, California: Brooks/Cole.

Payne, Malcolm (2005). *Modern social work theory (7<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Chicago, IL.: Lyceum Books. Chapter 7 "Systems theory and ecological perspective".

**Recommended text**

Benjamin, A. (2001). *The helping interview (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Boston: Houghton M.

**VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE**

This is a three credit course composed of lecture/discussion/and practice. Two thirds of which the focus will be on practice knowledge and one third of the course sessions are a laboratory in which skill development will be practiced. A service learning project will be initiated in this course. Students are required to participate in this activity. The focus of the course is on gaining insight into entry level generalist social work practice and socialization of the student to the