

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK
SWK 21103

SPRING, 2008



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University of Rio Grande
Social Work Program
Spring Semester-2008

SWK 21103 Introduction to Social Work
M-W-F, Wood Hall 104
10:30-11:20am
Office hours- M-W-F---- 9:30-10:30
 Tu 1:30-4:00
 Others by appt.

Instructor: B. J. Boley, Ph.D.
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Telephone: 245-7280

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I. Course Content: A survey course to orient the student to the field of social work. Introduces an understanding of people as individuals, as members of groups, and members of communities. Generic roles emphasizing change and responsibility are explored and identified. Major topics include: history of social work, professional value assumptions, nature of social work relationship, and social work settings.

II. Course Procedure: Using multiple methods, the course employs a textbook of primary sources which provides the outline for course content. Lecture-discussions include various themes and issues introduced in the assigned readings, provides knowledge from work experiences, and seeks to establish continuity from session to session. Students are expected to be active learning partners by completing each session's primary readings, related assignments, and participating in class discussion and in-class activities. Films and other media will enhance our collective effort to understand the social work profession, social work values and ethics, diversity of clients, and the role of the social worker. Regular attendance, completion of all assignments when due, and active class participation is expected of each student and will make a better quality learning experience for all.

III. Learning Objectives: Objectives for the Introduction to Social Work curricula are designed to enable the student to:

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| VE | 1. develop an understanding of the basic social work theories, values and ethics, practice roles and functions, and the settings in which they take place |
| DV | 2. develop an understanding, affirmation, and respect for people from diverse backgrounds |
| SW | 3. become cognizant of the major events in the history and continuing development of our social work profession |
| SW | 4. begin to appreciate the efficacy of institutional social welfare |
| SW | 5. develop an understanding of the social welfare perspective on critical issues in social life, including homelessness, racism, sexism, poverty, homosexuality, disability (mental and physical), unemployment, and others |
| PR | 6. develop beginning skills in the art of interviewing and counseling as a basis for Methods I, II, and III to build on and develop practice skills. |
| PJ | 7. develop an understanding of populations-at-risk and contributing factors |
| PJ | 8. develop a beginning understanding of social and economic justice |

IV. Evaluation

- A. Two quizzes and two exams
- B. A 4-8 page paper based on a personal interview with a qualified social worker (i.e. Bachelor's or Master's of Social Work). See interview outline in this syllabus and use cover page outline included in this syllabus.
- C. Scholastic achievement (i.e. 2 assigned self-assessment papers). See guidelines in syllabus and use

the cover page outline in this syllabus.

- D. Weekly out-of-class chapter assignments-See semester outline in this syllabus. Assignments need to be e mailed as an attachment by the next day after they are due if you are unable to attend class.
- E. Regular attendance and active class participation (Each student has much to offer to others). See Professionalism, Classroom Etiquette, and Participation Rubric attached to this syllabus.
- F. Conformity with the University of Rio Grande policies on academic honesty.
- G. Late work will receive a points deduction at the discretion of the professor.

V. Basis for Grading

<u>Learning Products</u>	<u>Ave. Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
1. Two quizzes	100 pts each	200pts
2. Interview paper	100 pts	100pts
3. Scholastic papers(2)	100pts	200pts
4. Exam I	100pts	100pts
5. Exam II	100pts	100pts
6. Out-of-class assignments	100pts	100pts
7. Profess., classroom etiq., part. rubric	100pts	200pts
	TOTAL PTS.	1,000

Grading Scale

A= 900-1000

B= 800-899

C= 700-799

D= 600-699

F= 0- 599

VI. Required Textbook:

Kirst-Ashman, K.K., (2007). Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare, 2nd. ed, CA: Brooks/Cole. We will also use the companion student workbook for weekly assignments.

VII. Instructor Availability:

It is important to me and to the profession that you be able to assess the “fit” between you and the field of social work. I am happy to meet with you and I am available in my office (WH 251-see posted hours), by phone-245-7280, and email-bboley@rio.edu. Office appointments may be made upon request at hours other than those posted.

Please note that the social work program has a secretary available for you to leave messages. Call extension 7470.

ADA STATEMENT: If a student wishes to be identified as having a physical, mental, or learning disability that may require accommodation, he/she must register with the Office of Accessibility, located in the Department of health Services, prior to the end of the first week of classes for each semester. These registered students must identify themselves to their instructors and provide them with a copy of a letter from the Accessibility Office that identifies appropriate accommodations at the first class meeting no later than the end of the first week of classes for each semester.