SOCIAL WORK 531: FOUNDATION FIELD SEMINAR
WINTER 2004, Section 005

Oliva Alban Kuster
Office: 1726 SSWB
Phone: (734) 647-2009
Email: oakuster@umich.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Shelley Wagner Chamberlain
Office: 1728 SSWB
Phone: (734) 647-2543
Email: swchambe@umich.edu
Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. by appointment

**Course Description:**

Students are expected to attend this course that meets bi-weekly for two hours. This course is concurrent with first term field placement and is designed to help students understand, discuss and learn to apply social work knowledge, skills, values, and ethics in practice. This course will provide the students a safe, non-threatening environment to facilitate learning, be challenged to think, act and look both inside yourself and outside the complexities of the social work profession at the same time. This course is the beginning of building your personal and professional career in social work.

**Course Objectives:**

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

1. Understand the responsibilities of everyone in the field instruction process.
2. Complete an Educational Plan with your supervisor.
3. Demonstrate a pro-active approach to supervision and learning.
5. Assess and evaluate the relationship between placement agency and the community it serves.
6. Complete all forms and professional recording required in one’s field placement.
7. Recognize, assess and act upon cultural diversity issues that may arise in placement.
8. Consider the value of joining professional associations.
9. Begin to apply and integrate foundation course material to one’s field experience.

**Relationship of the Course to Four Curricular Themes:**

*Multiculturalism and Diversity* issues will be part of the field instruction experience, and the field seminar will offer a context for the further discussion of these issues. In particular,
discussion will focus on demographic barriers between students, supervisors, other agency personnel, and agency clients and how to work with these differences.

*Social Justice and Social Change* issues will be addressed by helping students to critically assess agency policy manuals and procedures and the impact of social forces on the setting and its clients. The field seminar will offer a forum for the discussion of these issues and related ethical dilemmas.

*Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation* approaches will be addressed within the context of the field assignments and through supervision in the field. The field seminar will offer opportunities to discuss and compare alternative strategies.

*Behavioral and Social Science Research* will provide the knowledge base and theory for the application of interventions and analytic methods being employed in the field.

**Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values:**

Social work ethics and values will be addressed within the seminar as they pertain to the delivery of services and the formulation of agency policies and procedures. The NASW Code of Ethics will be used to inform students about the social worker’s conduct and comportment as a social worker and the social worker’s ethical responsibility to clients, colleagues, employers, employing organizations, and society. In particular, the seminar will focus on client issues such as the primacy of clients’ interests, rights and prerogatives of clients, confidentiality, and privacy. Students will also be given an opportunity to discuss ethical and value dilemmas they are experiencing in their field placements.

**Seminar Objective:**

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

1. Develop a clear understanding of the different roles and responsibilities in the field instruction process (students, agency, field instructors/supervisors, field liaisons, field educators).
2. Understand how to complete a professional plan and a written education contract and evaluation with their supervisors/field instructors.
3. Demonstrate an understanding on how to be proactive in supervision as part of professional responsibility and learning.
4. Engage in ongoing assessment of agency performance and complete the requisite evaluations for the field.
5. Understand the mission, philosophy, programs and services of the agency in relation to its community and its client population.
6. Complete all required agency forms and recording procedures as appropriate to field assignments.
7. Develop an understanding on the impact of multiculturalism and diversity in the field setting.
8. Understand the application of the basic principles in social work practice.
9. Develop clear understanding on the integration and applications of foundation course material with field experience.
Relationship of the Course to the Four Curriculum Themes (page 74)

Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values

Social Work ethics and values will be addressed within the seminar as they pertain to the delivery of services and the formulation of agency policies and procedures.

Expectations:

1. Attendance to all classes is mandatory. All classes will start 10 minutes past 5pm so please be on time. (If you are unable to attend one of the sessions, you will need to meet with at least one of the instructors to discuss consequences of your absence.
2. Participation in class discussion and respect towards others by allowing them the chance to speak up and participate.
3. Completion of written assignments each week through process/narrative recordings and journals. Assignments will demonstrate social work skills, values and ethics, including but not limited to confidentiality, respect and professionalism.
4. Cooperation to create a positive learning environment where conflict can be managed, emotional risk taken and positive learning outcomes realized.

Assignments and Grades:

1. This seminar will be graded on a pass/fail basis (S,M,U). Grades will be based on the above expectations.
2. All required recordings are due at the beginning of each class. For the last session, an assessment of your personal and professional growth will be expected.
3. Written comments and feedback related to the recordings will be provided and returned at the beginning of each class.

Seminar Outline:

All the topics listed below will be covered during the course of the seminar. The order may be changed or be expanded as the class needs dictate.

January 13 Introduction, review and discussion of the course. Review of the first week. Review placement verification form, educational agreement. Discuss roles and responsibilities in field placement (the agency, student, field supervisor, field liaison and field educators). Assignment: name, track concentration, courses taken, past and present.

January 27 (only one hour session) Review of placement. Discuss process/narrative recording and how to do the assignment. Discuss professionalism and what do we mean by the use of self.
Feb. 10  Review of placement. Discussion based on the process recording. Identify social work principles and skills needed in social work practice. Discussion: effective use of skills in field placement.

March 2  Review of placement. Discussion on the understanding and integration of the mission, philosophy, programs, and services of the agency in relation to their community and client population. Ongoing discussions about field. Assignment: process/narrative recording.

March 16 Discussion regarding ongoing issues in field. Time and stress management, conflict resolution, problem solving and learning styles.


April 13 Self-Evaluation, Wrap up and moving forward.

**Seminar Resources:**

There are no required readings for this class. Text will be available in the library for supplementary reading:
