Social Work 531: Foundation Field Seminar  
Winter 2005  
School of Social Work Building Room 2752  
Section 002 Monday 5-7  

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**Seminar Description**  
This one credit seminar occurs concurrently with the Foundation term of field placement and meets for two hours bi-weekly. It is designed to provide support and information to students as they begin to develop the skills of the social work profession. This seminar will explore how to use this experience as a beginning step in building social work skills and provide a safe environment for students to process their field experiences. Students will also have the opportunity to consult with their peer group as part of the problem solving process.

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

1. Understand their responsibilities and the responsibilities of other key people in the fieldwork program (i.e., field educator, field instructor/supervisor, and faculty liaison and faculty advisor).

2. Complete a written educational agreement with their field supervisor.

3. Demonstrate the proactive nature of using supervision (e.g., coming prepared to supervisory sessions: bring questions to supervisors regarding practice issues: sharing strengths and weakness regarding their performance in the field placement; actively raising problems and issues of concern and/or clarification with supervisors).

4. Demonstrate an understanding of basic problem solving technique and how to apply to field situations.
5. Engage in ongoing assessment of their performance and complete the requisite evaluations for the field.

6. Assess the relationship between their field setting and oppressed clients in the agency’s service area and explore the reciprocal interactions between the agency and its community.

7. Complete all required agency forms and recording procedures as appropriate to their field assignments.

8. Recognize and assess the impact of multiculturalism and diversity in their fields setting.

9. Begin to apply and integrate foundation course material with their field experience.

Relationship of the Course to Four Curricular themes:

- Multiculturalism and Diversity issues will be part of the field instruction experience. The field seminar will offer a context for the discussion of these issues.

- Social Justice and Social Change. Social workers strive to promote optimal learning opportunist of all client populations that we serve. The role of social worker as a change agent will be reviewed and discussed in the seminar. The field seminar will offer a forum for the discussion of these issues and related ethical dilemmas.

- Promotion, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation-System wide prevention programs will be reviewed and discussed.

- Behavioral and Social Science Research will provide the knowledge based 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 of the formation of agency policies and procedures. Thee NASW Code of Ethics will be used to inform student the social worker’s conduct and comportment as social worker and the social worker’s ethical responsibility to the community, colleagues, employer and society.
**Seminar Expectations**

1. Attend all class sessions. If you expect to miss a session, prior notice is necessary so that alternate arrangements can be made.
2. Be on Time.
3. Complete all assignments on time.
4. Be open to personal and professional growth.
5. Work together to create a learning environment where conflict can be managed, emotional risks taken, and positive learning outcomes realized.
6. Take responsibility to turn criticism into constructive opportunities for change.

**Seminar Design**
While the general design combines focused conversation and open-ended discussions about field placement issues, student input is critical to how particular class sessions will be structured. The seminar will be structured to include material presented on select topics, input from students pertaining to their field experience, and discussion of specific cases and problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session/ Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1- Jan 10</td>
<td>Introductions, expectations, guidelines, understanding roles, getting started in field and agency orientation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2- Jan 24</td>
<td>Educational Agreement and Evaluation, goal setting, getting what you need from field.</td>
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<td>Session 3- Feb 7</td>
<td>Supervision, learning styles, communication.</td>
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<td>Session 4- Feb 21</td>
<td>Professional development and growth. Integrate personal reactions to field and course work.</td>
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<td>Session 5- March 8</td>
<td>Multiculturalism and diversity. Connecting with clients and the community</td>
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<td>Session 6- March 21</td>
<td>Values and Ethics</td>
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<td>Session 7- April 5</td>
<td>Evaluation and wrap-up</td>
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Seminar Resources

There are no required readings for this course. Texts will be available in the library for supplemental reading.


Assignments

There will be four written assignments as described below. Length should be 1-2 pages and assignments are due at the beginning of class.

1) Agency Orientation (see handout) -------Due Jan 24
2) Educational Agreement -first 2 pages-----Due Jan 24
3) Community Partner Interview- Interview a community member from the community surrounding your agency. What is this person's position? How well does this person know the community and the agency at which you work? How is your agency perceived by the community? Are you surprised by the answers you have received?--------Due Feb 21
4) Reflection- compare yourself at the beginning of the term to where you are now as a professional social worker. How do you use supervision? Are there any steps to take to make sure you will be able to integrate classroom material into your fieldwork? How have you increased your cultural competence or how do you plan to do so? -------Due March 21

Additional
At the end of each meeting, you will be asked to complete an evaluation of the session