S.W. 531 Foundation Field Seminar
Fall Term 2003

Amy Jo Herndon, MSW, CSW. ACSW
Office: 2712 SSWB
Email: ajherndon@umich.edu (best way to contact)
Work Phone: 734 936-4590 (U of M Medical Center Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday)
Home Phone: 734 665-0737
Office Hours: By appointment

Seminar Description
This one credit seminar will meet for two hours on a biweekly basis during the first semester of your field placement. It is designed to provide support and information relevant to beginning in the field. It will give students the opportunity to express concerns in a safe, nonthreatening atmosphere. Students will have the chance to share and discuss both pragmatic and procedural aspects of field instruction.

Seminar Objectives
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Understand the responsibilities of everyone in the field instruction process
- Complete an educational agreement with his/her field instructor
- Demonstrate a proactive approach to supervision and learning
- Engage in on-going assessment of one’s performance
- Understand the relationship between the agency and community
- Complete all required forms and recording for the agency
- Recognize and assess the impact of multiculturalism and diversity in the field setting
- Begin to apply and integrate foundation course material to field experience

Seminar Resources
There is no required reading for this class. Texts will be available in the library for supplementary reading.
Students’ experiences in the filed will offer valuable material for class discussion.

**Relationship of the Seminar to Four Curricular Themes**

*Multiculturalism and Diversity* issues are a part of field instruction and will be discuss in the seminar. The seminar will focus on field agencies commitment to these issues as related to clients, staff and community.  
*Social Justice and Social Change* issues will be addressed by students as they analyze agency policies, procedures, and legislation as it impacts populations served. Ethical dilemmas will be discussed.  
*Promotion, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation* approaches will be addressed by the seminar utilizing experiences brought to the seminar by students. Various approaches will be compared.  
*Behavioral and Social Science Research* provides the basis for interventions. The seminar will allow for the critical assessment and analysis of the application of research in the field.

**Expectations**

- Attend all classes  
- Be on time  
- Participate in classroom discussions  
- Complete all assignments  
- Contribute to supportive, caring, nonthreatening atmosphere in the class through verbal and nonverbal communication  
- Be open to feedback  
- Utilize feedback as an opportunity for personal and professional growth

**Assignments and Grades**

This seminar will be graded on a pass/fail basis (S, M, U). The grade will be based on attendance and participation in class. Attendance is mandatory. If there are extenuating circumstances and student cannot attend a class, the student must notify the instructor in advance of the class. Arrangements will be made to make up the class.

There are six reflection papers due throughout the seminar. They are due at the beginning of each class. Specific dates of the papers will be given at the first class
meeting. The field education agreement and evaluation are expected to be completed in a timely fashion.

To receive a S in the seminar the student is expected to satisfactorily complete five of the six reflection papers. Participate in classroom discussions.

**Seminar topics**

The topics listed below will be covered in the course of the seminar. The order by change or be expanded depending on the issues that students raise in class.

- September 8: Introduction to the seminar, each other and the field
- September 22: Educational Agreements, Goal Setting, Professionalism.
- October 6: Supervision, Conflict Resolution, Problem Solving.
- October 20: Assertiveness, time and stress management
- November 3: Community, diversity and multiculturalism in the field
- November 17: Values and Ethical Dilemmas, professional and personal compromises
- December 1: Evaluation and Wrap Up