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Course Description:

This is a one-credit seminar that meets biweekly for two hours. This seminar is concurrent with first term field placement and is designed to help students apply foundation knowledge of social work skills, values, and ethics. This seminar focuses on macro level practice and will provide students with an opportunity to review and problem solve pragmatic and procedural aspects of field instruction. This seminar also explores how to use the field placement experience in building a career as a social worker.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Understand their responsibilities and the responsibilities of the other major players in the field instruction process.
2. Complete an educational plan with their supervisor.
3. Demonstrate a proactive approach to supervision and learning.
5. Understand the relationship between the agency and the community and the impact on the agency’s role in social change.
6. Complete required forms and recording protocols
7. Recognize and assess the impact of multiculturalism and diversity in the field setting.
8. Consider the value of joining professional associations.
9. Apply and integrate foundation course material with the 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. In particular, discussion will focus on demographic barriers between students, supervisors, other agency personnel, and community, and how to work with these differences.

- **Social Justice and Social Change** issues will be addressed by helping students critically assess agency policy manuals and procedures and the impact of social forces on the agency and the community. 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 formation of agency policies and procedures. The NASW Code of Ethics will be used to inform students about the social worker’s conduct and ethical responsibilities to community, colleague, employers and society.

Seminar Resources:

The following texts will be available in the library for supplementary reading:


Topics from the Field Instruction Manual will also be used for discussion. Students’ experience in the file will offer the primary resource for class discussion.

Assignments and Grades:
This seminar will be graded on a pass/fail basis. The grade will be based on:

- Attendance
- Class participation
- Successful completion of all assignments

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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Educational Agreement (progress/status report)</td>
<td>9/23/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Agency Description with an analysis of your tasks and how they relate to the agency mission.</td>
<td>10/7</td>
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<td>3. Analysis of the role of the agency within the community, as a change agent</td>
<td>11/4</td>
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<td>4. Career Portfolio</td>
<td>12/2</td>
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Further direction for all assignments will be provided in class.

**Seminar Topics**

- **September 9**: Introduction to the course and to each other. Understanding patterns of communication in the agency. Understanding the student's responsibility to the agency and the agency responsibility to the student.
- **September 23**: Educational agreements, goal setting, getting what you need from your placement, understanding your relationship to your profession, your placement and the school.
- **October 7**: Supervision, conflict resolution, problem solving and learning styles.
- **October 21**: Understanding community, connections, resources, in relation to public policy.
- **November 11**: Diversity and multiculturalism
- **November 18**: Values and ethical dilemmas
- **December 2**: Evaluation and next steps.