Course Description:

Students are expected to attend this course which 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.

Seminar Objectives:

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 instructor/supervisors, field liaisons, and field educators).
2. Understand how to complete a professional plan and a written educational 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 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 Curricular Themes (page 75)

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. Attendances to all classes are mandatory. All classes will start 10 minutes past 5 PM 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 grade on a pass/fail basis (S, M, and 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 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.
September 14  Introduction, review and discussion of the course. Review of the first week. Review placement verification form, and educational agreement. Discuss roles and responsibilities (the agency, student field supervisor, field liaison and field educators).

  28  Review of placement. Discuss how to do the assignments. Discuss professionalism and what do we mean by the use of self.

October 12  Review of placement. Discussion based on the recording. Identify social work skills needed in social work practice. Discussion: effective use of skills in placement.

  26  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.

November 9  Discussion regarding ongoing issues in the field. Time and stress management, conflict resolution, problem solving and learning styles.

  23  Diversity and Multiculturalism. Values and Ethical Issues in the social work profession and in field placements.

December 7  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.
