COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course teaches practice models and multi-level methods of intervention for effective social work practice in health care, including treatment, rehabilitation, continuing care, and discharge planning. Examples of topics covered include crisis intervention, intervention in major catastrophic or chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and depression; promotion of optimal adaptation to chronic illness through interpersonal, organizational, and environmental interventions; self-help and mutual aid, rehabilitation and continuing care, supporting caregivers, and integrative and complementary interventions. Selected issues and methods in supervision and management are addressed, such as individual, peer, and workgroup models of supervision and the impact of evolving organizational structure and management models on practice. Culturally competent and gender-specific interventions are a major emphasis of the course, as are special issues for the poor and other groups who have been subject to oppression and discrimination.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will provide students with models and methods for the provision of comprehensive and effective treatment when illness occurs, and for promotion of rehabilitation and optimal adaptation to chronic illness. Assessment and intervention strategies for use in health care social work practice at the individual, family, group, and organizational levels will be addressed. Students will learn how to plan, develop, and implement appropriate research-supported interventions based on assessment and goal-setting, and will learn to use selected supervisory and managerial strategies. A major focus of the course will be gender-specific and culturally competent interventions with and for groups who have been subject to discrimination, such as people of color, all women, lesbian/gay/bi/transgender people, the aged, and people with disabilities.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Conduct psychosocial risk/strengths assessments of individuals, families, and groups along a continuum of care.

2. Plan and implement culturally competent, gender-specific individual, family, group, and organizational interventions for treatment and rehabilitation or continuing care, including self-help and mutual aid, support for caregivers, and brief interventions.

3. Practice effectively as a professional social worker in health organizations:
   a) Participate as an interdisciplinary team member, engage in case advocacy and coordination, and engage in case-conferencing and collaboration.
   b) Assess, implement, and maintain cultural competence in health care settings.

4. Apply knowledge of selected managerial practices to issues of supervision, staff development, and administration in health care social work practice.

5. Incorporate social work values and ethical principles in planning, developing, and implementing health care social work interventions.

COURSE DESIGN

The course will include lectures, discussion, small group exercise, individual and group projects and written assignments, and guest speakers.

Course Expectations and Grading Practices:

Grades for SW 720 will be based on four components:

- Two papers each worth 35% of your grade
- Four critical thinking response assignments (averaging 1 page) each worth 5%, totaling 20% of your grade
  - (All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced and turned in at the beginning of class on the assigned date).
- Attendance and active participation in discussions, group exercises role-plays etc. will account for the final 10% of your grade.
  - (More than 1 absence without medical documentation will result in a lower percentage counted toward participation).
All written assignments will be graded and returned to you within three weeks. I will be available prior to class each week, as well as, can be contacted via email to set up a time to meet, if needed. If you need to contact me outside of class, please do so by email: sschmall@umich.edu

RELATIONSHIP TO FOUR CURRICULAR THEMES

- **Multiculturalism and Social Diversity** is addressed throughout the course and is highlighted in content related to culturally competent and gender-specific interventions and organizations.

- **Social Justice and Social Change** is addressed in content on advocacy, self-help, and mutual aid and application of social work values and ethics as approaches to overcoming the effects of poverty, oppression, discrimination, and other barriers to equity, access and quality of care.

- **Behavioral and Social Science Research** is presented throughout the course and includes findings from evaluation and intervention research in social work, medicine, nursing, public health, and health services research as well as health psychology, medical sociology, medical anthropology, health economics, and political science.

- **Promotion/Prevention/Treatment/Rehabilitation** is addressed throughout the course in content on methods and models of intervention for treatment and rehabilitation in major catastrophic or chronic diseases, and promotion of optimal adaptation to chronic illness and through examination of promotion and prevention can be integrated into traditional services of treatment and rehabilitation.


**Required Readings:** Unless otherwise informed, the articles selected for this course have been placed on the SSW’s library electronic reserve page for your convenience. Please see social.work.library@umich.edu additional articles and handouts not on reserve may be distributed in class as needed. If you are unable to attend class it is your responsibility to secure distributed articles from a peer.
September 10: Course Overview and Expectations
Inequalities in Health Care and the Implications for the Future


Assignment: Cultural Self-Assessment Questionnaire
Articles will be distributed from the National Multicultural Institute.

September 17: Cultural Competency in Health Care: An Interactive Workshop.
Assignment Due: Cultural Self-Assessment
Assignment: Outline provided regarding paper: Creating Culturally Responsive Health Care Services due 10/16.


September 24: Examine the Changing Role of Social Work in Health Care


**October 1: Assessment, Intervention and Treatment Strategies in Primary Care**


**October 8: Crisis Intervention in the Emergency Department**


**October 15: Working With Patients and Families Following Catastrophic Injuries**


October 22:  *Managing Chronic Illness: Individual, Family and Group Interventions*  

**Assignment Due:** Paper: *Creating Culturally Responsive Health Care Services*


October 29:  *Practice Issues in Gerontology*  


Nov. 5: Counseling People with HIV Disease

Assignment: AIDS Case Study


November 12: Working with the Terminally Ill and Developing Organizational Responses for Staff Support

Assignment Due: Aids Case Study

Assignment: Reflecting on Personal Reactions To Loss and Death


November 19: *Addressing Ethical Dilemmas in End of Life Care*

*Assignment Due: Reflecting on Personal Reactions To Loss and Death*


* Readings will be distributed for next week’s dialogue.

**November 26: No Class/ Thanksgiving**

December 3: *Methods in Supervision*

*Assignment Due: Examining End of Life Care: An Organizational and Policy Perspective.*

*Assignment: Core Values and Leadership Exercise Distributed*

December 10: *Social Work Administration and Leadership Health Care: A Summary Assignment Due: Core Values and Leadership Exercise*
