

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK
SWK 2000**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Date Revised: Fall 02

This course is intended for transfer.

Catalog Course Description:

Emergence of the social work profession; professional mission, knowledge, skills and values, practice settings, client groups, helping services, career patterns, practice methods. Designed to assist students to consider their ability for a career in social work.

Entry Level Standards:

Must be able to read and write at the college level.

Prerequisites:

None

Corequisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:

Required Texts:

Morales, Armando & Bradford, Sheafor. *Social Work: A Profession of Many Faces*, latest edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. Inc.

Supplemental readings/speakers and articles will be assigned throughout the semester as well as videos related to various topics of interest.

Recommended Texts:

Grobman, L. *Days in the Lives of Social Workers*, 2nd edition. Harrisburg, PA: White Hat Communications.

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. latest edition. Washington, DC.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Course Introduction: Review syllabus Course requirements Social Work Degree Program:

Mission
Objectives
Curriculum area
Progression policies
Student organizations
Portfolio

2 **Organization of the Social Work Profession:**

Degrees available
Other professional social work organizations

The Nature of Social Work:

Definition
Emergence of the profession
Historical review
Relationship with social welfare
Liberalism vs. conservatism

3 **Profession of Social Work:**

Mission
Knowledge, skills and values
Use of self
Code of ethics

Social Work Values and Ethics:

Competencies
Value conflicts

4 **Baccalaureate Generalist Practice:**

Foundation of social work practice
Person-in-environment approach
Generalist as compared to a specialist
Problem-solving approach
Strengths based practice
Career options

Practice Settings and Client Groups:

Non-profit
For-profit
Public
Voluntary
Non-voluntary

5 **Fields of Practice:**

Child welfare
Mental health
Public welfare
Medical
Schools
Aging

- Others
- 6 **Urban Social Work Practice:**
Client groups
Major characteristics that influence practice
Case studies
Rural Social Work Practice:
Client groups
Major characteristics that influence practice
Case studies
- 7 **Introduction to Special Populations:**
Ecosystems model
Societal induced stressors affecting special populations
Individuals living in poverty
- 8 **Practice with Special Populations:**
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people
Women
Elderly
- 9 **Practice with Special Populations (cont.):**
Children at risk
Persons with mental illness
- 10 **Practice with Special Populations (cont.):**
Persons with disabilities
ADA
Racial and ethnic minorities within special populations
- 11 **Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity:**
Demographics
Trends
Prejudice and discrimination
Inequality and Oppression:
Racism
- 12 **Strategies for Advancing Social and Economic Justice:**
Macro strategies
Micro strategies
The Role of Prevention:
Cost effectiveness
Gordon's Model vs. Public Health Model
- 13 **Working in Organizations:**
Agency-based practice
Public and private agencies
Host organizations
Professionals within a bureaucracy

- Record keeping
 - Working with other professionals
 - Continuing education
- 14 **Realities of Practice:**
- Changing needs
 - Scarce resources
 - Case management
 - Organizational dilemmas
 - Resistance
 - Prejudice and discrimination
 - Challenges to the profession
- 15 **Future of Social Work:**
- New roles
 - Evidence-based practice
 - Continuing education
- 16 Final Exam Period

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Understand and analyze the knowledge base, skills and values of the dominant profession within the social welfare institution, with a special focus on the mission and concern for social and economic justice. I.5, IV
- B. Understand and analyze the evolution of the social work profession and its relationship with the social welfare institution. I.5, IV
- C. Understand and analyze the interaction between the person in all of his/her diversity and environmental situations as the focus of professional practice. I.5, IV
- D. Understand and analyze a solution-seeking or generalist approach to social work practice and the competencies to utilize this problem-solving approach. I.5, III.2, IV
- E. Understand and analyze the realities of social work generalist practice in both urban and rural areas. I.5, IV
- F. Understand and analyze social environment and its impact on the opportunity structure for minority groups, toward an understanding of human diversity. I.5, IV
- G. Understand and analyze the professional literature and professional organizations as resources for continued professional growth and support. I.5, II, IV

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the university parallel program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

- 1. Use teamwork to accomplish in class group activities utilizing knowledge of course concepts. *Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*

2. Complete a project (oral presentation, media report, application paper, or vision volunteer), demonstrating their ability to apply course content . *Communication Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome, Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Strategy*
3. Use the World Wide Web and Pellissippi State library resources to access information for media reports, application papers, and oral presentations. *Information Literacy Outcome, Technological Literacy Outcome*
4. Practice elements of the work ethic such as professionalism, preparedness, punctuality, honesty, cooperation, dependability, contribution, effectiveness, and good manners. *Personal Development Outcome*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State' s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify various fields of practice within the social work profession. A, B, G
2. Discuss basic knowledge, skills and values for entry-level social work practice. A
3. Discuss the emergence and relationship of the profession of social work within the context of the social welfare institution. A, B
4. Describe the competencies which are expected of the entry-level social worker. D
5. Identify and demonstrate basic practice skills of problem-solving and interpersonal communication. D
6. Identify some of the major problems addressed in rural and urban areas and the special populations assisted by baccalaureate social workers. E
7. Discuss social work practice within a problem-solving perspective that incorporates a variety of helping roles, and is rooted in system theory. D
8. Discuss the meaning of human diversity, blaming the victim, creaming the poor, and dual perspective and how these concepts influence practice. F
9. Discuss the rewards and challenges of the social work profession. G
10. Articulate the reasons for further pursuance of a B.S.S.W or for switching into another area of interest. G

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 50% of grade

There will be two examinations given:

Midterm	25%
Final Exam	25%

No make-up examinations will be given. Under extremely extenuating circumstances, resulting in an excused absence, a separate comprehensive final will be given.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

N/A

C. Field Work: 25% of grade

Volunteer hours and volunteer presentation: 25%

Experience as a vision volunteer (25 hours required); Must include:

--NASW definition of social work and how is applicable/or not applicable to your volunteer placement

--Agency name and purpose

--Information about client population(s) served; voluntary vs. involuntary; how does this impact service/outcome?

--Hiring requirements for social workers. BSW or MSW or both?

--Interview with a Social Worker - at least 1 page

---Summary of your learning experience.- describe a typical day, a not-so-typical day and your thoughts and feelings associated with each, e.g. How did this day affect you personally, professionally?

--Did this experience influence your decision regarding a possible social work career? How so? Please review positives as well as any negative experiences, including personal thoughts and feelings related to your volunteer experience.

--A one-page handout for class discussion

D. Other Evaluation Methods: 25% of grade

Class attendance and group presentations: 25 %

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, and to prepare by completing the assigned readings. Approximately 1/2 of class time will include lectures and discussion to clarify and supplement text. The remaining class time will include video tapes, role-play, small group discussion/presentations, and speakers.

E. Grading Scale:

A 92-100

B+ 99-91

B 82-88

C+ 79-81

C 72-78

D 65-71

F Below 65

VI. Policies:

Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course.

