

Three Rivers Community College
Work with Individuals and Families
Spring 2012 – HSE K251
Course Meeting Times: Monday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Denise DeBrady Cardoza

Email: dcardoza@trcc.commnet.edu
Office Hours: Monday 4:30 -6:00

Phone: 860-334-9481
Office Number/Location: D209

“The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty”.

NASW Code of Ethics

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an introduction to methods and skills leading to beginning competence in the social work process of helping individuals and families. The skills include: assessment, planning, contracting, intervention, interviewing and evaluation.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

- Students will demonstrate understanding and knowledge of social work values, principles, concepts, theories, professional ethics and best practice methods;
- Students will recognize the historical perspective of the system and view the system as a dynamic function of society;
- Students will determine their learning styles and the implications of this style regarding their success as a college student;
- Students will discuss issues related to cultural diversity, prejudice, ethics and professionalism of common human needs;
- Students will conduct a field observation and communicate with case management professionals;
- Students will deliver an oral presentation on their field work experience;
- Students will research current events related to the social work system, prepare reports on such. And discuss views that may contradict their own, understand that objectivity, critical thinking, openness to new ideas, and opinions are critical to the success of the social work system.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Rothman and Sager, 1998. *Case Management: Integrated Individual and Community Practice*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN 0205265685.

Towle, Charlotte. 1945. *Common Human Needs*. Silver Springs: National Association of Social Workers. ISBN 0871011549.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

There are five types of assignments used throughout this course. Below, you will find the grading scale and percentages.

Grading/Evaluation

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Current Event Articles	10%
Agency Interview Presentation	15%
Population Report	15%
Take Home Quizzes (3 total – 15% Each)	45%
Attendance/Class Participation /Class Assignments	<u>15%</u>
Total Points	100

Letter Equivalent

A	94-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	C	74-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-73
B	83-86	D+	67-69
B-	80-82	D	64-66
		F	0-63

Assignments: Student achievement of the knowledge and skill objectives is assessed via examinations and/or policy analysis. In addition, students will be asked to demonstrate their ability to advocate for policy change by engaging in some form of political advocacy. All assignments that are turned in late will be dropped one letter grade if arrangements were not made in advance.

Agency Interview: Each student is to interview a case management/social work professional, currently working in a social service setting in the community. Develop your own set of questions. Questions should be designed to elicit information and details about the use of and the overall effectiveness of case management with a specific population group.

Presentations: Students will give a presentation of their field interview and population paper to the class. Presentations should agency interview questions and answers, history of population, current research and should last 15 to 20 minutes.

Population Paper: Submit a 10-12 page paper on the use of case management with a specific population group (elderly, children and families, mentally challenged, etc) including a detailed discussion on current research studies and findings on the effectiveness of case management. Each paper must have an outline, introduction, body, summary and bibliography with at least 10 references. References should be properly cited in the body of the paper using APA format. The Writing Center is available for students needing assistance with this or any college composition assignment.

Current Event Articles: Each student will bring in two newspaper/magazine articles relating to a current social work event. For each article the student will write out a brief summary of the article, an explanation of what the student learned from the article, and how the subject of the article is related to the course. All articles will be shown in class and will be part of the class discussion. The writing assignment is to be typed using APA format.

(3) Quizzes: There are three scheduled TAKE HOME quizzes. The quizzes are primarily to show the student's understanding of readings and materials taught in class. Quizzes consist of multiple choice

questions, essays and case presentations. Missed quizzes cannot be made up, except under exceptional circumstances.

COURSE OUTLINE

January 23 rd – Week 1	Class Introduction/Syllabus
January 30 th – Week 2	Text Readings: Rothman Chapters 1 Current Event Articles Due
February 6 th – Week 3	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 2, Towle Chapter 1
February 13 th – Week 4	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 3, Towle Chapter 2 Hand out Quiz 1
February 20 th	NO CLASS
February 27 th – Week 5	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 4 Quiz 1 Due
March 5 th – Week 6	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 5, Towle Chapter 3
March 12 th - Week 7	Text Reading: Rothman Chapters 6 & 7 Hand out Quiz 2
March 19 th	NO CLASS (Spring Break)
March 26 th – Week 8	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 8, Towle Chapter 4 Quiz 2 Due
April 2 nd – Week 9	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 9, Towle Chapter 5
April 9 th – Week 10	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 10, Towle Chapter 6 Class Assignment Due
April 16 th – Week 11	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 11, Towle Chapter 7
April 23 rd – Week 12	Text Reading: Rothman Chapter 12 Population Report Due Hand out Quiz 3
April 30 th - Week 13	Agency Interview Presentations
May 7 th – Week 14	Agency Interview Presentations Quiz 3 Due
May 14 th	MAKE-UP CLASS (IF NEEDED)

Assignments

Due dates are included in the syllabus and are not generally flexible. Late papers will *not* usually be accepted. If you are experiencing a personal situation of some kind that impacts your work in this class, please speak to me privately *before* the fact. All late assignments will be marked down five points for every day it is late.

College Withdrawal Policy

A verbal “drop or withdrawal” from course(s) cannot be accepted by the instructor. Students must complete the required form and file it with the Registrar’s Office. Students may drop or withdraw from a course up to the 12th week of the semester; the exact ending date for the drop period is listed in the academic calendar.

Instructor’s Attendance Policy

I will be conducting a formal “roll call” for the first couple of weeks of classes. After that, I will simply make note of those students who are missing on any given day. Because many of the ideas for out-of-class writings and in class assignments will be discussed in detail during class, it is to your advantage to attend regularly. One or two missed classes will not result in any kind of grading penalty, but excessive absences (more than three) will most likely impact your work negatively.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person’s words or ideas in your writing. Conscious plagiarism is an unacceptable academic behavior. ***Any instance of conscious plagiarism will result in a “zero” for that assignment. More than one instance will result in an “F” grade for the course.*** Plagiarism by omission or “unconscious” plagiarism will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Cellular Phones etc.

Students are notified that cellular phones and other electronic devices are allowed in class only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

Early Warning Policy

Students experiencing academic difficulty and/or chronic absenteeism will be notified of their class standing.

Disabilities Statement

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 892-5751. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Revisions to Syllabus

The information contained in the syllabus is subject to revision at my discretion. I will inform the class of any changes that are made. If you miss a class, check with a classmate upon your return to verify that you have the most up-to-date information.

Please remember that it is your responsibility, not mine, to keep up with assigned readings and paper due dates as outlined by the syllabus. Contact me if you miss a class to get any handouts from the session you did not attend. If a class is cancelled for some reason, expect to do the work and turn in any papers