

## **FALL 2009-COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### ***SW 401(Sections A and B): Social Policy and Services-2 semesters needed***

This two-semester course is an introduction to social welfare policy, and to the historical and contemporary forces that have shaped its evolution. The first semester focuses on the history of social welfare in the United States. Basic conceptual tools for analysis of social policy are introduced with a focus on the relationship of social policy to social work. The second semester of the course builds on learning from the first, using analytic tools developed in the previous semester to focus on social welfare policies as they affect current social work practice and society. Student task forces are organized to analyze social issues and society's response to them. In both semesters special emphasis is placed on understanding issues of poverty, racism, and other forms of oppression, and on understanding their relationship to social welfare policy.

### ***SW 401 (Section B): Social Policy and Services (Spring 2009)***

#### **Prerequisites: 401A**

***YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THE SAME SECTION THAT YOU ATTENDED IN THE FALL IN THE SPRING SEMESTER! STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SWITCH SECTIONS IN THE SECOND SEMESTER.***

The second semester of this course builds on learning from the first, using analytic tools developed in the previous semester to focus on social welfare policies as they affect current social work practice and society. Student task forces are organized to analyze social issues and society's response to them. In both semesters special emphasis is placed on understanding issues of poverty, racism, and other forms of oppression, and on understanding their relationship to social welfare policy.

### ***SW408 Oral Presentation Skills***

#### **Prerequisites: Urban Leadership students only**

Social Workers often need skills in public speaking to effectively perform their roles. In case presentations, board meetings, legislative hearings, and team meetings, social workers must communicate their ideas in a clear and succinct manner. This course addresses the basics of public speaking, types of speeches, and helps prepare students for presentations that are either prepared or spontaneous.

*Instructor: Alexis Chen Johnson, Presentation Skills Specialist, So to Speak Consulting.*

### ***SW 409 Realities of Racism and Oppression in Today's World***

As an introduction to this intensive examination of the dynamic of various forms of oppression, an "Oppression Matrix" is used to analyze racism from individual, institutional, and cultural perspectives. The words racism and oppression in the course title are deliberate, used to focus on a continual visual stigma, that of color, and the ongoing complex dialogue about race in current society. The course, in exploring whether the cost/impact of white racism to all individuals, whether white or persons of color, will examine various forms of racism/oppression to stimulate critical thinking and provide a framework for confronting racism and oppression more resourcefully on personal and professional levels. Practice issues are examined in relation to multi-level interventions.

### ***SW 411(Sections A fall and B spring) Human Behavior in the Social Environment -2 semesters needed***

Theoretical perspectives inevitably inform social work practice. This two-semester course helps the students learn and critically engage with formal theoretical approaches to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Students learn the language and logic of selected developmental, systemic-ecological, and political approaches to human behavior. HBSE

I focuses on ecological and environmental shaping of behavior, HBSE II on development through the life cycle. Personal strengths, societal inequities, and the rich diversity of human experience are emphasized.

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***SW 414 Assessment and Diagnosis***

**Prerequisites: HBSE (411 A & B), Year 1 Field (446), Social Work Practice (421 A & B )**

Experienced clinicians teach this course on current systems for diagnosis and assessment in mental health. The course addresses the interrelations among biological, psychological, and socio-cultural systems. Students are challenged to learn diagnostic assessment in a way consistent with a multicultural and strengths perspective.

***SW 421(Sections A and B) Social Work Practice-2 semesters needed***

**Prerequisite: concurrent Field (446)**

This two-semester course exposes students to selected practice theories for social workers. Students are introduced to the general processes that are common to every client system level: preparation and engagement, differential use of self, assessment, contracting, intervention planning, intervention evaluation, and termination of services. Considered over two semesters is work with individuals, families, groups and, more briefly, organizations and communities. The broad range of settings, problems, and roles of the practitioner are addressed. A special concern is the impact of diversity and oppression for client and worker. Actual practice dilemmas are examined through case discussions, videotapes, role play, and other exercises.

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***SW 424 Advanced Clinical Practice***

**Prerequisites: HBSE (411 A & B), Year 1 Field (446), Social Work Practice (421 A & B ) concurrent Field (447)**

The intent of these one-semester sections is to deepen and broaden the students' understanding of the clinical process. Assessment and intervention planning are emphasized. Multiple theoretical perspectives are incorporated with particular attention to ecological, psychodynamic, systemic, and constructivist perspectives.

***SW 441 Social Work Research***

In this introductory course, students examine the research process as it applies to the specialized interests and needs of social work. Illustrations are chosen from the studies of social work practice. The course is designed to enable students to be critical consumers of research, to understand the principles and process of research and the evaluation of practice, to become familiar with ethical considerations when designing and implementing a project, and to be capable of participating in practice related research.

***SW 446 (sec 01 for 24 hours & 02 for 16 hours) Field Education Year 1: Foundation***

**Prerequisite: Concurrent with Social Work Practice (421A) and Social Work with Groups (577)**

Students in the field must always be concurrently in a class which addresses practice issues and is taught by a social work professor. \*Note: Section 01 is for students doing a 24 hour per week or regular field placement and section 02 is for students doing a 16 hour per week field

placement. The field department must approve all 16 hour placements prior to a student registering

***SW 447(sec 01 for 24 hours & 02 for 16 hours) Field Education Year 2: Concentration***

**Prerequisites: Social Work Practice (421 A & B), Human Behavior (411 A & B), Field Education (446), concurrent Advanced Clinical Practice (424)**

Students in the field must always be concurrently in a class which addresses practice issues and is taught by a social work professor.

***SW 463 Advocacy and Social Action with Disability and Chronic Illness***

**Prerequisite: Social Policy (401 A & B)**

The course focuses on issues and interventions regarding disability and chronic illness that affect adults and children physically, cognitively, and/or emotionally. Students gain understanding of historical and current day experiences of that population from the perspectives of their oppression and their response to oppression through rights and self-advocacy movements. Philosophical and practical frameworks studied include civil rights, inclusion, interdependence, and universal design in the built and social environments. Techniques are discussed for actions as advocates and allies with individuals, as social activists in coalitions, and as policy change agents.

***This course meets the requirement for a social action elective.***

***SW 474 Conversational Spanish for Social Workers***

Taught by language instructors from the Berlitz Language Center, these courses give students the opportunity to develop conversational Spanish skills. There are twelve levels of proficiency in the Berlitz system ranging from beginning Spanish to fluent. Social work-specific vocabulary is introduced at Levels 3 and 4, enabling students to learn useful vocabulary and phrases for their work.

***SW 475 Narrative Approaches***

**Prerequisite: Field (1 sem 446) and Social Work Practice (421-A)**

This course explores newer systematic approaches to work with groups, families, and individuals. Narrative/constructivist approaches that are often applicable to short-term work are examined. Students will also consider what it means to think of treatment as involving the co-construction of new narratives. The course incorporates experiential learning and makes use of student case material. ***This course meets the requirement for a clinical practice elective.***

***SW 482 Domestic Violence and Family Welfare***

**Prerequisite: HBSE (411 A & B)**

This course is concerned with intimate partner violence with particular attention to the meaning of such violence in and for families. We will look at this subject both as social work practitioners and as people with an academic or research interest. Students will learn about current criminal justice, child protective, and health system responses to domestic violence, and will practice interviewing skills. We will also consider some of the important controversies in the field. Each student will select, study, and write about a particular topic or area.

***SW 483 Cognitive-Behavioral Approaches and Treatment***

**Prerequisite: Field (1 sem 446) and Social Work Practice (421 A)**

The object of this course is to provide a working knowledge of the basic principles and specific techniques of a contemporary multi-modal approach to cognitive-behavioral therapy with consideration of its integration with other therapeutic approaches.

Treatment models are presented issues including: substance abuse, anger, interpersonal relationships, stress, anxiety disorders, depression, personality disorders with an emphasis on borderline personality disorder and issues of affect regulation. *This course meets the requirement for a clinical practice elective.*

***SW487-Legal & Ethical Issues in Clinical Social Work Practice***

Introduces students to more systematic ways of thinking about ethical dilemmas and issues at the clinical/legal interface. The instructor, both clinical social worker and lawyer, will introduce the Socratic method and also incorporate issues of particular interest to class participants. Some issues might include confidentiality, informed consent, duty to warn, risk assessment, right to treat, and right to refuse treatment.

***SW 494 Multiple Faces of Trauma***

**Prerequisite: Field (446) HBSE (411 A & B), and Social Work Practice (421 A)**

The focus of this elective is understanding trauma: theoretically and clinically. It considers trauma in various contexts and in relation to various vulnerable populations: people at war, women, residents of violence-torn communities. Recently traumatized individuals are considered as well as those affected by earlier trauma. Students explore some of the theoretical and clinical controversies in the field and are asked to apply their learning to case situations.

*This course meets the requirement for a clinical practice elective.*

***SW 509 Evaluation in Social Work Practice (You must register for the semester you are assigned, see attached list)***

**Prerequisite: Research (441), concurrent Field (447)**

This course prepares students in basic principles of practice and program evaluation and their application to social work practice in agency settings. Using their agency settings as laboratories, students learn the major approaches to evaluation (needs assessment, process, and outcome) with attention to the struggles, tensions, and ambiguities related to current evaluation models and agency demands for evaluation.

***SW 523 Advocacy and Social Action for Professional Social Workers***

**Prerequisite: Social Policy (401 A & B)**

The focus of this course is to discuss relevant theories and strategies of social and political action that promote social justice within organizations and the larger community. In this course students will gain understanding of policy practice theory and skills in regard to social, economic, political, and organizational systems, and will use this knowledge to then influence, formulate, and advocate for policy changes to meet the needs of clients. They will develop the skills to create change at the client, agency, community, and/or societal level that is founded on the principles and ideals of social, distributive, political, and economic justice. Where advocacy assumes that people have rights, and those rights are enforceable, social action involves a coordinated and sustained effort to achieve institutional change to meet a need, solve a social problem, or correct an injustice to improve and/or enhance the quality of human life and individual well-being (Baker, et al.). This effort may occur at the initiative and direction of professional social workers, or it may occur through the efforts of individuals directly affected by the problem or policy change. Professional social workers must utilize their clinical skills, knowledge, and differential use of self to critically assess values and to evaluate needs and gaps in services for our constituents. *This course meets the requirement for a social action elective.*

***SW 538 Radical Social Action: Don't Mourn, Organize!***

**Prerequisite: Social Policy (401 A & B)**

The economic and social systems in this country are in crisis and social workers are frequently asked to continue to “do more” with less time and resources. This class will attempt to examine some of the root causes of the crisis and develop action plans which draw upon various models of empowerment theory and practice. Particular attention will be focused upon the Paulo Freire conceptual framework as it applies to organizing models in working class communities. Students will have the opportunity to meet experienced community organizers and learn about successful social justice campaigns here in Boston and in Latin America. Despite these desperate times, this class offers a vision of hope: Another World is Possible: Together We Can Make it Happen! This course meets the requirement for a social action elective.

*This course meets the requirement for a social action elective.*

#### ***SW 547 Field Education- One Year Placement Option***

##### **Requires Instructor permission**

Students in the field must always be concurrently in a class which addresses practice issues and is taught by a social work professor.

#### ***SW 554 Healthcare Policy & Advocacy in Social Action***

##### **Prerequisite: Social Policy (401 A & B)**

In this course students will gain understanding of health care policy and health care services in the U. S. The culture of illness and society’s response to health care needs of individuals will be examined. We will also examine historical and contemporary health policy, as well as social, economic, political, and cultural theories of health and illness, poverty and social justice related to affordability, availability and accessibility of health care services. Managed care models, health maintenance organizations, community health centers, and private practice in health care, financing health care through private and public funding streams (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, SCHIP, Employer provided, etc) will also be analyzed for their utility. This course will focus on theories and practice of advocacy and, social and political action that promote social justice within organizations, the larger community, and society. Students will apply the knowledge gained to formulate, influence, and advocate for policy changes in health care delivery at the organizational and/or state and federal level.

*This course meets the requirement for a social action elective.*

#### ***SW 569 Advanced Standing Seminar***

##### **Prerequisites: Concurrent 447**

#### ***SW 577: Social Work with Groups***

##### **Prerequisites: Concurrent with Field Education and Practice (446 Field Foundation Year) or Concentration Year Field (447) (596) or (547); and Social Work Practice (421 Foundation Year) or (SW 424 Concentration Year.)**

This course is an exploration of the ways in which groups can bring clients together to support, challenge, and create meaningful connections with each other. Through mutual aid, which privileges the group members’ voices and innate skills as the natural and most potent resource for support and change, group members can learn the skills that will enable them to improve the relationships in their lives, be more empowered as individuals and community members, and mobilize for social change. Students will concurrently build theoretical and skills-based knowledge and will practice and reflect on various techniques that will enable them to facilitate groups in a wide array of settings across client populations. Facilitation of a group in the field or regular access to observing a group in the field is required.

***SW 579-01 SW Practice with Adolescents***

**Prerequisites: HBSE (411 A & B), Year 1 Field (446), Social Work Practice (421 A & B)**

"This course will examine the major areas of adolescent development including interpersonal and contextual changes and behaviors. The course will focus on developmental issues faced by adolescents and topics will include identity development, risk-taking behavior, psychosocial adjustment, delinquency, substance use/abuse, depression and suicidality, psychological disorders, resilience and protective factors. Normal adolescent development "Attention will also be given to identifying and developing the skills necessary to engage youth and their families at various levels of practice by critically examining the influences of community, government, and society as well as the implications for prevention & intervention programs for adolescents."

***This course meets the requirement for a clinical practice elective.***

***SW 596 Field Education- Advanced Standing Students only- 5 credits***

Students in the field must always be concurrently in a class which addresses practice issues and is taught by a social work professor.