I. Catalogue Description
Develops advanced practice knowledge and skills related to practice issues common to social workers practicing in the areas of aging, health, and/or disability.

II. Course Overview
This is a required advanced practice course for students in the Aging, Health, and Disability concentration. Emphasis is placed on developing advanced knowledge and skills pertaining to issues common to social workers practicing in the areas of aging, health, and/or disability. This course is organized around the theme of community-based and institutionally-based long-term care, focusing on developing contemporary advanced practice skills related to consumer-directed care, care management or coordination, interdisciplinary teams, end-of-life care, and advocacy for consumers and families at organizational, community, and policy levels.

III. Course Competencies, Practice Behaviors, & Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies Addressed In Course</th>
<th>Advanced Practice Behaviors for Focus Area and Advanced Elective Courses</th>
<th>Assignments Measuring Behavior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. | • Evaluate ethical dilemmas related to problems and issues in the focus area.  
  
• Weigh values, principles of ethical decision-making, and the NASW code of ethics in order to address ethical dilemmas related to practice in the focus area. | Reaction Paper  
Long Term Care Agency/ Facility Interview Paper  
Reaction Paper  
Practice Issue Paper |
|---|---|---|
| 2.1.3 Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments. | • Identify and synthesize multiple sources of knowledge to understand policy and practice issues related to the focus area.  
  
• Utilize models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation that are appropriate to the focus area. | Reaction Papers  
LTC Agency/ Facility Interview Paper  
Practice Issue Paper  
Practice Issue Paper |
| 2.1.4 Engage diversity and difference in practice. | • Demonstrate an understanding of how culture and values affect diverse conceptualizations and constructions of social problems and solutions in the focus area.  
  
• Demonstrate knowledge and skills to practice without discrimination and with respect, towards people of diverse backgrounds. | Reaction Paper  
Practice Issue Paper  
Practice Issue Paper |
| 2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice. | • Appraise how mechanisms of oppression and discrimination impact various groups and outcomes relevant to the focus area. | Reaction Paper  
Practice Issue Paper |
|---|---|---|
| 2.1.6 Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research. | • Demonstrate ability to evaluate practice in the focus area.  
• Critically evaluate and utilize theoretical and empirical research relevant to the problems and/or populations addressed in the focus area. | Long Term Care Agency/ Facility Paper  
Practice Issue Paper  
Practice Issue Paper  
Practice Issue Paper |
| 2.1.7 Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment. | • Evaluate and apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment to choose methods of assessment, intervention, and evaluation most appropriate to the concentration problems/populations. | Practice Issue Paper |
| 2.1.10(a–d) Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. | • Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to determine a range of potentially effective and appropriate interventions to improve practice outcomes related to the focus area. | Practice Issue Paper |
IV. Course Content

Week One: Tuesday September 3
Topics: Introduction & Course Overview

Readings:
- Course Syllabus

Week 2: Tuesday September 10
Topics: Long Term Care (Part 1)

Required Readings:

Week 3: Tuesday September 17
Topics: Long Term Care (Part 2)

Required Readings:

Week 4: Tuesday September 24
Topics: Care/Case Management

REACTION PAPER #1 DUE

Required Readings:


**Week 5: Tuesday October 1**
Topics: Consumer-Directed Care

Approval for Facility Interview Assignment Must be turned in

**Required Readings:**

**Week 6: Tuesday October 8**
Topics: Brokering/ Physical and Developmental Disabilities

**Required Readings:**

**Week 7: Tuesday October 15**
Topics: Working in Interdisciplinary Teams

Approval for Practice Issues must be turned in

**Required Readings:**


**Week 8: Tuesday October 22**

**Topics: Home Care**

**Reaction Paper #2 Due**

**Required Readings:**


**Week 9: Tuesday October 29**

**Topics: Home Care**

**Required Readings:**


**Week 10: Tuesday November 5**

**Topics: Independent / Assisted Living**

**Required Readings:**


Week 11: Tuesday November 12  
Topics: Group Homes/Adult Foster Care/ Adult Family Homes  
Guest Speaker  
LTC Interview Paper Assignment DUE

Required Readings:

Week 12: Tuesday November 19  
Topics: Hospitals

Required Readings:

Week 13: Tuesday November 26  
Topics: Nursing Homes/Extended Care Facilities

Required Readings:

**Week 14: Tuesday December 3**  
Topics: Palliative Care Comfort Care End of Life Care with in long term care Environments  
Practice Issue Paper Due  
Required Readings:

**Week 15: Tuesday December 10**  
Topics: Hospice Care End of Life Care  
Required Readings:

**Week 16: Tuesday December 17**  
Topics: Final Quiz  
Required Readings:
None

V. Texts and Reading Materials for the Course
   • Articles will be available through Learn@MyUW

VI. Evaluation of Competencies and Practice Behaviors: Assignments, Grading and Methods

Grading Scale & Standards:

Students' final grade will be based on the following: There is a total of 100 points available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>What the point totals &amp; subsequent grade generally indicate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding, excellent work in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-93</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Outstanding, excellent work in many areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-87</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Meets expectations in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-81</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Meets expectations in most areas; below in others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-75</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Below expectations in most areas; not acceptable graduate work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below expectations in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;64</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Course failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points/Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Papers (2 @ 15 possible points per paper)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC Visit and Interview</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Issue Paper</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz- Last Day of Class</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment Instructions & Grading Rubrics:

1. Reaction Papers (30 Points)
   You are required to write two reaction papers based on two different sets of readings that you will choose from Weeks 2 through 8. You can earn up to 15 points for each paper.

   In these papers, you should formally synthesize and critically evaluate (not summarize) what you have read and respond by discussing the following:

   1. What important point(s) arise from this set of readings? How are these points similar and/or different?
   2. Can these important points be generalized to individuals of diverse backgrounds (with respect to gender, ethnicity, culture, spirituality or sexual orientation)? If so, how? If not, why not?
   3. What question(s) do you feel the readings should have addressed, but did not?
4. Overall, in what specific ways do you, not the author(s), feel the readings serve to inform social work practice or policy? Be specific.

5. What are the potential ethical issues that could arise for social workers?

These papers are to be not less than four and not more than five pages in length. Be sure you adhere to the Writing Assignment Policy below, as well as the "Reaction Paper Expectations" handout. Be mindful of the Reaction Paper Grading Rubric.

One reaction paper must be submitted by each of the dates below.

Each reaction paper must be turned in at the beginning of the class on the appropriate due dates.

   Sept 24th, Reaction paper written on a set of readings from Weeks 2–4
   Oct. 22nd, Reaction paper written on a set of readings from Weeks 5–8

   You are expected to interview the social worker of a long-term care agency or facility regarding the psychosocial and spiritual issues presented by agency clients or facility residents. Please choose a long-term care environment other than the one in which you are currently conducting your field placement or have worked prior to this course. The purpose of this interview is to gain an understanding of the role and contribution of social work practitioners within the long-term care environment, as well as the ethical and practice challenges they face and how they are addressed.

   In your interview, gather information on the following.
   1. Background information on the long-term care agency/facility
   2. The social worker perspectives on and experiences with:
      - The social worker’s current role in relation to clients and family members
      - Whether the social worker feels s/he should play a different role and, if so, what that role would be
      - The social worker’s role in assessing and evaluating the client and family member’s issues and needs
      - The role of culture and social justice in assessing, evaluating and meeting client and family member’s issues and needs
      - The social worker’s current role in relation to fellow team members
Practice and ethical challenges faced by the social worker in relation to working with clients and fellow team members

In not less than 5 pages and not more than 6, type the results of your interview including your own response to what you learned. Divide your paper into the following sections:

- **Background Information**
- **Social Worker’s Role—address each section as stated above**
- **Social Worker as Team Member**
- **Practice and Ethical Challenges, and Interviewer’s Response**

Be sure you adhere to the Writing Assignment Policy below. You must:

1) obtain approval regarding your choice of long-term care agency/facility no later than October 1st, and
2) turn your completed paper in at the beginning of class on November 12th.

3. **Practice Issue Paper (32 Points)**
   You are required to write an 8-page minimum to 10-page maximum paper on an issue pertinent to the practice of social work within a long-term care environment of your choice. This environment should be different from the one in which you are currently conducting your field placement, completed your social work interview, or have worked prior to this course.

In your paper, provide the following.
Do not rely on headings to be your transition from one paragraph to the next.

1) statistics on the issue,
2) information on why the issue is important (the “So What” question),
3) relevance to social work practice,
4) thesis statement taking a stand on the issue,
5) literature review on the issue, including theoretical frameworks when available, include a minimum of 3 (three) references.
6) information on the role of oppression, economic deprivation or discrimination,
7) potential ethical dilemmas,
8) recommendations for intervention within the realm of social work practice, and
9) proposed methods of evaluating intervention effectiveness.
You may **NOT** use articles or book chapters assigned to you for this course as reference materials for your paper, nor any newspaper or magazine articles. Your sources should be from journals and books (non-social work and social work). I prefer that you do not use websites; however, if you feel it is unavoidable, you will need to obtain my prior approval. You must use APA (See The Writing Center Website for current APA format) style for your paper formatting, citing & references. Be mindful of the Practice Issue Grading Rubric.

Finally, you must:

1) obtain approval regarding your choice of a practice issue no later than **October 15th.** and
2) turn your completed paper in at the beginning of class on **December 3rd.**

4. Last day of class. Information discussed in class will be the basis of the questions. A review will be provided. 6 (six) points can be earned.

5. Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 24th</td>
<td>Reaction Paper #1 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1st</td>
<td>Approval for Facility Interview Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15th</td>
<td>Approval for Practice Issue paper Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22nd</td>
<td>Reaction Paper #2 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12th</td>
<td>LTC Interview Paper Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3rd</td>
<td>Practice Issue Paper Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17th</td>
<td>Final Quiz</td>
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</table>
VII. Course Policies:

**Attendance:** In order for you and your fellow classmates to benefit from this course, attendance and active participation are expected. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Your participation will be noted. If you are unable to attend class, please email me prior to class so that you can receive an excused absence, you may receive two per semester.

**Class Participation:** Although class participation will not be formally graded or assigned a point value, class participation is essential. Class participation will include discussion of reading assignments and topics related to each class period. Class participation may include role play, short oral answers or other group activity. If a student is between two grades, class participation will be a factor in the final grade.

**Reading Assignments:** You are expected to have read all assigned material prior to the class date under which the readings are listed. Reading and critically evaluating what you have read is necessary so that you can learn, actively in class discussions and successfully complete assignments. Additional or alternate reading may be assigned, changes to the syllabus will be announced in class.

**Writing Assignments:** A printed copy of written assignment will be turned in at the beginning of the class on the date specified.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignment must be turned in electronically, as I am only on campus one day a week. Late assignments will be marked down three (3) points for each day they are late.

**Grade Dispute:** If you have an issue with a grade that you receive in this course, please document the reasons for your appeal in writing with specific attention to assignment as described above and the grading rubric, I will give your appeal my careful attention.

**Extra Paper option:** Written assignments cannot be resubmitted for a better grade. Should a student want to improve their grade, all students will have the option of submitting an extra paper one week prior to the end of the semester (December 10th). The student will identify which written assignment the extra paper is intended to replace. The student must have completed the original assignment in order to participate in the extra paper option. Extra papers must be approved by the instructor, please see me if you want to pursue this option.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you require accommodations to obtain equal access to this class or to any assignments that I may give, please contact me as soon as possible. I want all students to have an excellent learning experience.

**Use of References:** You may NOT use articles or book chapters assigned to you for this course as reference materials for your paper, nor any newspaper or magazine articles. Your sources
should be from journals and books (non-social work and social work). I prefer that you do not use websites; however, if you feel it is unavoidable, you will need to obtain my prior approval.

**Student Behavior:** In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. Each and every voice in the classroom is important and brings with it a wealth of experiences, values and beliefs. In this time we share together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates, and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Please respect your fellow students’ opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind. Remember to keep confidential all issues of a personal or professional nature discussed in class. Finally, please review the Students’ Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for the School and adhere to the behavioral expectations outlined in that document. (http://socwork.wisc.edu/files/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf).

**Electronics:** Electronics are not to be used in class. Notes can be taken with pen, pencil and paper. Cell phones are not to be used during class. In the event that a student chooses to use a cell phone in class, they will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. If, on the off chance, your loved ones are involved in a situation that could require your immediate attention, please see me before class starts.

**Communication with the Instructor:** Please contact me via email using the University of Wisconsin email system. I will respond to emails within 24 hours. Emails should be professional in nature, no abbreviated texting language or slang. Please feel free to see me during office hours before class or after class a needed.