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

II. Course Overview
This is a required advance practice course for students in the Health, Aging and Disability concentration. Emphasis is placed on developing advanced knowledge and skills pertaining to issues common to social workers practicing in the areas of health, aging and/or disability. This course is oriented to community-based and institutionally based long-term care with a focus on developing contemporary advanced practice skills as to consumer-directed care, care management, interdisciplinary collaboration, end-of-life care and advocacy for consumer, families and caregivers at organizational, community and policy levels.
## III. Course Competencies & Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies Addressed in Course</th>
<th>Advanced Practice Behaviors for Focus Area and Advanced Elective Course</th>
<th>Assignments Measuring Behavior</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 2.1.2 App 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  
  - 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.7 Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• Practice Issue Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.10(a–d) Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• Practice Issue Paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. Course content

Week 1: **Tuesday, September 2, 2014**  
Topic: Introductions  
- Course overview  
- Course Assignments  
- Class and Student Expectations

Week 2: **Tuesday, September 9, 2014**  
Topic: Long-term Care Part 1- Aging and Health  

Required Readings:  

Week 3: **Tuesday, September 16, 2014**  
Topic: Long-term Care Part 2- Younger clients/other populations  

Required Readings:  

Week 4: **Tuesday, September 23, 2014**  
Topic: Care/Case Management  
**REACTION PAPER #1 DUE**

Required Readings:  
Week 5: **Tuesday, September 30, 2014**  
**Topic:** Consumer-Directed Care  
**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF LTC FACILITY INTERVIEW ASSIGNMENT DUE**

**Required Readings:**

Week 6: **Tuesday, October 7, 2014**  
**Topic:** Brokering for people with Physical and Developmental Disabilities  
**Guest Speaker**

**Required Readings:**

Week 7: **Tuesday, October 14, 2014**  
**Topic:** Interdisciplinary Teams  
**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PRACTICE ISSUES PAPER DUE**

**Required Readings:**
Week 8: **Tuesday, October 21, 2014**
Topic: Home Care Part 1 - Agency Caregiving

**REACTION PAPER #2 DUE**

**Required Readings:**

Week 9: **Tuesday, October 28, 2014**
Topic: Home Care Part 2 - Family/informal Caregiving

**Required Readings:**
- TBD

Week 10: **Tuesday, November 4, 2014**
Topic: Independent and Assisted Living

**Required Readings:**
- TBD
Week 11: **Tuesday, November 11, 2014**
Topic: Group Homes/Adult Family Homes/Adult Foster Homes

**LTC FACILITY INTERVIEW ASSIGNMENT DUE**

**Required Readings:**
- Chaput, J.L. (2002). Adults with Down Syndrome and Alzheimer’s Disease: Comparison of services received in group homes and in special care units. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 38*(1.2), 197-211.

Week 12: **Tuesday, November 18, 2014**
Topic: Hospitals and Sub-acute facilities

**Required Readings:**

Week 13: **Tuesday, November 25, 2014**
Topic: Nursing Homes and Extended Care facilities

**Guest Speaker**

**Required Readings:**
Week 14: **Tuesday, December 2, 2014**  
Topic: Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care in LTC Environments

Required Readings:


Week 15: **Tuesday, December 9, 2014**  
Topic: Hospice Care/ End-of-life Care  
**PRACTICE ISSUE PAPER DUE**

Required Readings:

V. Texts and Required readings for SW 874
All course materials will be available at or through Learn@MyUW

VI. Evaluation of competencies and practice behaviors:
Assignments, grading and methods

Grading Scale and Standards
A total of 100 points are available. Students’ final grade will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>INDICATIONS</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

Reaction papers (2 @ 15 possible points per paper) 30 points
LTC Facility Visit and Interview paper 35 points
Practice Issue Paper 35 points

Assignment Instructions & Grading Rubrics

1. **Reaction Papers (2 @ 15 points each)**
You are required to write two (2) reaction papers based on two different sets of readings that you will choose from Week 2 thorough Week 8. You can earn up to 15 possible points per paper.

In each paper, you will formally synthesize and critically evaluate (not summarize) what you have read and discuss the following:
A. What important point(s) arise from this set of readings? How are these points similar or different?
B. Can these important points be generalized to individuals of diverse backgrounds with respect to gender, ethnicity, spirituality, sexual orientation, etc.? If so, how so? If not, why not?
C. What question(s) or professional concern(s) do you feel the readings should have addressed but did not?
D. Overall, what specific ways do you, NOT the author(s), feel the readings serve to inform social work practice?
E. What are the potential ethical issues that could arise for social workers from these readings?

Reaction papers are not to be less than four (4) pages and no more than five (5) pages in length. Please adhere to the Writing Assignment Policy attached to the syllabus.

Reaction papers are due by the start of class on their due date. One reaction paper must be submitted by the dates below:
- September 23, 2014 for set of readings for Weeks 2-4
- October 21, 2014 for set of readings for Weeks 5-8

2. **Long-term Care Agency/Facility Social Work interview & Paper (35 points)**
You are expected to meet with and interview the social worker of a LTC agency or facility regarding diverse issues presented by clients or residents. Please choose a LTC environment **other** than the one in which you are currently conducting your field placement. The purpose of this assignment is to gain an understanding of the roles and contributions of social workers within a LTC setting, as well as the ethical and practice challenges they face and how they are addressed.

In your interview, gather the following:
A. Background information on the LTC agency or facility
B. The social worker’s perspectives on:
   - The social worker’s current role in relation to clients/residents and family members/caregivers
   - Whether the social worker feels s/he should play a different role(s) and, if so, what that role(s) should be
   - The social worker’s role in assessing and evaluating the client/resident’s needs as well as those of the family and other caregivers
   - The social worker’s current role in relation to fellow team members
   - Any practice and ethical challenges faced by the social worker in relation to working with clients/residents, families and fellow team members
   - The role of culture, social justice and diversity in assessment, evaluation and meeting the client/resident/family’s needs

In not less than five (5) but not more than six (6) pages, present your findings under the following sections:
- Background information
- Social worker’s role- address each section above
- Social worker as team member
- Practice and ethical challenges
- Your response to what you have learned
Please adhere to the Writing Assignment Policy attached to the syllabus as well as the due dates outlined in the syllabus:

1. Obtain approval for your choice of LTC agency or facility by September 30, 2014 and
2. Turn in your completed paper by the beginning of class on November 11, 2014.

3. **Practice Issue Paper (35 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 in a LTC environment of your choice. This environment should be different that the one in which you are currently conducting your field placement.

In your paper, provide the following, not relying on headings to be your transition from one paragraph to the next:

A. Statistics on the issue
B. Information on why the issue is important
C. The issue's relevance to social work practice
D. Thesis statement that takes a stand on the issue
E. Literature review on the issue- include a minimum of three references and theoretical framework(s), should they apply
F. The role of oppression, injustice, economic deprivation, and discrimination
G. Possible or potential ethical dilemmas or challenges
H. Recommendations for intervention(s) from within the realm of social work
I. Proposed methods of evaluating intervention(s) effectiveness

You may not use magazine or newspaper articles as reference material for this paper. Your sources should be from journals and books (social work and non-social work). I prefer that you do not use websites and the information contained therein. Please adhere to the Writing Assignment Policy attached to the syllabus as well as APA format style for citing and references. Be mindful of the Practice Issue grading rubric as well as the due dates outlined in your syllabus:

1. Obtain approval for your choice of practice issue no later than October 14, 2014 and
2. Turn in your completed paper by the beginning of class on December 9, 2014.

4. **Important dates:**

- September 23, 2014 Reaction Paper #1 Due
- September, 30, 2014 Approval for LTC agency/facility Interview Due
- October 14, 2014 Approval for Practice Issue paper Due
- October 21, 2014 Reaction Paper Due
- November 11, 2014 LTC agency/facility Interview paper Due
- December 9, 2014 Practice Issue paper Due
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 each class and your participation 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 your class participation will not be formally graded or assigned a point value, it is essential. Class participation includes discussion of reading assignments and topics related to each class period, role-play, small group activities and critical thought and evaluation. If a student is between two grades, class participation will be a factor in the final grade.

**Communication:** Please contact me via email using the University of Wisconsin email system. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours unless otherwise noted. Emails should be professional in nature. Please do not use texting language or slang. Please feel free to speak with me during my office hour or shortly before or after class as needed. Please be aware that I work a full-time job during regular business hours and, due to the nature of my work, will not be available by email until after my workday.

**Grade Dispute:** If you have a dispute about your grade that you receive in this course, please document the reasons for your appeal, **in writing**, with specific attention to the assignment and the grading rubric. Limit your appeal to one page. I will consider your appeal carefully. Be aware that a new grade, if one is awarded, may be higher, the same or lower than the original.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will be marked down three (3) points for each day they are late. The Practice Issues paper cannot be late. If you think you may require an Incomplete for this course, please contact your advisor as soon as possible.

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

**Students with disabilities:** If you require accommodations to obtain equal access to this class, its content and assignments, please contact me as soon as possible. Your information will remain confidential unless you choose to share it with the group.
Student Behavior: In order to learn, we must be open to the views of others. Each and every voice in the classroom is important and valuable. Over the semester and during each class, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Respect your fellow students’ opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind, at any time. Please remember to keep confidential all shared information, personal or professional. Please review the Students’ Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for the School of Social Work document: 
(http://socwork.wisc.edu/files/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf)

Technology and Electronics: You may use technology to facilitate learning and note-taking. However, if your use disrupts the class at any time, you may be asked to either discontinue use immediately or leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. In case of emergencies or other situations that may require you to take a telephone call during class, please communicate with me about the situation as soon as possible or before class begins.

Writing Assignments: Your papers will be submitted via Learn@UW before 10:00am on the date they are due. If, for any reason, you are unable to submit your paper via Learn@UW, email the paper to me. Your paper should be in my Inbox by 10:00am on the date it is due.
SW 874 Reaction Paper Grading rubric

Student’s name: ________________________________

Critical evaluation of the material (2.5 pt) _____________

Depth of writing (2.5 pt) _____________

Use of correct grammar and spelling (2 pt) _____________

Important points arising from this reading (2 pt) _____________

Whether points can be generalized to diverse others (2 pt) _____________

Questions materials should have addressed (2 pt) _____________

Specific ways material informs SW practice/policy (2 pt) _____________

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 15

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED _____________

Revised 09/01/14
Student’s name: ____________________________________________

Background information (3 pt)  __________

Social worker’s role in client assessment & evaluation (5 pt)  __________

Social worker’s role in family/others assess, eval (5 pt)  __________

Social worker as team member (5 pt)  __________

Practice and ethical challenges (5 pt)  __________

The role of culture, social justice and diversity (5 pt)  __________

Lessons learned (4 pt)  __________

Grammar/Spelling/Style/Formatting (3 pt)  __________

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 35

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED  __________

Revised 09/01/14
SW 874 Practice Issue Paper Grading rubric

Student’s name: ________________________________________________________________

Statistics (2 pt)

Why Practice Issue is important (2 pt)

Issues relevance to SW practice (2 pt)

Thesis statement (4 pt)

Literature Review (7 pt)

Role of oppression, injustice, econ deprivation, discrimination (4 pt)

Ethical dilemmas/challenges (4 pt)

Intervention(s) from within the realm of SW (4 pt)

Methods of evaluating intervention(s) effectiveness (3 pt)

Grammar/Spelling/Style/Formatting (3 pt)

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 35

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED

Revised 09/01/14
SW 874 WRITING ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Papers MUST:
- Be typed or computer generated
- Use one inch margins
- Use 12 point, Times New Roman font
- Be double-spaced
- Each new paragraph be indented ½ inch
- Use one space after each period per APA guidelines
- Use page numbers
- Use a reference page
- Include a cover sheet (which is not counted as one of the required pages) with the title of the paper, your name, due date, course name and number
- Use spell and grammar check

Papers must NOT:
- Use the author’s discussion of implications for social work as your implications
- Be repetitious, be repetitious, be repetitious
- Cite author in body of paper; rather, use the author’s last name and if multiple authors, use the first author’s last name followed by “et al”
- Cite a title in the body of the paper; rather, use the author’s last name
- Use lengthy quotations unless it is a 2-3 word phrase not easily put into other words or expression
- Place any headings on the paper, unless otherwise stated
- Use run oooooonnnnnnnnn sentences

Papers must be ORGANIZED thus:
- Each paper should have a logical flow from introduction, thesis, discussion and conclusion
- Each paragraphs should have a clear and concise topic sentence that reflects your intentions
- Paragraphs have smooth transitions from one to the next
- A consistent verb tense should be used throughout your writing