Instructor: Lynette Studer, Ph.D., LCSW, Assistant Clinical Professor
Contact: lstuder@wisc.edu (email preferred) or 608-402-2915 (cell)- available via phone call or text
Office: 309 Social Work
Office Hours: By appointment
Class Location: 351 Moore Hall (Agronomy) Class Time: Tuesday, 1:20 pm to 3:15 pm
Credits: 2 Instructional Mode: Face-to-Face

Canvas Course URL: https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/87786

I. Course Description:

This course prepares students for leadership roles in mental health programs, agencies and organizations. It examines mental health policies and services that both influence care and treatment of persons with mental illness and shape mental health care systems, programs and services.

Attributes and Designations: This course counts toward the 50% graduate coursework requirement.
Course Requisites: MSW Student.
How credit hour is met: This class meets for one two-hour class periods each week over the spring semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, studying) for approximately four hours out of classroom each week. The syllabus includes additional information about meeting times and expectations for student work.

II. Course Overview

Social Work 836 is the required policies and services course for social work students in the mental health focus area. The purpose of the course is to prepare students for leadership roles in community mental health programs, agencies, and organizations, particularly those that serve adults with severe and persistent mental illnesses. Students will be introduced to publicly funded systems of care and policy making that have evolved over time to address the needs of people with severe and persistent mental illness.

Central to our inquiry is the question: How well are mental health services meeting the needs of oppressed and marginalized groups in our society who, in disproportionate numbers, struggle with mental health and/or substance use disorder problems? What can you, as a social worker, do to effectively advocate and improve services for those who have traditionally been under served, or poorly served, by existing systems of care?

The emphasis of this class is on how this country has responded historically and currently in a systemic manner to those with a severe and persistent mental illness. In particular, we will examine the history of the organization and funding of health and mental health services, review current policy making practices along with disparate practices influencing access and outcomes, consider how organizations, coalitions, interest groups and lobbyists influence
legislation, and the current organization, delivery and financing of mental health services. We will explore a number of ethical questions of central importance to the social work profession and to social workers entering the field of mental health practice and policy. This policy course equips students to critically engage in mental health policy debate, analysis, development, and implementation, all of which are crucial to competent, ethical, and socially-just social work practice. The course objectives include: (1) understanding how mental health policy impacts your work on multiple levels of practice (micro, mezzo, and macro) in the lives of those you serve; (2) exposing you to a variety of employment options and different social worker roles you can consider within the mental health policy world; (3) providing you with information on policy making, including different language used, modalities of communication and conversation, and how you take your idea and make it a law; and, (4) comprehending the context and situational factors from a policy perspective that guide your practice as a clinical social worker (e.g. how you get paid, how your agency survives).

This course is required for all students in the Advanced Generalist Specialization.

The class is designed as a lecture class supplemented with small group discussions, large group debate and guest speakers. The readings, lectures, discussions and papers are designed to help you grapple with these questions as you clarify your own interests in becoming a part of, and possibly a leader in, innovations in mental health policies and services in America. Guest speakers who have expertise in programs, policies, and services related to the mental health policy process will provide a “real world” perspective on many of the issues covered in the readings.

III. Learning Outcomes: Course Competency, Description, and Dimensions

Social Work Education is framed by a competency based approach to curriculum design. At the conclusion of their education, social work students are expected to be competent in 9 core areas. Competency is achieved through mastery of course content as measured through course activities, readings and assignments and behaviors learned in field experiences, and which are derived from social work knowledge, values, skills, and cognitive and affective processes. The objective of this course is to help students to demonstrate understanding and mastery of the knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes relevant to the competencies described in Appendix A.

IV. Course Content

Week 1: Tuesday, January 23, 2018
Introduction to the Course; Review of the Syllabus; Guided Discussion on Hot Topic

Topics:
~Mental health and mental illness as social issues (e.g. lower socioeconomic status, increased homelessness, increased incarceration)
~Challenges in policy for how constructs, such as mental illness, get defined
~Hot Topic Discussion

Required:
Mechanic, Mcalpine, & Rochefort (2014). Mental Health & Social Policy: Beyond Managed Care, 6th Ed. Read Chapter 1: pages 1-44 (Skim)

**Hot Topic Discussion Reading/Viewing:**
http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/368568-administration-officials-canceled-behavioral-health-registry-was-flawed

**Week 2: Tuesday, January 30, 2018**
**History & Development of U.S. Federal Mental Health Policy and Delivery Systems (1920-present)**

**Topics:**
~ Overview of history and development of U.S. health and mental health policy and delivery systems (1920 forward)
~ Recognize how racism (or other “isms”) operate within the mental health care system and what is policy’s role in this?
~ Overview of history of treatment of African-Americans and oppression within the mental health system
~ Discussion on reading “The Protest Psychosis” and role of racism in mental health policy formulation
~ Solutions to today’s current gaps in federal mental health policy

**Required:**


**Viewing:**

Week 3: Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Policy Practice: The Roadmap: From Idea to Policy

Guest Speakers: Matt Burdick, Health Care & Behavioral Health Legislative Director at Minnesota Department of Human Services & Carol LaBine, LICSW, Deputy Director of Mental Health Division at Minnesota Department of Human Services

Topics:
~Explore how to address mental health care disparities from a state level
~Understand and engage in policy development (step-by-step how to take an idea to completed policy/law)
~How to evaluate public policy need from social justice perspective
~Monitoring policy once in place
~What is an Request for Proposal (RFP)?

Required:
Example of a State RFP (1): State of Minnesota: Proposal to provide culturally specific behavioral health supports and services and/or workforce development within cultural and ethnic minority populations. From: https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/grants-rfps/open-rfps/#/detail/appId/1/id/323949


Recommended:
Secretary of the Senate Office. (2010). How a bill becomes a law in Minnesota. (posted on Canvas)

Example of a State RFP (2): State of Minnesota: Develop an innovative project(s) to improve mental health
outcomes for youth attending a qualified school unit. Found at: https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/grants-rfps/open-rfps/#/detail/appId/1/id/324935

**Week 4: Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**Policy Practice: Nuts & Bolts of Policy Formulation**

**Topics:**
- Writing laws or rules
- Stages of policy practice
- Analyzing the problem of access to mental health care
- Using evidence and research to inform and create mental health policy
- Hot Topic Discussion

**Required:**


**Hot Topic Discussion Reading/Viewing:**
- [https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm584933.htm](https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm584933.htm)

**Recommended:**

Week 5: Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Organizing and Financing Mental Health Services
Discussion Board Post Open from 3:30 2/20/18 through 2/27/18 at noon.

Guest Speaker: Brad Munger, Program & Planning Analyst-Advanced with the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment & Recovery in Division of Care and Treatment Services, State of WI Dept. of Health Services

Topics:
~ Overview of Private Insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid
~ Understand the economics of mental health care and managed mental health care
~ Wisconsin’s Medicaid State Plan
~ What is fee-for service? Structures of insurance.
~ Understand the psychosocial rule, and why does it matter?
~ Brief review of Wisconsin’s Chapter 51 rule.

Required:


Recommended:
Kaiser Family Foundation (October 2015). Key facts about the uninsured population. Retrieved from: https://www.kff.org/uninsured/fact-sheet/key-facts-about-the-uninsured-population/

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Condensed version of a primer on how to use Medicaid to assist persons who are homeless to access medical, behavioral health, and support services. Retrieved


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**Week 6: Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

Organizing and Financing Mental Health Services

Quiz 1 will open at 3:30 on 2/27/18 and is due by 1:00 pm on 3/6/18.

**Guest Speaker:** Shel Gross, Director of Public Policy for Mental Health America of Wisconsin

**Topics:**
~Hot Topic Discussion TBD
~Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
~Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
~Issue of mental health parity & attempts for equity in coverage for persons with mental illnesses
~Review of how a bill becomes a law (specific to Wisconsin process)

**Required:**


**Recommended:***


Factiva (2016). Findings from SAMHSA provide new insights into mental health research (the implications of the Affordable Care Act for behavioral services utilization). *Mental Health Weekly Digest.*


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**Week 7: Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

Organizing and Financing Mental Health Services

Discussion Board Post Open from 3:30 3/6/18 through 3/13/18 at noon.

**Guest Speaker:** Ryan Stachoviak, Mental Health Planner with the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment & Recovery in Division of Care and Treatment Services, State of WI Dept. of Health Services

½ class for debate prep

**Topics:**

~Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act (MHPAEA)
~Mental Health Block Grant (Monitoring, Planning, Evaluating their use)
~Wisconsin Council on Mental Health
~Federal grant monitoring

**Required:**


Miller & Hanson (2016). *Committed: The Battle Over Involuntary Psychiatric Care*. Pgs. 228-266.


**Recommended:**


**Week 8: Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

Advocacy and Mental Health Policy

**Guest Speakers:** Crystal Hester, Public Policy & Advocacy Director & Nate Schorr, Executive Director of National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Wisconsin.

½ class for debate prep

**Topics:**

~ Mental health policy advocacy & advancing social justice

~ Political activities of social workers

~ Role of change agent (YOU) at mezzo and macro level practice

~ Political role of social workers in influencing mental health policy

~ (if time) Role of media in influencing mental health policy

**Required:**


Recommended:


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**Week 9: Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

**Class Debate on Involuntary Commitment and Policy Implications**

Debate or Book Discussion Due

**Topic:**
~ Should social workers be for or against involuntary commitment?
~ Debate on policy around Chapter 51 involuntary inpatient & outpatient commitments
~ Dimensions of diversity and oppression of involuntary commitment orders
~ Debate over fundamental human right of freedom versus safety

**Required:**


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**Tuesday, March 27, 2018**
Week 10: Tuesday, April 3, 2018

In-depth Disparities Focus in Mental Health-Access & Outcomes

Position Paper on Involuntary Commitment Due to Canvas by 11:59 pm.

Topics:

~ Hot Topic Discussion TBD
~ How racism and sexism enters into the policy and practice arenas
~ Cultural competency considerations within policy
~ Use of research to inform policy creation around disparities and access to mental health care

Hot Topic Discussion Reading/Viewing
TBD

Required:


Recommended:


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**Week 11: Tuesday, April 10, 2018**

**Mental Health Service Advocacy**

Discussion Board Post Open from 3:30 4/10/18 through 4/17/18 at noon.

**Guest Speaker:** Marc Herstand, MSW, CISW Executive Director of National Association of Social Workers (WI Chapter).

**Topics:**

- Legislative Bill Tracking
- Testifying to a legislative committee
- Role of social work in policy making
- Grassroots advocacy to advance social and economic justice for persons with mental illnesses

**Required:**


Oregon Legislature. How to testify to a legislative committee. Retrieved January 13, 2018 from [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/committees/Pages/How-To-Testify.aspx](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/committees/Pages/How-To-Testify.aspx)

Week 12: Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Services in Response to Policy Needs
Discussion Board Post Open from 3:30 4/17/18 through 4/24/18 at noon.

Topics:
~Role of evidence-based programs in the service delivery system (as dictated by policy)
~Implementation of EBPs in policy (e.g. Assertive Community Treatment and Supported Employment- Individual Placement and Support (SE-IPS)).
~Considering social disadvantage and oppression in services and policy

Required:


Recommended:

Week 13: Tuesday, April 24, 2018
Policy Management on a County Level
Evidence-based Practices Implementation & Policy
Disparities in Mental Health Policy Brief Analysis due by 11:59 pm into Canvas.
Quiz 2 will open at 3:30 on 4/24/18 and is due by 1:00 pm on 5/1/18.

Guest Speaker: Mary Grabot, Adult Behavioral Health Community Services Manager, Dane County, WI.
Topics:
~Making, enforcing, and engaging strategically about policy at a county level
~Relationship and communication between county and state
~Keeping current on what is happening policy-wise at state and federal levels
~Implementation science as a policy issue
~Monitoring the adoption of EBPs from a policy perspective

Required:


Recommended:

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**Week 14: Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

**Solutions/Moving Ahead**

Topics:
~Social workers as politicians
~Solutions/Next steps in policy
~Class Evaluations

Required:


V. Texts and Reading Materials

There is one required text for this course:


Other materials are available at Canvas. Students are also required to search out and read supplemental material pertinent to their specific assignments.

VI. Evaluation: Assignments, Grading and Methods

Grade Standards:
Students will earn points toward their final grade as noted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>What the point totals &amp; subsequent grad 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>

Due Dates at a Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment*</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz #1: Weeks 1-6 Concepts</td>
<td>By 3/6/18 @ 1:00 pm</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate Participation or Book Discussion</td>
<td>Due by 3/20/18</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position Paper on Involuntary Commitment</td>
<td>Due by 4/3/18 @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disparities in Mental Health Policy Brief Analysis</td>
<td>Due by 4/24/18 by 11:59 pm</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz #2: Week 7-13 Concepts</td>
<td>By 5/1/18 @ 1:00 pm</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing Hot Topic Policy Discussions</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Posts (2 at 5 points/piece)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; General Participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All assignments due electronically into Canvas unless otherwise announced

I expect written portions of all assignments to be typed, spell-checked, proofed for grammatical errors, and well-organized. Points will be deducted from your grade for sloppy work. If you need assistance with your writing, the Campus Writing Center or the Purdue OWL at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/ is available as a free
ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1: Quizzes (total of 2)
Due: 3/6/18 and 5/1/18
Value: 10 points per quiz (20 points total)

Quizzes will be administered online via Canvas beginning in week 6 following class 6. Questions will be worth 0.5 points each. Quizzes may contain a mix of multiple choice and true or false with 20 questions per quiz. The content of the quizzes will focus on core concepts from the lecture, assigned readings, and guest lecturers including the application of concepts to practice and policy situations. Quizzes will demonstrate you have developed understanding that human rights, social justice and social welfare and services in mental health are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state and local levels. Additionally, the quizzes will allow you to demonstrate an understanding of the role of policy in service delivery, the role of practice in policy development and knowledge about mental health policy formulation, analysis, implementation, advocacy and evaluation. Quiz #1 will contain information from Weeks 1-6; Quiz #2 will contain information from Weeks 7-13.

Quizzes completed on Canvas will provide you with the opportunity to refer to your class materials and take the quiz multiple times as needed to achieve your desired grade. Quizzes are available for one week and attempts/submissions will not be accepted past 1:00 pm of the next class period (e.g. Quiz #1 will be available after class on 2/27/18 at 3:30 pm and will remain open through 1:00 p.m. on 3/6/18 (start of next class)).

Assignment #2: Debate Participation OR Book Discussion
Debate Participation Due: 3/20/18
Book Participation Due: No later than 3/20/18- dates to be determined by doodle poll
Value: 20 points

Students will have the choice between one of two assignments. Each are detailed below and originate from the required text Committed: The Battle Over Involuntary Psychiatric Care by Dinah Miller & Annette Hanson.

More detailed instructions for each activity will be handed out in class.

Debate Participation
In this assignment, those students who chose this option will be divided into three groups: (1) individuals for involuntary commitment of persons with mental health issues; (2) individuals against involuntary commitment of persons with mental health issues; and (3) jury of peers and policy makers.

Students will be given two hours of class time (one hour on Week 7 and the second hour on Week 8) to prepare for the class debate. A suggested way for students to prepare for the class debate is to put their thoughts down on paper. I may provide you with a list of questions to prompt your group to think about the issue, although as you read through the required text, you should be writing down your own thoughts and critical analysis of the reading. This preparation work will form the basis of a position paper that is the second part of this overall assignment (see below Assignment #3).

Students in each group will need to organize how their side of the debate will run (e.g., roles will be assigned-who will go first or present what part of the argument?). You will need to do further research so that you can
support some of your assertions with factual information. I assume that more time coordinating over email or Skype will also be necessary.

Both the “for” and “against” involuntary commitment groups will prepare for their side of the debate; those students who serve as the jury of peers and policy makers will be tasked with coming up with questions to ask each side as they ultimately will decide what type of policy to make based on their knowledge and the persuasion of the debate.

The format of the debate will be for each side to get 15 minutes to present their side of the argument (30 minutes total), with then 5 minutes each to offer rebuttals (10 minutes each). The jury of peers/policymakers will then have at least 20 minutes to ask their questions and receive answers from all participants. At the end, the jury of peers and policy makers will need to determine which side to go with and in essence, come up with policy recommendations stemming from the arguments (basically picking the “winner”). All students who do not choose this option will be part of the “public” and watching the debate as constituents and/or stakeholders, but will not actively participate in the debate. I will allow for time after the entire exercise to have a fuller class discussion.

**Book Discussion**
For this option, students will be divided into groups of 6-8 (randomly assigned) and be asked to participate in a book discussion reviewing the required text.

You will be required to participate in a 2-hour long book discussion that will happen outside of class time (when the students who are participating in the debate option have two-one hour timeframes of class time to prepare, you will be dismissed, and will make up those two hours in the book discussion). I will send out a doodle poll and make every effort to accommodate student schedules, and offer multiple options, but if you feel scheduling will be a huge conflict for you, that should factor into your choice of which option to go with. *It is not my responsibility to meet your time scheduling needs. If you feel you can’t participate in this, then you need to choose the debate option.*

Students will be asked to generate 5 questions stemming from the reading and submit them ahead of time (deadline to be determined). I will choose one question from each participant that will form the basis of our discussion. I will also have set questions to ask each group. You will be graded by the contributions you make to the overall discussion, the quality of the questions you submit (are they superficial or do they demonstrate critical thinking about some part of the issue of involuntary commitment), how engaged you are in responding to others within the group, clear indication you have read the book, and your professionalism.

The goal of the debate or book discussion assignment is for students to grapple with a current policy issue in the mental health system that is of central importance to many of the individuals they may serve with mental illnesses. As part of the preparation, students will be exposed to how diversity and difference factors into consequences for individuals, that may lead to experiences of oppression, poverty, marginalization and alienation. They will understand that at time, fundamental rights such as the right to freedom and the right to safety and privacy are at two ends of the spectrum and in conflict with one another. This assignment will allow the students to engage in discussion and dialog around human rights, social justice and social welfare and ultimately suggest a policy direction for social workers. It is the hope the student will appreciate the full perspective on one in-depth, policy issue that illustrates real-life policy making challenges, and to realize there are no simplistic policy solutions.
Assignment #3: Position Paper
Due: 4/3/18 by 11:59 pm into Canvas
Value: 15 points

Stemming from either assignment above, a brief position paper will be due.

A paper of no more than 5 single-spaced pages indicating your position as a clinical social worker on the issue of involuntary commitment of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. Below are two links to help you understand the format of a position paper. You may use either, but I like the one by Xavier. More on this assignment in Week 7 will be discussed in class.

https://www.sfu.ca/cmns/130d1/WritingaPositionPaper.htm
https://www.xavier.edu/library/students/documents/position_paper.pdf

Examples of Position Papers:
On the death penalty~ https://www.aclu.org/other/death-penalty-aclu-position-paper
On the issue of race & the war on drugs~ https://www.aclu.org/files/FilesPDFs/ACF4F34.pdf

Assignment #4: Disparities in Mental Health Policy Brief Analysis
Due: 4/24/18 @ 11:59 pm into Canvas
Value: 20 points

Working either independently or in pairs, this assignment will ask you to create a policy brief on a topic of mental health disparities that you choose. This project offers the opportunity to think and learn more about policy surrounding a population that experiences mental health care disparities at the local, state, or national level(s). When considering and examining disparities, consider three common dimensions of the issue: disparities in outcomes; disparities in access (including, but not limited to insurance); and disparities in quality and/or quantity of services and care received. As you do this, you may also consider and explore both physical and mental health disparities (if they intersect). There is a wealth of information about disparities referenced in your text, in your readings, and online.

Clearly, there are interactive effects when examining disparities (e.g. being African American AND female contributes to the disparity). Your work should centrally focus on the population you chose, but you may also need to refer to other demographic and socioeconomic positions in the assignment (e.g., while the intersectionality of being African American and female contribute to the disparity you are reviewing, there are further differences between women of higher versus lower socioeconomic statuses within this population).

For this policy brief, you will present an overview of a critical disparity(ies) in health/mental health/health care experienced by the group you are examining, highlighting the issue(s) that are the focus (i.e. those you are targeting for change) of your policy brief. The policy brief will have the following components:

(1) To whom is the brief addressed? (which legislative committee will be receiving the brief).
(2) Disparity addressed (Define the problem. What is the scope of the problem and why should they care?).
(3) Background information (including factual information w/ references).
Policy briefs are concise and cogent documents. It should be used to set the scope of the problem, address one or more issues and advocate for a specific policy change. Your brief will be addressed to a legislative body in the position to help bring this change about. The target audience for the brief is the members of the legislative committee that will be holding hearings on the proposal. You should also prepare an annotated bibliography, including at minimum, 5-6 citations/sources of information about your topic. This will be attached to your policy brief. Your brief should not exceed three, single spaced pages with 12-point font, one inch margins and clear headers.

Here are some examples of policy briefs:
https://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2016/rwjf432103

Assignment #5: Hot Policy Topic Discussions
Due: Ongoing (1/23/18, 2/13/18, 2/27/18, and 4/3/18)
Value: 10 points total

Over the course of the semester there will class time set aside to discuss a current “hot topic” as it relates to mental health policy. I will present the hot topic, including a handout that describes the issue. You will then break into small groups (determined by me) and discuss the merit of the “hot topic” which may include quick searches of the internet to find additional information. After the small group discussion, we will come together as a large group for a discussion of the hot topic, and ultimately relay the policy implications of the topic.

Grading for your participation will be two-fold. One will be how actively you participate in your small group discussions over the course of the semester and two, how much leadership you take in presenting your/your groups ideas to the larger class. This will afford all students the opportunity to gain comfort and skill in discussing policy ideas in both smaller and larger group contexts. More information on grading will be shared at the introduction of the first “hot topic”.

Assignment #6: Discussion Board Posts
Due: Ongoing (Week 5, Week 7, Week 11, Week 12)
Value: 2 @ 5 points each for 10 points total

Over the course of the semester, from Week 3 through 13, there will be four discussion posts focusing on an area of mental health policy. You will need to respond to at least two original discussion posts in the following ways in order to receive full credit. The discussion post will go up after class by 3:30 on the designated weeks, and will close at noon before the following week’s class (e.g. for week 5, the discussion post will open at 3:30 on 2/20/18 and remain open until noon on 2/27/18).
First, you must respond initially to a posted discussion. This response should not only answer the question(s) posed, but provide a significant response back, along with another question for the groups discussion (assuming approximately no less than one paragraph). Second, in addition to answering the posed discussion questions, you must reply to one of your fellow classmates’ posts (to the original question(s)) in a meaningful way. Remember, the same classroom etiquette that is expected when in person is to be followed for your online presence. I will be monitoring all discussion boards.

In order for a more enriching experience, students are expected to monitor the discussion boards regularly and offer responses even after they have completed their two required posts (note, if I am on the fence for your total general participation points for class, having more than required discussion posts will boost your grade up). Topics for focus will include human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy of persons with mental illnesses, along with strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers for individuals with serious and persistent mental illnesses. Additionally, topics will broach issues of diversity and intersectionality of factors that lead to outcomes (some oppressive) and apply recognition of this to their practice with the person and in advocating for different policy.

Extra Credit Opportunity
In today’s political climate, there are numerous opportunities to find topics that have relevancy to mental health policy and that have implications for the persons we serve. You have the opportunity to earn 2 points of extra credit by following the process: (1): send me a link to one current issue that has mental health policy implications that are worthy of debate and discussion; (2) tell me, in a sentence or two, why you feel this issue is worthy of class time as a “hot topic”. Why did you choose it?; and (3) provide me with two questions that you feel would spark discussion among your classmates. I will be accepting these emails from Week 2 through Week 13 (please put in the subject line “SW836 extra credit [your name]”. While you are more than welcome to send me multiple links of interesting topics, you may only earn the 2 extra credit points once. I reserve the right to decline any link based on a lack of merit or send you additional questions to answer prior to assigning extra credit points.

VII. Course Policies

Classroom Climate:
Classroom climate, or the way a classroom space feels to everyone in the room based on communication, norms, values and processes, impacts participation, motivation and learning. Meeting course objectives requires that the instructor and students actively work to create a learning environment that is respectful and safe so that ideas can be examined honestly, diverse viewpoints shared, and in-class activities approached with maximum curiosity and enthusiasm. In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. Diversity in beliefs, ideas and lived experiences are highly valued here. Each student has knowledge and experience that will enhance the learning of their colleagues and each voice is important. In our time together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates, and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Because the class will represent diverse individual beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences, every member of this class must show respect for every other member of this class. We will share the challenges of upholding our community guidelines and responding to moments when we fail to abide by them. Students will be held accountable for what they are expressing verbally and nonverbally. Students are expected to keep confidential all issues of a personal or professional nature discussed in class.

I am firmly committed to diversity and equality in all areas of campus life and building an inclusive classroom space where everyone feels safe and welcome. I recognize that we all have biases. Discrimination can be direct or
indirect and take place at both institutional and personal levels. I believe that such discrimination is unacceptable and I am committed to providing equality of opportunity for all by eliminating any discrimination, harassment, bullying, or victimization. I invite you to bring any concerns in this regard to my attention.

Discussion & Participation
This class will live and die by the quality of discussion. Student participation is necessary to make it a lively and engaging educational experience. I expect noteworthy discussion and verbal participation from all students within each class meeting. This is a space where you can and should push yourself out of your comfort zone with public speaking.

Student Wellness
As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning. These might include strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, racism, feeling down, and/or loss of motivation. University Health Services (UHS) can help with these or other issues you may be experiencing. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling (608)265-5600 or visiting www.uhs.wisc.edu. Help is always available.

Other student support services and programs include:
- Multicultural Student Center https://msc.wisc.edu/
- LGBT Campus Center https://lgbt.wisc.edu/
- Dean of Students Office https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/

Below are resources for reporting and responding to incidences of bias and hate on campus.
- Report: https://students.wisc.edu/doso/services/bias-reporting-process
- Bias Response and Advocacy Coordinator email: reportbias@wisc.edu
- UW-Madison Police Department: uwpd.wisc.edu
- Office of Equity and Diversity: www.oed.wisc.edu/

You may also report incidents in-person to the Dean of Students Office, 70 Bascom Hall, during normal business hours. Reportable incidents include crimes such as vandalism or physical assault, as well as non-academic misconduct, slurs, and intimidation. Anyone who files a report will have the opportunity to meet with the Bias Response and Advocacy Coordinator, so that we can meet their needs and ensure their safety.

Student behavior policy
It is expected that students conduct themselves ethically and professionally in all aspects of this seminar. This includes confidentiality, proper respect for all members of the class and their clients and agencies, and support and contributions to the learning environment.

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 classmates, and demonstrate appreciation for the opportunity we have to learn from one another. Please respect your fellow students’ opinions and viewpoints even if you disagree with them, and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments. Finally, remember to keep confidential all issues of a personal or professional nature discussed in class.

Electronics:
To minimize disruptions to class process all devices must be turned off during the class period unless the instructor gives instructions to utilize electronic devices for a class activity. If you have an urgent reason for leaving your phone on, please inform the instructor prior to the class beginning. If there is a medical or other serious need for these devices, please speak to the instructor before class. Audio recording of classes will be allowed only after full disclosure to the class that an audio recorder is operating.

**Code of Ethics, Professional Conduct & Plagiarism**
Incoming MSW students read and signed electronic forms of the NASW Code of Ethics, the School of Social Work Plagiarism Policy and the Student Rights and Responsibilities. In doing so, they agreed that while in the MSW Program they would honor the NASW Code of Ethics and Student’s Rights and Responsibilities, as well as adhere to the Plagiarism Policy and that should they not do so, sanctions would be imposed. MSW students are expected to adhere to these policies in the classroom, in the field and in the preparation of course assignments.

Issues of academic misconduct affect all students and are considered extremely serious. Academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation or fabrication of assignments, can result in course failure as well as disciplinary actions. It is your responsibility to ensure that all documents and material used to inform your assignments are appropriately cited. The Writing Center has a helpful guide to the difference between plagiarism and paraphrasing – see http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_paraphrase.html. The School’s plagiarism policy is posted on the web. This is extremely serious.

**Accommodation for Students with a Disability**
The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students requiring accommodation, as approved by the McBurney Center, are expected to provide the instructor with a copy of their Verified Individualized Services and Accommodation (VISA) by the second week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. For more information, please contact the McBurney Center at mcburney@odos.wisc.edu; Phone at 608-263-2741; Text messaging at 608-225-7956; or by FAX at 608-265-2998, 711 (Via relay); Address is 702 W Johnson St #2104, Madison, WI 53706. Accommodations will not be made without a VISA. Faculty will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations.

Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.

**Attendance Policy:**
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and to arrive on time.

- **Promptness**
  Prompt arrival to all classes is required. Repeated tardiness will impact your grade. I will consider a late arrival or early departure of more than 20 minutes an absence.

- **Absence**
  If you must miss class you are required to inform me via email in advance. Students are responsible for completing any class requirements for the day missed, and for obtaining from a fellow classmate any assignments, materials, and communications missed due to absence, late arrival, or early departure. Students
who must be absent due to inclement weather or other emergencies must contact me prior to the start of class. Students who are absent three or more times in the semester will be required to schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss their performance and continuation in the course. Three or more absences may lead to a student receiving a failing grade.

**Reading and Media Assignments:**
You are expected to have read, viewed and listened to all assigned material prior to the class date under which the readings are listed above. Reading and critically evaluating what you have read is necessary so that you can learn, actively participate in class discussions, and successfully complete written assignments.

**Religious Observances**
In accordance with University policy, accommodation will be made for students who are participating in a religious holiday or who have a conflict between religious observances and mandatory class requirements. To request accommodation, notify the instructor within the first two weeks of class of the specific days or dates on which a student requests relief.

**Canvas**
All students are required to access Canvas for course content and assignments. If you have difficulty with Canvas, you should contact the DoIT helpdesk.

**Late assignment policy**
Assignments are due on the date specified by 11:59 p.m. If you are not able to be in class the day a written assignment is due, you are still responsible for turning in your assignment on the due date. If a student a) communicates with me at least 48 hours prior to the due date, b) provides a reasonable justification for an extension, and c) we come to an agreement about a revised deadline, the assignment handed in by the new date will be considered “on time.” Unapproved late assignments will be marked down 1 point for each day the assignment is late.

**Appealing a Grade:**
Your goal for this and other courses should be to make the most of your learning experience, and not to simply “get an A.” Grade expectations should NOT be based on what you have received in other courses—this is never a legitimate argument for appealing a grade.

After you have read over all comments on your paper, if you have an issue with a grade that you receive in this course, please document in writing the reasons for your appeal in writing and provide this to me. Your reasons for your appeal should include a discussion of (1) the extent to which you responded to assignment objectives, (2) the quality of your writing (to include grammar and spelling, organization, flow and clarity), (3) your ability to demonstrate depth and critical thinking, and (4) your substantive argument. If there is something about an assignment that is unclear to you, it is your job to bring this to my attention in advance of the due date. Students wishing to appeal a grade must me with the information requested no later than one week after the assignment or exam has been returned to students. If you receive a grade and wish to appeal parts of that grade, I require a 24-hour time frame from the time you receive the grade until I will respond to information about the grade.

**Grade Appeals/Grievance Policy:**
The process for appeal a final grade is set forth in the School of Social Work’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.
Policies Regarding Expectations for Students
Students are expected to:

● Attend class each session, actively participating in the in-class exercises and discussions. If you cannot attend class, you are responsible for informing the instructor in advance, knowing what occurred and for getting any materials distributed during class.

● Read critically (and think about) all required assignments before coming to class. Most students find it useful to take notes.

● Complete all assignments by the due dates and times (thus you are expected to plan your life so that you can make the required deadlines in the course).

● Conduct themselves ethically and professionally. This requires careful consideration of and attention to issues of confidentiality with regard to clients and placement agencies. We will be talking about agencies in class and in assignments but care should be taken regarding private information. (If in doubt, please check with instructors.)

● Be respectful of the instructor and other class members—a diversity of views and opinions may be articulated during discussions. Respect includes cell phones being turned off and laptops being used in class only for taking notes.

● Provide respectful feedback to the instructor about parts of the course that are (or are not) facilitating their learning.

Policies Regarding Expectations for the Instructor
The instructor is expected to:

● Co-create a classroom environment that facilitates learning.

● Assure that course objectives are being met.

● Be available for in-person consultations, either through regular office hours or by appointment.

● Be available to address student questions through emailed correspondence.

● Give reasonable guidance on preparing for the assignments.

● Provide prompt feedback on evaluation materials for the course.
Appendix A

NOTE: Descriptions of competencies include some material in parentheses that is covered in other courses and not necessarily covered in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies and Description</th>
<th>Course Content relevant to Dimensions that Comprise the Competency*</th>
<th>Location in Syllabus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1.2 Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice</strong> Advanced practice social workers demonstrate in a focus area an advanced understanding of how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. They demonstrate comprehension that dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Advanced practice social workers recognize that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation, as well as privilege, power, and acclaim, and apply this recognition in their practice. They also demonstrate in practice their understanding of the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination, and a recognition of the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.</td>
<td>Readings, lectures, and discussions related to dimensions of diversity and the delivery of services in practice and policy (K, V, S, C &amp; A). Readings, lectures, and discussions exploring structural and cultural barriers to mental health services and the skills required to recognize and address them (K, V, S, C &amp; A). Readings and discussion exploring mechanisms of oppression and discrimination within the mental health delivery system (K, V, C &amp; A). <strong>Assignments:</strong> Debate Participation or Book Discussion (K, V, C &amp; A) Position Paper on Involuntary Commitment (K, V, S) Disparities in Mental Health Policy Brief Analysis (K, S, C &amp; A) Hot Topic Policy Discussions (K, V, C &amp; A)</td>
<td>Week 1 Weeks 2, 3, 6, 7 &amp; 12 Weeks 2, 3, 5, 9, &amp; 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1.3 Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice</strong> Advanced Generalist social workers demonstrate in a focus area an understanding that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an</td>
<td>Readings, lectures, and discussions related to social, economic, and environmental justice within the mental health service delivery system (K, V, S, C &amp; A). Readings, lectures, and discussions related to the skills needed to promote</td>
<td>Weeks 3, 8, 9, &amp; 11 Weeks 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, &amp; 14</td>
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</table>
## Competencies and Description

### 2.1.5 Engage in Policy Practice

Advanced Generalist social workers demonstrate a developed understanding that human rights, social justice, social welfare and services in a focus area are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. They understand the history and current structures of social policies and services in a focus area, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development in a focus area.

Advanced Generalist social workers understand, demonstrate, and engage policy development and implementation within a focus area practice setting at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels to affect change within those settings. They recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy in a focus area. They also demonstrate advanced levels of knowledge about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation in a focus area.

### Course Content relevant to Dimensions that Comprise the Competency*

<table>
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<th>Location in Syllabus</th>
<th>Week(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social and economic justice and human rights and strategies to eliminate oppressive structural barriers (K, V, S, C &amp; A).</td>
<td>Weeks 2, 4, 5, 7, &amp; 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings, lectures, and discussions related to historical mental health policy, its implementation, and continued implications in present day (K, V, C &amp; A).</td>
<td>Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 &amp; 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings, lecture, and discussions related to mental health policy development and implementation (K, V, S, C &amp; A).</td>
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## Assignments:

- Debate Participation or Book Discussion (K, V, C & A)
- Disparities in Mental Health Policy Brief Analysis (K, S, C & A)
- Hot Topic Policy Discussions (K, V, C & A)
- Discussion Board Posts
- Readings, lectures, and discussions related to historical mental health policy, its implementation, and continued implications in present day (K, V, C & A).
- Readings, lectures, and discussions related to mental health policy development and implementation (K, V, S, C & A).
*K=Knowledge; V=Values; S=Skills; C & AP=Cognitive and Affective Processes