

Bridgewater State College

Master of Social Work Program

Spring 2010 Electives

Electives offered January 11 & 12, 2010 (1.5 credits)

SCWK 580-Z01 Gender Issues in Social Work – Dr. Rebecca Leavitt

This course is designed to examine the impact gender issues has on the interaction of our client systems with one another and with ourselves. Class members will gain an understanding of the socio-economic, political and psychological differences between genders, the way these impact our clients' lives and the intervention strategies that help to promote more respect for gender equality through strengths based practice.

SCWK 580-Z02 Women, Crime, and Society – Dr. Karen Fein

Using a social justice perspective, the course focuses on this Nation's response to women offenders in the criminal justice system. We consider the construct of gender first more generally in the United States, and then more specifically, as it relates to criminal justice. Content includes a review of the historical experience of women and women involved with the criminal justice system. Further, we address clinical and policy issues and consider best practices in both areas. Thus, we may cover clinical issues such as substance abuse treatment, as well as drug policies in general and their impact on individuals, families, and communities.

SCWK 580-Z03 Systemic Responses to Child Maltreatment – Dr. Emily Douglas

This course will address child maltreatment fatalities. The course content will cover: (1) victims of child maltreatment fatalities, (2) perpetrators of child maltreatment fatalities, and (3) systemic responses to this type of tragedy. We will address legal responses, such as "child death" and "safe haven" laws; and, responses by the social service sector, including prevention campaigns and especially child fatality review panels. The role that ideology and research play in the prevention and treatment, or handling, of maltreatment fatalities will be integrated into the course material and discussions. Finally, we will address current gaps in research-based knowledge and service delivery in the prevention of child maltreatment fatalities.

Electives offered January 15 & 16, 2010 (1.5 credits)

SCWK 580-Z04 Dual Diagnosis – Ms. Emily Holmes

Designed to accompany SCWK 512: Human Behavior III: DSM-IV-TR, this concentrated course will present students with an introduction into co-occurring disorders, focusing specifically on adults diagnosed with substance abuse/dependence and major mental illness. Course topics will include a review of mental disorders commonly associated with substance abuse disorders, including mood disorders, psychotic disorders, personality disorders and anxiety disorders. Assessment techniques and common diagnostic challenges will be introduced as well as best practice interventions currently used to treat dually-diagnosed clients. Students will be exposed to concepts from general systems theory to explore the interchange and service gaps between the mental health and substance abuse communities. Through the use of case examples as well as through direct experience with clients, students will develop an understanding of the social work challenges in treating this unique population.

SCWK 580-Z05 Grief Counseling with Diverse Populations – Dr. Michael Kocet

Introduction to the theory and application of grief models as they apply to individuals, groups, and families from diverse background, including techniques and strategies to assist clients and students dealing with issues related to grief and loss in a variety of settings (school, social work/mental health, college/student affairs). The course will stress the importance of self-awareness and reflection of the social work/counseling professional and the impact on the therapeutic process, as well as the role of ritual, spirituality, and multicultural perspectives on grief.

SCWK 580-Z06 Core Issues in Working with Post Adoptive Families - Ms. Sharon Silvia and Mr. Steve Alexander

A home based intervention approach to working with family systems through the lens of normative family life cycle issues that typically emerge for adoptive and kinship families. Day One focuses upon how adoption plans are developed, core issues, framing a context for change, & the role of the helper. Day Two focuses upon a panel of adoptive parents, valuing persistence, building hopefulness, well-formed goals & family centered casework implications.

Electives offered March 8 & 9, 2010 (1.5 credits)

SCWK 580-007 Socio-economic Issues in a Developing Society: A Case Study of Bangladesh – Ms. Nasreen Shibli and Dr. Abdul Shibli

This course will offer a glimpse of the social, economic, and cultural backdrop of life in a typical developing country in South Asia, Bangladesh. This country, located in a very populous and historical region of the Indian sub-continent, offers students a fertile case study for students interested in careers in international affairs, social policy, and economic development.

We will offer both social and economic perspectives on the various issues faced by this country. Religious beliefs and practices, in addition to social traditions play an important role as the young nation of 140 million people strive to lift their economic conditions up by its bootstraps. Intertwined in the narrative is a yearning to adjust and integrate with the outside world while at the same time experimenting a parliamentary form of democracy. The country has attracted a lot of attention in the global scene as a role model for rural development, women's empowerment, and political stability in a region with some volatile pockets of unrest. Since it returned to a democratic system almost 20 years ago after years of military rule, the country has been governed by a succession of democratically elected women leaders trying to steer the complex political system.

SCWK 580-008 Social Work Management and Administration – Dr. Jude Gonsalvez

This course is designed to provide you with an understanding of how social agencies function as organizational entities, and of the roles you will assume in your work. The perspective of the course is that at every level of service provision in which social workers are engaged, administrative skills are necessary to insure that clients receive the services they need in as timely and effective a fashion as possible.

The course will focus on the knowledge necessary to identify and respond to issues in agency structures and functioning which impede effective service delivery. Specific attention will be given to institutional bias in organizational systems. Specific structural interventions will be discussed with a focus on formal and informal outcomes. Class sessions include lecture and discussion. Since illustrations of key concepts and organizational issues are drawn from the students' previous work, and current field placement experiences, active class participation is encouraged. Course content and assignments are designed to help the students integrate theoretical and analytical material with their experiences in their field placement agencies.

SCWK 580-009 Women, Crime, and Society – Dr. Karen Fein

Using a social justice perspective, the course focuses on this Nation's response to women offenders in the criminal justice system. We consider the construct of gender first more generally in the United States, and then more specifically, as it relates to criminal justice. Content includes a review of the historical experience of women and women involved with the criminal justice system. Further, we address clinical and policy issues and consider best practices in both areas. Thus, we may cover clinical issues such as substance abuse treatment, as well as drug policies in general and their impact on individuals, families, and communities.

Electives offered March 12 & 13, 2010 (1.5 credits)

SCWK 580-010 Reflective Practice: Self at Work – Dr. William Deveney

A large body of research now underscores the primary importance of work and careers for individual development and personal fulfillment. Moreover, the quality of work life is a significant factor in organizational effectiveness.

Utilizing clinical perspectives on organizational behavior and a variety of assessment measures and tools, students will examine individual, small group, and large group dynamics of organizational life. In particular, students will explore their own work preferences, styles and roles, and how these play out in the workplace. Using a family systems perspective, they will also consider on the link between early family and current organizational roles and behaviors, and reflect on their own contributions to organizational culture.

SCWK 580-011 Ethical Perspectives in Social Work Practice – Dr. Michael Kocet

This course is designed to assist social work graduate students in developing knowledge of the ethical issues which impact current social work practice. An emphasis will be placed upon examining the role of values, bias, and personal perspective and its impact on ethical decision-making. Students will examine a variety of clinical issues through an ethical lens, such as diversity, social justice, confidentiality, informed consent, boundaries, and technology will be integrated throughout the course.

SCWK 580-012 Early Emotional Development: Understanding the Child's Experience through Art and Play – Dr. Kenna Liatsos

This course is designed to provide students with a current understanding of attachment theory and the impact of this critical period on brain development. Theoretical discussion will continue with emphasis on the ways in which early relationships, developmental differences and environmental issues may significantly influence the emotional lives of young children as they grow and develop. Students will become familiar with various crises that young children experience, their possible behavioral manifestations and developmental impact. Students will learn strategies and techniques for assessing children's needs, as well as therapeutic skills used to promote relationship building and effective interventions with children and their parents. Because the school is one of the first agencies to assess the needs of young children as they transition from various day care or early intervention programs into a public education preschool, special consideration will be given to the importance of the skills and knowledge of the school social worker in the public school setting.

Full semester long electives (3 credits)

Monday courses –

SCWK 580-001 New Old Frontiers: Aging Populations and their Families – Dr. Arnaa Alcon

This course will focus on problems and issues, which most directly affect older persons and their families. Social work intervention through social policy and social services that are designed to help elders and their families will be a focus. First, we will be concerned with demographic changes, theories of aging, health/mental health and social service needs of the elderly. Second, we will discuss and analyze Social Security, SSI, Medicare and Medicaid policies as they affect the elderly and their families. We will focus on how these federal (and state) policies dictate home and community-based care, geriatric case management, institutionalization, and relationship between informal and formal support. Third, we will deal with issues related to health care proxy and guardianship, elder abuse and end-of-life care. The emphasis will be on analysis of problems and needs of older persons in these areas, using established conceptual and analytic frameworks, and review of programs and policies as well as economic and social rationale behind the program and policy decisions. The assessment of the effectiveness of existing programs and strategies for improving their effectiveness will also be emphasized.

SCWK 580-002 LGBT Perspectives in Policy and Practice – Ms. Hannah Karpman

This course is designed to give students in-depth knowledge of the history of, and contemporary issues facing, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Students will be introduced to the history of the LGBT civil rights movement and present policy initiatives that differentially impact LGBT people. Students will learn about theories of sexual identity development and sexual orientation. The course will examine themes in the empirical literature on the LGBT population including: health disparities, violence in and against the LGBT community, the coming out process, partnership and marriage, adolescent suicide, race and sexual orientation, and the economic impact of discrimination. Students will explore strengths and resiliency within the LGBT community. Finally, the course will discuss the role of social work practice in providing clinical and macro-level services to LGBT people, including a discussion of the gay affirmative practice scale.

Thursday courses

SCWK 580-004 Social Work Practice in Health and Hospitals – Dr. Barbara Bond

This course introduces students to concepts, intervention approaches and challenges in social work practice in health and hospital settings and to the existence of health care disparities in our medical systems. We will examine social work in community health centers, free standing health practices (such as dialysis centers and physician group practices), in small community general hospitals, in Veterans Administration Hospitals and in the many large multifaceted tertiary care facilities throughout the state and country. We will also explore social work practice in public and private psychiatric hospitals where people with the most complex, advanced and chronic psychological and psychosocial problems are treated. The course will include specific, culturally competent treatment approaches to adults, children and families coping with critical illness, loss and

bereavement, traumatic injury, developmental disabilities, and techniques for working with the needs of those with complicated dual diagnoses.

SCWK 580-005 Child Welfare: Maltreating Families, the Child Welfare System and Ideology – Dr. Emily Douglas

The focus of this class is on the ideological perspectives that have shaped social policy in the area of children's welfare in the United States. Beginning with an historical view of the development of child welfare services, we will examine the emergence of the modern child welfare system. We will also study the risk factors for becoming a child of maltreatment and for being a maltreating caregiver. We will also examine who the child welfare system responds to crisis, such as the death of child known to the system. We will pay particular attention to the development of an infrastructure to support the needs of children and families. The course will include an examination of the development of programs and policies affecting children and youth who have experienced maltreatment.

SCWK 580-006 Culturally Competent Trauma Practice and Scholarship – Dr. Sabrina Gentlewarrior

This three-credit elective offers students the opportunity to explore foundational principles of culturally competent trauma therapy using both the literature as well as in-class role play exercises. Working in small groups, students will also collaborate in choosing a topic and co-writing a scholarly paper that reviews the literature on culturally competent service provision on their chosen topic. Please note: Prerequisites: SCWK 502; SCWK 551 or approval by instructor.