

**FOUNDATIONS OF GENERALIST PRACTICE I**  
**Social Work 601**  
**Minnesota State University, Mankato**  
**Department of Social Work**

**PURPOSE OF THE COURSE**

This course provides foundation knowledge, values and skills for generalist social work practice at the micro level with individuals and families and at the mezzo level with treatment groups. This course provides a basic understanding of the history, purpose, values, scope and focus of the social work profession, emphasizing principles that promote social and economic justice and human well-being. This course introduces students to Strengths, Empowerment, Task-Centered, Problem-Solving, and Family-Centered approaches for evidence-based direct social work practice. Students develop knowledge of and skills to establish and maintain effective helping relationships, emphasizing strategies to promote client empowerment and strengths, effective practice with diverse populations, and to engage in all phases of the helping process, including engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation and termination. This course also provides students with knowledge of and skills for effective communication and interviewing, with emphasis on application to effective communication with diverse populations. Students will also develop professional writing skills for micro and mezzo level practice.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Understand the history, purpose, values, scope and focus of the social work profession (MSW 2.1, 2.3).
- 2) Understand and apply the multiple roles of the generalist social worker in practice at multiple system levels (MSW 1.2).
- 3) Understand and apply the Strengths Perspective, Empowerment, Task-Centered, Problem-Solving, and Family-Centered approaches for evidence-based direct social work practice (MSW 1.1, 1.2, 1.3).
- 4) Apply knowledge and skills to establish and maintain effective helping relationships with diverse populations that promote client empowerment and strengths (MSW 1.2, 1.4, 1.5).
- 5) Apply knowledge, values and skills to engage in all phases of the helping process with individual and families, including engagement, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation and termination (MSW 1.1, 1.2, 2.3).
- 6) Apply knowledge of and skills for effective communication and interviewing with micro level systems from diverse backgrounds (MSW 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5)

7) Understand the types and purposes of documentation required for direct social work practice (MSW 1.2, 1.3).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***1) Client System Assessment and Intervention (Designated Assessment Assignment L. O. 1.2)***

Students will be assigned a client system with a specific presenting problem. Students will complete a series of assignments designed to demonstrate an understanding of all phases of the helping process.

*Part A: Multidimensional Assessment* - Students will complete a multidimensional assessment of the assigned client system incorporating a genogram, a social network/ecomap, and one additional assessment tool.

*Part B: Annotated Bibliography* – Students will review and summarize ten articles that will lead to the development of an evidence-based service plan (Part C) for the client system. The complete Annotated Bibliography will contain 10 article annotations with a 3-part format:

1. Complete, accurate APA citation of the article.
2. A summary of the article in the student's own words.
3. A thoughtful and critical critique of the article in the student's own words, focusing on evidence presented and its application to practice with the assigned client system.

*Part C: Service Plan* - Students will develop a service plan, including goals, objectives and methods for evaluating outcomes, and apply one or more of the practice approaches presented in this course with particular emphasis on cultural competence.

### ***2) Assessment of Interviewing Skills***

Using the client system assigned in the Client System Assessment and Intervention assignment, students will conduct interviews with the client system. Other students in the class will be assigned to act as the clients. The first taped interview will be the initial meeting with the client system. The second taped interview will be during the middle phase of treatment. Students will self-assess their interviews and the tapes will be reviewed and critiqued by the class and instructor using an evaluation instrument.

## **SOWK 601 COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1**

Topic: Course Overview and Introductions

- Overview of the Generalist Practice Perspective
- Purpose, values, scope and focus of the social work profession
- Roles of the generalist social worker
- Develop Case Clients System

**Week 2**

Topic: Overview of the Helping Process

- Phases-Specific Skills in the Helping Process (inside cover of text)

**Week 3**

Topic: Phase I of the Helping Process: Communication Skills

**Week 4**

Topic: Phase I of the Helping Process: Assessment

**Week 5**

Topic: Phase I of the Helping Process: Assessment

**Week 6**

Topic: Assessment of Interviewing Skills (initial meeting) Viewing and Feedback

**Week 7**

Topic: Phase I of the Helping Process: Contracting

**Week 8**

Topic: Phase II of the Helping Process: Empowering Change

- Phase II of the Helping Process: Advocacy

**Week 9** Mid Semester Break

**Week 10**

Topic: Phase II of the Helping Process: Groups and Families

**Week 11**

Topic: Phase II of the Helping Process: Barriers to Change and Phase III of the Helping Process-Termination

**Week 12**

Topic: Phase II of the Helping Process: Barriers to Change and Phase III of the Helping Process-

**Week 13**

Topic: Assessment of Interviewing Skills Viewing and Feedback

**Week 14** Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

**Week 15**

Topic: Assessment of Interviewing Skills (middle phase) Viewing and Feedback

**Week 16 - Finals**