

**FOUNDATIONS OF GENERALIST PRACTICE II**  
**SOWK 611**  
**Minnesota State University, Mankato**  
**Department of Social Work**

**PURPOSE OF THE COURSE**

The SOWK 611 Foundations of Generalist Practice II course presents foundation knowledge, values and skills for generalist social work practice with task groups, organizations and communities, with an emphasis on rural and small community issues. Because macro level social work practice often entails working with others to achieve desired change, students will enhance their knowledge of and skills in working in task groups. Organizations provide the setting for most social work practice. Social workers practice at all levels within public, private, and not for profit agencies. This course provides an introduction to the knowledge, values, ethics, skills and application of theory needed to understand advanced generalist social work practice within the context of organizations. The course emphasizes community level social work practice, focusing on strategies for community assessment, community development and community change, including changing social welfare and other policies to ensure the well-being of all members of society. SOWK 611 also examines community development from a global perspective. Students will explore and develop knowledge and skills for conducting community assets and needs assessments, as well as examine strategies for community development and change from the context of rural and small community environments. Students also examine ethical issues impacting macro level advanced generalist social work practice.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As a result of successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand the application of micro and mezzo level skills to macro-level advanced generalist social work practice (MSW 1.2, 1.6).
- 2) Understand the role and importance of macro-level interventions in advanced generalist social work practice (MSW 1.2).
- 3) Develop and apply foundation knowledge, theory, values, ethics and skills in advanced generalist social work practice within the context of groups, organizations and communities (MSW 1.2, 1.5, 1.6).
- 4) Assess institutional and environmental factors that serve as barriers for populations-at-risk and diverse groups, including age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender,

marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation, in meeting social and economic needs, with an emphasis on rural and small communities (MSW 1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 3.1).

5) Understand the planned change process for analyzing a problem requiring community change and for developing a macro-level change effort. (MSW 1.2, 2.2, 3.1).

6) Understand the application of models of community organizing and change with a diverse array of populations, including people distinguished by age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation (MSW 1.2, 1.5, 2.2, 3.1).

7) Understand and analyze the difference between community asset and community needs assessment (MSW 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Response to Discussion Questions***

Students will respond to discussion questions based upon the required reading posed by the instructor on D2L. Subject matter will include discussion of ethical and value issues impacting advanced generalist social work practice in organizations and communities.

### ***Analysis of Social Service Organization (Designated Learning Assignment L. O. 1.2 & 1.6)***

Student will conduct an analysis of their foundation practicum agency, including an examination of the organization's mission, goals, governing structure, theoretical models, decision-making process, funding sources, service delivery model, and institutional strengths and barriers to populations-at-risk and diverse groups. Students will incorporate the results of a literature search critically examining evidence-based practice in the delivery of social services.

### ***Asset and Needs Assessment***

Students will write a paper comparing and contrasting community asset assessment and community needs assessment, including the strengths and limitations of each approach. In addition, students will develop a strategy for implementing an assessment in a community, including considerations for engaging members of diverse groups.

### ***Community Analysis (Designated Learning Assignment L. O. 1.2)***

Utilizing the "PREPARE" and "IMAGINE" evaluation instruments, students will engage in a hypothetical analysis of a rural or small community in a two phase assignment. Part A: Assessment of the potential for community change using the "PREPARE" assessment instrument. Part B: Development of a strategy for implementing macro-level change in a community using the "IMAGINE" instrument, including an analysis of strategies for members of diverse groups.

## **SOWK 611 COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1**

Topic: Introduction to class; Review syllabus and course objectives

### **Week 2**

Topic: Defining macro practice; Case methods; Community organization

### **Week 3**

Topic: The strengths perspective; Consensus organizing

### **Week 4**

Topic: "Practicing" macro social work; Analyzing issues within a community

### **Week 5**

Topic: Uncovering citizen strengths; Working with citizens for social change

### **Week 6**

Topic: Enriching organizational life; Cultural competency

### **Week 7**

Topic: Developing community capacities; Strategies for effective community advocacy

### **Week 8**

Topic: Understanding social planning; Working with others in community

### **Week 9**

Topic: Administration from a strengths perspective; Developing partnerships between groups

### **Week 10**

Topic: Strengths in policy, practice, and politics; Building personal relationships

### **Week 11**

Topic: Promoting a just society; Building relationships within institutions

### **Week 12**

Topic: Evaluating macro change; Nurturing new organizers

### **Week 13**

Topic: Promoting the ideology of social justice; Organizing across the spectrum

### **Week 14**

Topic: The future of community organizing – Where do we go from here?

**Week 16 – Finals**