

**ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH INDIVIDUALS****Social Work 651****Minnesota State University, Mankato****Department of Social Work****PURPOSE OF THE COURSE**

This course provides students with advanced generalist theories, knowledge, values, and skills for competent, ethical and evidence-based direct social work practice with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Students develop, analyze, integrate and apply social work practice theories to advance their knowledge and skills of comprehensive assessment and differential application of treatment approaches and intervention strategies in social work practice at the micro level with individuals. Emphasis is placed on current, evidence-based models of intervention used in a variety of direct social work practice settings with individuals from small and rural communities.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Identify and describe relevant theories for social work practice with individuals (MSW 1.8C & 2.2).
- 2) Critically evaluate major theoretical perspectives for social work intervention with individuals, including historical context, values and assumptions, strengths and weaknesses, relevance to populations at risk, empirical support, attention to social justice, and the social worker's roles and behaviors in applying theory (MSW 1.5, 1.8C, 2.2, 2.4C, 2.5C, 3.3C).
- 3) Differentially select and use advanced practice skills and theoretical frameworks in complex situations with individuals, particularly those in small and rural communities (MSW 1.2, 1.4, 2.4C).
- 4) Design and implement a process of intervention with individual clients, including comprehensive assessment, intervention planning and implementation, selection of techniques, termination, evaluation, follow-up, and documentation that is grounded in empirically supported theory (MSW 1.5, 1.8C, 1.9C, 2.2, 2.4C).
- 5) Assess the use of self in practice, including strengths and deficits as a worker, develop skills to heighten effective use of self, enhance strengths, address deficits, and build self-awareness of potential personal and professional value conflicts, emphasizing ethical and boundary issues common to small and rural communities (MSW 1.4, 1.7, 2.3, 2.4C).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Integrative Application Examinations (100 points each, total 200 points)***

The students will be given two examinations, one focusing on a child or adolescent and the other focusing on an adult or older adult case study. The examination will provide the student with the opportunity to provide a complete social work assessment of client functioning, including mental health diagnosis where appropriate, along with the opportunity to demonstrate the relationship between the diagnostic assessment and recommendations for interventions based on at least one theoretical perspective and provide evidence for social work practice interventions.

### ***Cultural Self-Assessment Exercise (100 points)***

Culturally responsive social work practice with individuals begins with an assessment of the social worker's self. This exercise requires students to examine their own cultural heritage, identify areas of privilege and potential implications for social work practice.

### ***Class Participation (20 points)***

Class participation will consist of participating in D2L discussions outside of class and in-class discussions, including discussions of required readings, as well as attendance.

## **SOWK 651 COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1**

Topic: Introduction and overview of advanced generalist social work practice

### **Week 2**

Topic: Professional development, self-assessment, complexities of culture in practice, and ethics and values for rural practice

### **Week 3**

Topic: Thinking about theory and interviewing and assessment, connecting with your client, and culturally responsive assessment and diagnosis

### **Week 4**

Topic: Assessment, interviewing, integrating theory, introduction to the *DSM-IV TR*

### **Week 5**

Topic: Practice with children and psychodynamic theories

### **Week 6**

Topic: Practice with children and psychodynamic theories

### **Week 7**

Topic: Practice with adolescents and behavior theory

**Week 8**

Topic: Practice with adolescents and cognitive theory

**Week 9**

NO CLASS: Fall Break

**Week 10**

Topic: Practice with adults and interpersonal therapy

**Week 11**

Topic: Practice with adults and solution-focused therapy

**Week 12**

Topic: Practice with older adults and narrative theory

**Week 13**

Topic: Practice with older adults and crisis theory and intervention

**Week 14**

NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Holiday

**Week 15**

Topic: Conclusion

**Week 16**

Topic: Reserved for schedule adjustments