

Course Syllabus

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Course Number and Title: GERO 130 INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN SERVICES

Credits: 2

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to helping professions, including the various roles, functions, values, and personal attributes needed to function effectively in these careers. Included will be the history, practice settings, career opportunities, and philosophical concepts related to working with vulnerable populations.

Required Textbook: *The Generalist Model of Human Services Practice*; G. Hull & K. Kirst-Ashman, Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning; 2004, ISBN # 0-534-51273

Recommended Resources:

- *The Social Work Portfolio: Planning, Learning in Dynamic Profession*, Barry R. Cournoyer, Mary J. Stanley, Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning; 2002, ISBN # 0-534-34305-8
- *Social Work Values and Ethics*, 2nd Ed, Frederic G. Reamers, Columbia University Press; 1999, ISBN # 0231-11391-9
- *Direct Social Work Practice: Theory and Skills*, 6th. Ed, Dean H. Hepworth, Ronald H. Rooney, Jo Ann Larsen, Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning; 2002, ISBN # 0-534-36830-7
- *"Human Services?...That must be so rewarding."* Gail S. Bernstein & Judith A. Halaszyn, Paul H. Brooks Publishing Co., Inc. 1989, ISBN # 1-55766-007-7
- *Therapeutic Recreation: Processes and Techniques*, 2nd. Ed, David R. Austin, Sagamore Publishing, Inc. 1991, ISBN # 0-915611-45-7.
- *American Social Welfare Policy: A Pluralist Approach*, 4th Ed. Howard Jacob Karger, David Stoesz, Allyn and Bacon 2002, ISBN # 0-8013-3311-3
- *The Reluctant Welfare State*, 4th Ed, Bruce S. Jansson, Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning; 2001, ISBN # 0-534-36551-5
- *A New History of Social Welfare*, 5th Ed, Phyllis J. Day, Allyn and Bacon 2006, ISBN # 0-205-43703-6

Course Outcomes: Students will

1. Describe the importance of a liberal arts (electic) knowledge base for generalist human services practice.
2. Identify and describe basic knowledge, practice principles, and human services values and ethics.
3. Appraise one's goodness of fit by examining personal motivation for entering a human services profession.

4. Explain the basic concepts of social problems, social justice, economic justice, social welfare, and human diversity with emphasis on the oppressed and vulnerable particularly in rural populations.
5. Discuss the impact of cultural diversity and the practitioner's need to develop ethnic and gender competencies.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of the human services professions.
7. Describe the generalist approach to practice and the rationale for applying this approach, particularly in rural settings.
8. Identify the areas and settings of human services practice especially the Northern Great Plains Region.

Course Content:

- Introduction to human services
- Values, ethics, and self-awareness
- Culturally competent practice
- Historical development of the helping professions
- Helping process in generalist practice
- Working with individuals and systems
- Career avenues in human services

Course Requirements and Evaluation: Students must read assigned textbook chapters and other resources, complete assignments that reinforce learning, and demonstrate by exam knowledge of the topics covered. There will be 3 tests, a comprehensive midterm and final, as well as 10 quizzes, 10 discussion board questions, 2 reaction papers and 1 case study. Your final grade is determined by dividing total points earned by total points possible. There are a total of 500 points possible for this course.

- Tests 1-3 @ 25 points each for a Total of 75 points
- Mid Term @ 75 points for a Total of 75 points
- Final @ 100 points for a Total of 100 points
- 10 Discussion Board Questions @ 5 points each for a Total of 50 points
- 10 Quizzes @ 5 points each for a Total of 50 points
- 1 Practice Paper @ 50 points for a Total of 50 points
- 2 One page Reaction Papers @ 25 points each for a Total of 50 points
- 1 Case Study @ 50 points for a Total of 50 points

Grades will be calculated using the following criteria:

- A= 90-100
- B= 80-89
- C= 70-79
- D= 60-69
- F= 59 and below

Final Comments: The recommended Resources do not need to be purchased, however were utilized in the development of this course and will be referenced in the lecture presentation, discussions board questions, quizzes, exams, reaction papers, practice paper and case study.

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