



Social Work with Organizations and Communities Christian Education Division

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The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2014-2015 is Spiritual Vitality. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the "Articles of Religious Belief" and the "Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, and Servant Leadership.

Course Description

Because humans live in community social workers often take a broader view of social needs. In this course students will use their social concern, Christian values and critical thinking skills to better understand how to assist those who struggle and have been relegated to society's margins, empowering the marginalized to create a healthier environment and to create social change in keeping with Scriptural mandates to practice Godly social justice.

Student Learning Outcomes

Macro Social Work practice requires an ability to understand the context in which peoples live, the institutions and organizations that affect their lives, and how to effectively intervene in these arenas to bring about God's justice for those who have difficulty doing so. Thus, upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define macro social work practice;
2. Describe a social worker's role at the community, organizational and national level;
3. Design helping strategies for individuals and groups at a macro level;
4. Recognize the difference between a helpful organization and ones that are not;
5. Identify models of ministry that show best practices of community improvement;
6. Argue effectively for a Biblical concept of social justice

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required readings for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Brueggemann, W.G. (2014). *The practice of macro social work*, 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Cosgrove, J. (2008). Social work and international, inter-congregational relationship: Multi-dimensional, transformative power. In Hugen, B. and Scales, T.L. (Eds.) *Christianity and social work: Readings on the integration of Christian faith and social work practice*, 3rd ed. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Gordon, W. and Perkins, J.M. (2013). *Making neighborhoods whole: A handbook for Christian community development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Jones, A.S. and Fowler, T.S. (2009). A faith community-domestic violence partnership. *Social Work & Christianity*, 36(4): 415-429.

Parker, M.W., Dunn, L.L., MacCall, J.G., Goetz, J., Park, N. Li, A.X., Sims, S., Harrell, R. Lee, H. Grant, E., Spencer, C., Martin, S., Khalifa, D.A. and Koenig, H.G. (2013). Helping to create an age-friendly city: A town & gown community engagement project. *Social Work & Christianity*, 40(4)422-445.

Perdue, T., Prior, M., Williamson, C. and Sherman, S. (2012). Social justice and spiritual healing: Using micro and macro social work practice to reduce domestic minor sex trafficking. *Social Work & Christianity*, 39(4), 449-465.

Trulear, H.D. (2011). Balancing justice with mercy: Creating a healing community. *Social Work & Christianity*, 38(1): 74-87.

Wooten, T. (2012). *We shall not be moved: Rebuilding home in the wake of Katrina*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Supplemental Texts

The following texts and resources may prove helpful to a deeper understanding of how Christians in Social Work ministries understand and intervene at a macro level:

Fikkert, B. and Corbett, S. (2009). *When helping hurts: How to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor and yourself*. Chicago: Moody.

Fuder, J. (1999). *A heart for the city: Effective ministries to the urban community*. Chicago: Moody.

Fuder, J. and Castellanos, N. (2013). *A heart for the community: New models for urban and suburban ministry*. Chicago: Moody.

Kretzman, J.P. and McKnight, J.L. (1993). *Building communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets*. Chicago: ACTA Publications.

Lupton, R.D. (2011). *Toxic charity: How churches and charities hurt those they help (and how to reverse it)*. New York: HarperCollins.

Marsh, C. (2005). *The beloved community: How faith shapes social justice from the civil rights movement to today*. New York: Basic Books.

Marsh, C., Perkins, J.M. and Yancey, P. (2009). *Welcoming justice: God's movement toward beloved community*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Course Teaching Methodology

This class meets on campus and in person once per week.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Participate in all class discussions and meetings.
2. Read the assigned texts and additional class material in advance of class and be prepared to discuss material in class.
3. Prepare a 15 page paper that expands upon materials from readings and presented in class in which the student will demonstrate an understanding of Social Work practice with organizations and community within a Christian worldview.
4. The final exam will be essay style and will draw upon readings and notes to assess your understanding of reading and class materials.

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis as follows:

Class discussion	25%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	50%

Course Policies

Absences and Late Assignments

In accordance with seminary policy, a student will automatically fail the course if he or she incurs three absences. The student handbook should be consulted regarding further information about seminary policies for absences. Late assignments automatically will be penalized a letter grade and may receive additional penalties depending on the amount of time the assignment is late.

Emergency Plan

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary website for information: www.nobts.edu. Also, students should use Blackboard to follow any announcements that may be posted. Students should ensure their current email address is updated on Blackboard.

Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Course Schedule

<u>Session</u>	<u>Topics Covered</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Session 1	Introduction/Syllabus What is Macro Social Work	Brueggeman (B) 1-3 Gordon/Perkins (GP) 1
Session 2	Action-Social Model Generalist Social Work Practice Roots of CCDA	B 4 GP 2 Parker (2013)
Session 3	Conventional and Social Problems History of CCDA Discussion of Parker article	B 5 GP 3

Session 4	Problem Solving & Social Change CCDA Looking Ahead	B 6 GP 4 Perdue (2012)
Session 5	Community as Context for Change Relocation Discussion of Perdue article	B 7 GP 5
Session 6	Community Research & Planning Reconciliation	B 8 GP 6 Trulear (2011)
Session 7	Organizing Communities Redistribution Discussion of Trulear article	B 9 GP 7
Session 8	Social Organizations Leadership Development	B 10 GP 8 Jones (2009)
Session 9	Creating New Organizations Listening to the Community Discussion of Jones article	B 11 GP 9
Session 10	Social Administration Being Church-Based	B 12 GP 10 Wooten 6, 13
Session 11	Organization Development Wholistic Approach Social Work as Rebuilding	B 13 GP 11
Session 12	Advocacy and Social Action Empowerment	B 14 Cosgrove (2008)
Session 13	International Social Work International Inter-Congregational Relationships Research Paper Due	
Session 14	Final Exam	

Note from the Professor

I will be available to meet with students individually throughout the workshop. Students can contact me by email: kbrown@nobts.edu or by phone, 504-282-4455, ext. 8305. I am available at breakfast or lunchtimes by appointment as well as after class.

Selected Bibliography

- Brueggemann, W.G. (2014). *The practice of macro social work*, 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Cooper, H.S., Singletary, J. and Scales, T.L. (2012). *Social environments and human behavior: Contexts for practice with groups, organizations, communities and social movements*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Cosgrove, J. (2008). Social work and international, inter-congregational relationship: Multi-dimensional, transformative power. In Huguen, B. and Scales, T.L. (Eds.) *Christianity and social work: Readings on the integration of Christian faith and social work practice*, 3rd ed. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.
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- Glisson, C.A., Dulmus, C.N. and Sowers, K.M. (2012). *Social work practice with groups, communities, and organizations: Evidence-based assessments and interventions*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.
- Gordon, W. and Perkins, J.M. (2013). *Making neighborhoods whole: A handbook for Christian community development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.
- Jacobsen, D.A. (2001). *Doing justice: Congregations and community organizing*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress.
- Jones, A.S. and Fowler, T.S. (2009). A faith community-domestic violence partnership. *Social Work & Christianity*, 36(4): 415-429.
- Katongole, E. and Rice, C. (2008). *Reconciling all things: A Christian vision for justice, peace and healing*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.
- Kirst-Ashman, K.K. and Hull, Grafton H. (2015). *Generalist practice with organizations and communities*, 6th ed.. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.
- Kretzman, J.P. and McKnight, J.L. (1993). *Building communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets*. Chicago: ACTA Publications.
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- McKnight, J.L. and Block, P. (2010). *The abundant community: Awakening the power of families and neighborhoods*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.
- Parker, M.W., Dunn, L.L., MacCall, J.G., Goetz, J., Park, N. Li, A.X., Sims, S., Harrell, R. Lee, H. Grant, E., Spencer, C., Martin, S., Khalifa, D.A. and Koenig, H.G. (2013). Helping to create an age-friendly city: A town & gown community engagement project. *Social Work & Christianity*, 40(4)422-445.
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- Perkins, J.M. (1993). *Beyond charity: The call to Christian community development*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Perkins, J.M. (ed). (1995). *Restoring at-risk communities: Doing it together and doing it right*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.
- Pople, K. and Stepney, P. (2008). *Social work and the community: A critical framework for practice*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Salvatierra, A. and Heltzel, P. (2014). *Faith-rooted organizing: Mobilizing the church in service to the world*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.
- Sherman, A. (2004). *Restorers of hope: Reaching the poor in your community with church-based ministries that work*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock.
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