CESW 9401 Social Work

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division
Fall 2012

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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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this seminar is to challenge students to utilize social work methods, practices, principles, skills, and organizations as they express and fulfill their call to ministry.

Core Value Focus

This seminar will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus assigned by the administrative council. This year's core value focus is servant leadership.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Servant Leadership:* This competency will be addressed through interviews with social work professionals.
2. *Interpersonal Relationships:* Seminar participants will have opportunities to practice listening skills, assertion skills, conflict resolution skills, collaborative problem solving skills, and skill selection.
3. *Spiritual and Character Formation:* Students will demonstrate that they value ministry to individuals, families, churches, and communities.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to engage students in a comprehensive examination of social work ministry. The direction of the seminar may involve the historical development of social work, an advanced study and practice of group theory related to the church, or other fields of study related to social work ministry.

Learning Objectives

The student involved in this course should be able to:

1. Apply their knowledge and comprehension of the profession of social work to serve churches effectively.
2. Value social work methods.
3. Formulate a personal view of the relationship between the Christian social worker and society.
4. Articulate his or her personal ethics as related to Christian social work.

Required Readings

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

Required Texts

Gambrill, Eileen. *Social Work Practice: A Critical Thinkers Guide,* 3d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Golding, Kim S. *Nurturing Attachments: Supporting Children Who Are Fostered or Adopted.* Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2008.

Scales, T. Laine, and Michael S. Kelley, eds. *Christianity and Social Work,* 4th ed. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work, 2012.

Ritter, Jessica A., F. Halaevalu Vakalahi and May Kiernan-Stern. *101 Careers in Social Work.* New York: Springer Publishing Co., 2009.

Stott, John. *The Radical Disciple.* Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2010.

Seminar Teaching Methodology

The seminar will be introduced by the professors via blackboard (chat session at 1:00 p.m. CST on Friday, August 24) and will meet on campus three times during the semester. The seminar will utilize lecture, group discussions, student presentations, interviews, research reports, panel discussions, videos, and a final exam.

Units of Study

Unit 1	Overview of the field of social work. What is social work? Social Work Education
Unit 2	Biblical and Historical Basis Panel Discussion: Professional Social Workers The Profession of Social Work Social Work Values Social Work Ethics
Unit 3	Social Work Methodologies Case Work, Social Work with Families, Group Work, Administration, Research, Community Organization, and Policy
Unit 4	Spirituality and Social Work Issues that Impact Social Work The Future of Social Work Conclusion

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. In preparation for seminar discussion and the interview assignment, students will read *101 Social Work Careers*. Students will write a critique of the book which should consist of 2 pages of summary and 3 pages of reaction and critique. The book critique is due on September 14.
2. Students should interview three social work professionals in the field(s) of their choice. The interviews should consist of biographical information, professional training, motivation for choosing social work, fulfillment of expectations regarding current profession, and recommendations for improvement in the practice area. Students should submit a summary (3-4 pages) of their interviews on September 14. The summaries should include the date of the interview and the name of the social worker and the name of the agency. Oral reports on the interviews will be presented at the first seminar.
3. Seminar participants will read *The Radical Disciple* as a devotional reading and be prepared to lead a devotional as scheduled.
4. Students will submit summaries and critiques of the three additional textbooks (2 pages of summary and 3 pages of critique). Students will lead a discussion of the textbooks as assigned on November 2.
5. Research Paper: A major research paper consisting of 30 pages will be presented by each participant during the last seminar meeting – November 30 and December 1. The student may choose a topic from (1) a professional issue, (2) a field of social work (i.e., adoption, foster care, family social work, etc.), or (3) a social welfare policy (Medicare, homelessness, etc.). Each student will have 45 minutes to present and 15 minutes for discussion/questions. Include the role of the church in your area of research. Copies of the research paper should be available to the professors and members of the class one week prior to the presentation. Peers and professors will critique each paper and presentation.

Evaluation

Book Critiques	20%
Research Paper	30%
Seminar Involvement	15%
Interviews	15%
Final Exam	20%

Course Policies

Classroom Decorum

Participation is required for every course session due to the interactive learning format of the course. A positive attitude can only enhance the learning experience. Therefore, for the purposes of this class, a *positive attitude* and *participation* are defined as productive and interactive engagement with classroom presentations and classroom dialogues throughout a full course session. Participants are expected to respect the viewpoints of other seminar participants and guests. Students cannot participate effectively if they are not focused on the **subject** matter while in the classroom. Consequently, the student is expected:

- To come to class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources on the course topic in discussion groups and classroom dialogues.
- To dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- To turn off cell phones and not to accept any phone calls and text messages during class.
- To use laptops appropriately during class.

Absences

Absences are not permitted in this seminar. Participants are expected to be on time for class and to stay for the entire meeting time.

Assignments

Late papers are not accepted without prior permission from the professors.

Course Schedule

8/24, 1:00 p.m., Blackboard Chat Session	Professors will contact students for dialogue regarding the seminar.
9/14-9/15	Devotional Introduction and Goal Setting Overview of the Field of Social Work What is Social Work? Biblical and Historical Basis Panel Discussion: The Profession of Social Work
11/2-11/3	Devotional Book Reviews (3) Social Work Methodology: Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Casework, Group Work, Administration, Research, Policy, Community Organization, Social Work Values and Ethics, Spirituality and Social Work, Family Social Work
11/30-12/1	Devotional Issues that Impact Social Work Social Work Education The Future of Social Work Presentation of Research Papers Conclusion and Evaluation

Selected Bibliography

Adkins, Julie, Laurie Occhipinti, and Tara Hefferan, eds. *Not by Faith Alone: Social Services, Social Justice, and Faith-Based Organizations in the United States*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010.

Chang, Valerie Nash, Sheryn T. Scott, and Carol L. Decker. *Developing Helping Skills: A Step-by-Step Approach*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, 2009.

Corbett, Steve, and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor – and Yourself*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.

Corcoran, Jacqueline. *Helping Skills for Direct Social Work Practice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Cree, Viviene E., ed. *Social Work: A Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2011.

Erdman, Phyllis, and Kok-Mun Ng, eds. *Attachment*. New York: Routledge, 2010.

Gray, Mel, and Stephen A. Webb, eds. *Ethics and Value Perspectives in Social Work*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Greene, Gilbert J., and Mo Yee Lee. *Solution-Oriented Social Work Practice: An Integrative Approach to Working with Client Strengths*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Harper-Dorton, Karen V., and James E. Lantz. *Cross-Cultural Practice: Social Work with Diverse Populations*, 2d ed. Chicago: Lyceum Books, 2007.

Howe, David. *Attachment Across the Life Span: A Brief Introduction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

LeCroy, Craig Winston. *The Call to Social Work*, 2d ed. Los Angeles: Sage, 2012.

Martin, Terry L., and Kenneth J. Doka. *Men Don't Cry . . . Women Do*. Philadelphia: George H. Buchanan, 2000.

Mather, Jannah Hurn, and Patricia B. Lager. Child Welfare. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thompson, 2000.

Mercer, Jean. *Understanding Attachment*. Westford, CT: Praeger, 2006.

Nichols, Keith A., and John Jenkinson. *Leading a Support Group: A Practical Guide*. Maidenhead, England: Open University Press, 2006.

O'Sullivan, Terrence. *Decision Making in Social Work,* 2d ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Payne, Malcolm. *What is Professional Social Work?,* 2d ed. Bristol, UK: The Policy Press, 2006.

Purvis, Karyn B., David R. Cross, and Wendy Lyons Sunshine. *The Connected Child*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2007.

Rzepnicki, Tina L., Stanley G. McCracken, and Harold E. Briggs, eds. *From Task-Centered Social Work to Evidence-Based and Integrative Practice: Reflections on History and Implementation*. Chicago: Lyceum Books, 2012.

Shulman, Lawrence. *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities*, 7th ed. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, 2012.

Thompson, Charles L., and Linda B. Randolph. *Counseling Children*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thompson, 2007.

Van Hook, Mary Patricia. *Social Work Practice with Families: A Resiliency-Based Approach*. Chicago: Lyceum Books, 2008.

Wright, H. Norman. *The Truth about Children and Divorce: Dealing with the Emotions So You and Your Children Can Thrive*. New York: Penguin, 2006.