

Westfield State University

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

SOCW 0521: Human Behavior and the Social Environment I

SECTION 503

FALL 2016

3 CREDIT HOURS

Instructor: Name: Maria D. Mead, MSW, LCSW
Phone: 413-572-8332
Email:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to:

1. Understand the eclectic use of theory, ability to practice personal reflection and self-correction. (F3.1, F3.2, F7.1, F7.2, & F7.3)
2. Engage in critical thinking skills in analyzing models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation. (F3.1, F3.2, F6.2, F7.1, F7.2, & F7.3)
3. Recognize the extent to which a culture's structure and values may marginalize and alienate oppressed groups. (F3.1, F3.2, F4.1, F4.2, F4.3, & F4.4)
4. Demonstrate understanding of their own cultural beliefs and the ways that they may enhance privilege and power. (F3.1, F3.2, F4.1, F4.2, F4.3, & F4.4)
5. Apply conceptual frameworks to guide the process of assessment, intervention, and evaluation. (F3.1, F3.2, F6.2, F7.1, F7.2, & F7.3)
6. Understand the application of the multidimensional framework for assessing social functioning including biological, psychological, and social dimensions. (F3.1, F3.2, F6.2, F7.1, F7.2, & F7.3)
7. To engage in informed, sensitive, and competent practice with diverse and oppressed groups (F2.1, F2.2, F2.3, & F2.4).
8. To appreciate and understand how the values and functions of social work relate to the knowledge base of the profession (F2.1, F2.2, F2.3, & F2.4).

Required Text:

Hutchison, E. D. (2012). *Essentials of human behavior: Integrating person, environment, and the life course*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

Additional required articles from social work journals and web resources may be assigned in the PLATO virtual classroom.

ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE EVALUATION

1. Group Presentations 30%
2. Individual contribution to Group 5%
2. Personal Development Paper 20 %
4. Biopsychosocial Assessment 20% (Final Paper)
5. Attendance and Participation: 25% [up to 15% (1% for every weekly online post) will be awarded toward online discussions and Plato activities, 10% for attendance and participation]

Guidelines for Assignments

Written work is due at the end of the week in which it is due (this includes each discussion in the virtual classroom). Late work, without prior approval from the professor, will not be accepted. Incompletes will only be given as a final grade if the student meets with me, develops a contract to finish the assignments, and follows through with the adjusted expectations.

STANDARDS FOR GRADING

Assessment Classification	Range	Grade	Grade Point
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