UNO GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SOWK 4880/8886 TOPICAL SEMINAR IN SOCIAL WORK
(1-3 credit hours)

SYLLABUS

1.0. Course description

1.1 Catalog description: Specific seminar topics will focus on advanced content in social work theory and practice. The course description will be announced when a specific topical seminar is proposed. The topics selected will be consistent with School of Social Work program objectives, faculty expertise, and student needs.

1.2 Prerequisites of the course:
Undergraduate: SOWK 3010, SOWK 3110, and SOWK 3320.
Graduate: SOWK 8130 prior to or concurrent, or BSW degree.

1.3 Overview of content and purpose of the course: This course is intended to deal with current developments in social work and to supplement regular course offerings. The topical seminar may also be used to pre-test courses before including them in the regular program. The syllabus specifies course objectives.

1.4 Unusual circumstances of the course: These, if any, will be addressed in the syllabus for the proposed topical seminar. See specific other syllabi under this number for topics that have been taught recently.

2.0 Course justification information

2.1 Anticipated audience/demand:
Undergraduate: This course meets the requirements for the social work elective, and is intended for upper division undergraduate social work students.
Graduate: This course is a social work elective in the MSW program.

2.2 Indicate how often this course will be offered and the anticipated enrollment:
The course is offered on a rotating basis.
Undergraduate: Enrollment is anticipated to be 10 students.
Graduate: Enrollment is anticipated to be 15 students.

2.3 If it is a significant change to an existing course, please explain why it is needed:
The course objectives have been revised to meet accreditation standards. Course objectives and assignments are now linked with CSWE EPAS competencies and practice behaviors. The bibliography has also been updated.

3.0 Objective information

3.1 List of performance objectives stated in learning outcomes in a student’s perspective:
This course is intended to deal with current developments in social work and to supplement regular course offerings. The topical seminar may also be used to pre-test courses before including them in the regular program. The syllabus for a proposed topical seminar must specify course objectives as student outcomes and demonstrate their links to CSWE EPAS Generalist competencies and practice behaviors and to course assignments as follows:

4.0 Content and organization information

4.1 List the major topics central to this course:
The course content and organization will depend on the topic being pursued. The course outline must be approved by the Curriculum Committee of the School of Social Work and the Office of Graduate Studies. The specific course syllabus and outline will be distributed to students during the first two weeks of class. Recent topics that have been taught under this course number include: gay and lesbian issues, spirituality, and school social work.

5.0 Teaching methodology information

5.1 Methods: The teaching methods will depend on and be consistent with the course objectives of the specific seminar being offered. Generally, these will include a combination of didactic (lecture, discussion) and experiential (videos, lab groups) methods. Appropriate learning activities and required and optional readings will be assigned.

5.2 Student role: Students are expected to prepare for class and to participate actively in class.

6.0 Evaluation information

6.1 Describe the typical types of student projects that will be the basis for evaluating student performance:
Evaluation may include exams, papers, special projects, class participation, etc.

6.2 Describe the typical basis for determining the final grade (e.g. weighting of various student projects):
Details of requirements, criteria for grading, and grading scale will be delineated in the syllabus for the topical seminar and distributed during the first two weeks of class. If a topical seminar is offered as a combined undergraduate/graduate course, there will be different criteria for evaluation for graduate and undergraduate students.

6.3 Grading type:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98% or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 to 97.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78 to 80.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 to 77.9%</td>
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7.0 Resource material information

7.1 Textbook(s) or other required readings used in course:
The resource material will be current and appropriate to the topical seminar.

7.2 Other student suggested reading materials:
The resource material will be current and appropriate to the topical seminar.

7.3 Current bibliography and other resources:
The resource material will be current and appropriate to the topical seminar.

8.0 Other information

8.1 Accommodations statement
Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with UNO Disability Services and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact UNO Disability Services (EAB 117, Phone: 554-2872, TTY: 554-3799) or go to the website: www.unomaha.edu/disability

8.2 Plagiarism/academic integrity
In this course, you will submit written work in which you make use of information and ideas found in print or online sources. Whenever you use material from another writer, it is important that you quote or paraphrase appropriately and cite the source. Never let it appear that ideas and information gleaned from other sources are your own.

The UNO Academic Integrity policy defines plagiarism as “presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting . . . academic work in whole or in part as one’s own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person.”

Failure to cite sources appropriately is plagiarism, a serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will not be accepted. Consequences for plagiarism are up to the discretion of the instructor; they may range, for example, from rewriting all or part of a paper to a grade of F for the course. Students who plagiarize more than once are subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the university.

UNO Faculty Senate, March, 2010
Additional note on plagiarism/academic integrity from the UNO School of Social Work:

The School of Social Work views plagiarism as a very serious offense. The NASW Code of Ethics includes a high value on integrity and the importance of behaving in a trustworthy manner (see NASW Code of Ethics, www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/default.asp, 4.04 and 4.08). In addition, the Publication Manual of the APA (2010) states, “Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author, you need to credit the source in the text” (p. 15).

The School of Social Work will hold a Level 2 or 3 Student Review for any student who is alleged to have plagiarized or cheated in any of their academic courses.

8.3 Procedures regarding student grades/papers

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 requires that student grades not be published in a personally identifiable fashion. Therefore, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor, students must provide a self-addressed adequately stamped envelope for papers, projects, or exams that were not returned to them in class. Any remaining papers, projects or exams will be kept by the instructor for 3 months after the semester ends, at which time they will be shredded.

8.4 Resources for students:

- UNO Counseling Center, http://counseling.unomaha.edu
- UNO Speech Center, http://www.unomaha.edu/speechcenter
- UNO Writing Center, www.unomaha.edu/writingcenter
- Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue, http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl

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