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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course prepares students for direct practice in health care settings, including hospitals, home health care agencies, hospices, clinics, and community-based programs. Health beliefs, models of health behavior, and provider attitudes will be considered, with attention given to the experiences of women, minorities, and populations at risk. While social work functions traditionally associated with health care, such as continuity of care, will be considered, major emphasis will be placed on the development of skills for holistic practice, which considers the bio-psycho-social-spiritual aspects of individual and family functioning and focuses on maintaining or enhancing quality of life. Social work roles and functions in groups and prevention programs and on interdisciplinary teams serving children and adults experiencing disability, trauma, and acute, chronic, and life-threatening illness will be explored. Ethical issues in health care will be examined.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. understand the role of social worker in the various settings and levels of the health care system (prevention, acute and chronic care, rehabilitation) and function effectively on interdisciplinary health care teams.

2. understand the psychosocial issues of illness and disability, the patient and caregiver roles, and the ways ethnicity, gender, class, culture, and other individual differences affect these.

3. assess biopsychosocial and spiritual functioning of patients and families in institutional and natural environments, with an emphasis on strengths and the potential for well-being.

4. intervene effectively with patients and families, demonstrating skills in crisis intervention, brief counseling, psychoeducation, and advocacy.
5. adapt social work interventions, including behavioral, cognitive, and solution-focused approaches, to health care settings.

6. demonstrate group work skills for use with patient and caregiver groups and for prevention and education.

7. identify and utilize resources and systems on behalf of patients and families.

8. analyze ethical issues in health care and understand the social work role in these.

9. evaluate their own interpersonal skills and practice and identify areas for improvement.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Course Reader for SW 855 (available at DuBois Bookstore).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to read the required readings and come to class prepared to participate in class discussions. Attendance at all class sessions is also expected and will be a factor in determining borderline grades.

There are four assignments for the course. Use the APA Publication Manual as a guide for editorial style. You may use internet resources for references in written assignments, but not exclusively. Be sure to disguise identifying information about clients in order to ensure confidentiality.

- **Self-help resource list** (Due: October 16)
  Choose an illness or medical condition of interest. Find ten (10) self-help resources for people with this condition and/or family/caregivers. This list, which should include the name of the resource, the website address, and a short paragraph describing the resource, should be emailed to the instructor. Hard copies will not be accepted. The lists will be posted on the class website for all students to use.

- **Cultural competency paper** (Due: October 23)
  Choose an illness or medical condition of interest. Write a short paper (5-7 pages) comparing the standard medical explanation of this illness to an alternative. In other words, your paper will have two parts: 1) the standard medical explanation of the causes, onset, and course of the illness, treatments for the illness, and outcomes; and 2) an alternate explanation for this illness based on either a) research into the ways a particular cultural
group views that illness or b) an interview with a patient using Kleinman's questions (p. 39 of course reader).

- **Interview tape and analysis (Due: November 6)**
  Make a tape of an interview (either a role play or an actual interview with a patient). You have a number of options for the content of this interview (e.g. discussing advance directives, discussing ways a patient copes with symptoms or treatments, discussing a patient's feelings about the illness); the only prohibitions are interviews that simply reflect information gathering or interviews that are used in the cultural competency paper. Tapes should be at least 15 minutes, but not more than 25. All students need to inform the instructor of the content of their interviews by October 23.

  The analysis of the interview has two parts: 1) a process recording, which generally includes a transcript of the interview (you don't have to transcribe the entire interview, but you do need to indicate where your comments relate to the interview), a column for your comments about your feelings and reactions to what is being said by the patient and you, and a column for the instructor's comments; and 2) a summary that includes your evaluation of the interview, what you feel you did and didn't do well and why, what you learned, and how this will inform your future practice.

- **Innovative practice paper (Due: November 21)**
  Choose a client from your field practice. Locate at least one article from a peer-reviewed journal that discusses the use of an innovative intervention (see weeks 7 and 8) with people having an illness or condition similar to that of your client. Write a short paper (5-7 pages) about the ways you could use the concepts discussed in the article in intervening with your client. A copy of the article should be turned in with your paper.

**GRADING:**

Both content and format (organization, grammar, etc.) will be considered in grading papers. Final grades will be determined as follows:

- Self-help resource list 10%
- Tape and analysis 30%
- Innovative practice paper 30%
- Cultural competency paper 30%

Class attendance and participation will be taken into account in determining borderline grades.
COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1  Overview of the course
9/25/00

Week 2  The social worker in a changing health care environment
10/2/00  
• the impact of managed care
• settings and functions
• interdisciplinary teamwork

Readings:  Text, Chapters 1-3, pp. 86-94.

Week 3  Assessment
10/9/00

Readings:


http://www.DiversityRx.org/HTML/MOCPT1.htm


Week 4  
10/16/00  
Interventions in acute care  
• crisis intervention  
• discharge planning and decision-making  

Readings:  
Text, Chapters 5 & 9  
Ell & Northen, Crisis intervention (pp. 173-189).

Week 5  
10/23/00  
Interventions with chronic illness  
• the impact of chronic illness on the person and family  
• HIV and AIDS  

Readings:  
Germain, C.B. 1984. Illness and the sick role as context for social work practice (pp. 34-56) and The professional frame of reference as context for practice (pp. 57-69), from Social work practice in health care. New York: Free Press.  
Text, Chapters 6 & 7  
Pollin, I. 1995. Getting started (pp. 38-46), The eight issues of chronic illness (pp. 47-98), and The family (pp. 120-134), from Medical crisis counseling: Short-term therapy for long-term illness. New York: W.W. Norton.

Week 6  
10/30/00  
Interventions with life-threatening illness  
• challenges of terminal illness
• advance directives

Readings:


Week 7 Innovations in promoting health and wellness
11/6/00
• self-help and self-management
• internet strategies

Readings: Text, Chapter 11.


Week 8 Innovations, continued
11/13/00
• solution-focused strategies
• narrative approaches

Reading:

Week 9  
11/20/00  Special topics in health care  
• mental illness  
• substance abuse  

Readings: Text, Chapters 12 & 13.

Alcohol Abuse Screening Instruments.


Week 10  
11/27/00  Professional issues and biomedical ethics  
Documentation  
Evaluating practice in health care  

Readings: Text, Chapters 4 & 8.


Bibliography


Internet Sites

American Network of Home Health Care Social Workers, Inc.  
http://www.homehealthsocialwork.org

Association for Oncology Social Work  
http://www.aosw.org/ (may have moved)

Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers  
http://www.aposw.org/

Center for Cross-Cultural Health (resources for cross-cultural health workers, particularly with Southeast Asian immigrants)  
www.crosshealth.com

Council of Nephrology Social Workers, National Kidney Foundation (has multidisciplinary clinical case reviews on-line in its newsletter Renalink)  
http://www.kidney.org/professionals/CNSW/

DiversityRx (information and resources on practice and policy issues)  
http://www.DiversityRx.org

National Association of Social Workers  
http://www.naswdc.org

National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine (federal agency; provides information about alternative treatments)  
http://nccam.nih.gov

National Women's Health Information Center (federal agency; also has a site entitled Women with DisAbilities)  
http://www.4women.gov

Office of Minority Health Resource Center (federal agency; provides information and resources)  
http://www.omhrc.gov

Perspectives of Differences (cross-cultural teaching materials)  
http://medicine.ucsf.edu/divisions/dgim/pods/

Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care  
http://www.sswlhc.org

Transcultural And Multicultural Health Links (information on health and health beliefs and practices of ethnic and religious groups, women, and sexual minorities)  
http://www.lib.iun.indiana.edu/trannurs.htm