Geriatric Social Work Integrative Seminar - 693  
Course Syllabus, Fall 2014  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
3 credits

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Course Description:  
The University of Michigan School of Social Work Geriatric Fellowship Integrative Seminar is a multi-methods course designed to supplement the Aging in Families and Society concentration curriculum with further information (a didactic component) and in depth case studies/field examples (a practice-based component). The course will cover several thematic units (aging in place, SW in long term care, immigration, and health care system/health policy issues), each of which will include a discussion of practice-based interventions. The seminar will also provide a forum in which students in aging can receive practical feedback as well as guidance in networking/job search strategies as they near graduation.

Seminar Format:  
Most three-hour seminar sessions will consist of a discussion of the topic for the day, a social justice focus, and a lecture on the topic of the day. Time will be taken for questions, broad discussion, and general support, feedback, and troubleshooting of field issues.

Objectives:  
Upon completion of the Geriatric Seminar, students will be able to:  
- Demonstrate knowledge of the continuum of care, including aging in place concepts, care transitions, and social work in long term care settings.  
- Create a poster professional presentation that demonstrates analytical thinking about an internship project with older adults.  
- Identify preparations necessary to successfully complete the social work licensing exam.  
- Prepare for and interview for positions in geriatric social work, based on resume and website completion, mock job interviewing, and skill set identification.  
- Demonstrate knowledge of and critical thinking about an area of geriatric social work that interests them.

Theme relation to multiculturalism and diversity  
Multiculturalism and diversity will be addressed through examination of the different health care options, policies and programs for varying groups of older adults, as well as through discussion how immigration policies affect the elderly.

Theme relation to social justice  
Social inequities in individual, group, and policy contexts affecting the elderly will be addressed throughout this seminar as various topics and programs are studied.
Theme relation to promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation
This theme will be addressed in the lectures and discussions related to health policy and programs; aging in place; immigration; and care transitions for older individuals.

Theme relation to behavioral and social science research
Evidence-based behavioral and social science research articles will be assigned related to the seminar topics and discussed in accompanying lectures.

Relationship to SW ethics and values
Ethics and values will be presented and discussed throughout the course but particularly in the workshop devoted to palliative care and ethical standards of practice with older adults.

Course Requirements:
- Attend each weekly session
- Participate in all discussions, activities, and presentations.
- Complete the assigned readings for each class.
- Complete assignments

Writing Policy:
Good writing skills to express information accurately and concisely are a requirement for effective social work practice. Therefore, formal writing assignments for this course (both journal entries and papers) will be evaluated for content, ideas presented, and for the clarity of the presentation. Misspelled words, typos, inappropriate use of grammar, and other indications of sloppy work will be graded down. In addition, appropriate referencing is required on all written assignments. SSW Career Services has a writing coordinator who can assist: https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/ssw-writing-help/. Or you may wish to contact the Sweetland Writing Center (http://www.lsa.umich.edu/swc/grads/support/, located at 435 South State Street, 1139 Angell Hall, 734-764-0429) for assistance in writing and referencing.

Grading:
Scores that reflect an “A” are reserved for student work that shows exceptional individual performance – good mastery of content, application of critical thinking, and clear and concise writing. “A” and “A-” distinguish the degree of superiority. A grade of “B+” denotes performance just above the mastery level. A grade of “B” is given to students who meet the basic requirement of the assignment. A grade of “B-” is used for student work that is less than adequate, reflecting only moderate grasp of the material. Variations of the “C” grade are given to work that reflects a minimum grasp of the material and poor organization. Final grades will be determined by adding the scores from all assignments.

Policy on Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity should not be taken lightly. Plagiarism and/or “borrowing” material without citing it can result in severe penalties. See website:http://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity/resources-students and http://guides.lib.umich.edu/content.php?pid=43469&sid=338261

Accommodations/Special Needs:
If you have a disability or impairment that requires accommodation, please contact one of us to discuss what modifications are necessary.

http://archive.ssw.umich.edu/studentGuide/

## Course Outline and Required Readings

### Readings on C-Tools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Introduction to the Seminar / Licensing</td>
<td>Jennifer Howard, LMSW, Executive Director, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter, Alzheimer’s Association</td>
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<td><strong>READINGS:</strong></td>
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<td>Reading: <a href="http://www.aswb.com">www.aswb.com</a> - find licensing requirement for states where you want a job</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Finding a Job</td>
<td>Michelle Woods, LMSW, 1994 Grad, Director of Career Services, School of Social Work</td>
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<td><strong>READINGS:</strong></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>Aging in Place - Ruth</td>
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Session 4

**Sept 25**  
Field Trip to Huron Valley PACE Program, 2940 Ellsworth Rd, Ypsilanti Township, MI 48197  
734-572-5777  
9:30 – 11:30 am

**READINGS:**  


Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2011). Quick facts about PACE.

Session 5

**Oct 2**  
Job Interviews

**READINGS:**  
http://jobsearch.about.com/od/interview-attire/ss/interview-outfits-for-women.htm  
http://www.fastcompany.com/1839723/10-job-interview-tips-ceo-headhunter  
http://theundercoverrecruiter.com/top-10-job-interview-tips-and-tricks/

Session 6

**Oct 9**  
Fund Raising Among Seniors

Cedric Ritchner / Helen Starman, Ritchner and Rictchner, Inc.

**READINGS:**  

Session 7  Oct 16  MDS & Social Work in Long Term Care

Angela Schmorrow, MSW, Project Manager, Institute of Gerontology, UM

READINGS:


MDS Documents also in C-Tools.

Session 8  Oct 23  Immigration and Aging

Mira Sussman, MSW, MA, Formerly Resettlement Services Coordinator, Jewish Family Services, Ann Arbor

READINGS:

From *Generations 32*(4), Winter 2008-09:
Torres-Gil, F. & Treas, J., Immigration and aging: The nexus of complexity and promise.

Treas, J., Four myths about older adults in America's immigrant families.

Session 9  Oct 30  Palliative Care & Ethics Workshop (9:00 – 4:30)
Poster Session at Workshop
Adam Marks, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, UM
Dennis Potter, LMSW, Kantu Consultants, Grand Rapids
Jon Voelkner, LMSW, John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, Detroit (afternoon speaker)

READINGS:
DOI: 10.1089/jpm.2013.9499.


**Session 10**
**Nov 6**
**Panel of MSW Graduates**

*Elizabeth Bletsch,* LLMSW, OBRA Social Worker, Washtenaw County

*Charity Jones,* LMSW, Case Manager, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Michigan

*Alexa Lempert,* LMSW, CSI Service Coordinator Team Leader, Hannan Foundation, Detroit

*Denise Stinson,* LMSW, Lead Social Worker, Beaumont Hospital Home Care Palliative Care Program

**Session 11**
**Nov 13**
**Present Poster Projects to Class**

Debrief readings and classes from 10/30 & 11/6

**Session 12**
**Nov 20**
**Medication Issues in Older Adults**

*Manju T Beier, Pharm D., CGP, FASCP*
Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy, University of Michigan

READINGS:
All from *Generations* 35(4) Winter 2011-12:
Peron, E.P. & Ruby, C.M. A primer on medication use in older adults for the non-clinician.
McLendon, A.N. & Shelton, P.S. New symptoms in older adults: Disease or drug?

McCullough, D. Medication use in late life and at end of life: A slow medicine approach.

**Nov 27 – THANKSGIVING**

**Session 13**

**Dec 4  Care Transitions**

**Brenda Carney**, LMSW, Director of Social Work, Luella Hannan Foundation

**READINGS:**
All readings from *Generations* Winter 2012-2013, 36(4).
Golden, R. & Shier, G. What does “care transitions” really mean? pp. 6-12


**Graduation Dessert** in honor of graduates and their families and friends (all students invited).
**Saturday, December 13, 2014**

Where: Ruth Dunkle’s home, 1460 Arlington Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI
Time: 7 P.M. (734-669-8316)

**Course Assignments and Expectations**

Students are expected to complete all assigned reading assignments prior to class AND SUBMIT 2 in-depth discussion questions via CTOOLS on the Forum by Tuesday evening (midnight deadline) prior to class on Thurs. It is expected that students will submit work on schedule. Failure to meet these expectations may result in reduction in grades.

It is further expected that students will attend all classes unless legitimate reasons exist for absences or tardiness. Legitimate absences include those due to health problems that can be documented, unanticipated family emergencies, and observance of religious holy days.
Any such absences or tardiness should be discussed directly with the course instructor, and students must make arrangements to complete class work which is missed.

**Assignments:** All assignments must focus on gerontological topics.

1) **Strengths/Skills Assessment.** Submit to C-Tools by **Sept. 11.**

2) **Draft Resume and blurb.** Submit to C-Tools by **Sept. 18.**

3) **Assignment of finding 2 jobs that you would likely apply for:**
   a. Write a one page description of why EACH would be good for you. Specifically describe how the job demands mesh with your strengths and experience
   b. Submit to C-Tools the job description along with the link to the job by **Sept 18.**

4) **Preparation of portfolio website:** 15%-25%.* **Due Dec 4.**

5) **Practice Paper:** 15%-25%. Submit to C-Tools.* **Due Nov. 20.**

   *You allocate the percentages for assignments 4 AND 5. They must add up to 40%. The minimum percentage for one assignment is 15%. You must email the percentages to Beth by midnight on November 19th. Paper worth 15%-19%, 8-9 pages excluding references; paper worth 20-25%, 11-12 pages excluding references.

6) **Pass Licensing Exam with a score of:** 75 =A, 70=B, 65=C, 64 and below=D. You may take it multiple times. Email best score to Beth by **Dec. 4.** 10-30%** (Advanced practice students please talk with instructors).

7) **Poster on Internship Project 10-30%**. **Poster presentation at October 30 Consortium Meeting.** **

   **You allocate the percentages for assignments 6 AND 7.** They must add up to 40%. The minimum percentage for one assignment is 10%. You must email the percentages to Beth by midnight on October 29th. We recommend that you take the licensing exam at least once prior to that time.

8) **Class participation and attendance.** **Class is responsible for reading articles prior to class AND SUBMITTING in-depth QUESTIONS ON EACH TUESDAY BEFORE CLASS BY MIDNIGHT VIA “FORUM” IN CTOOLS.** See guidelines.

9) **Check out licensing website for States where you might want to work.** ([www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org))

**Assignment Summary:**

**Class participation** 20%

Includes attendance, participating in class discussion and on-line forum, skills assessment, resume, job search and in-class job interview.
Forum posting dates. Midnight on:
9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/18, 12/2

| Skills Assessment                    | Due Sept. 11 |
| Two job descriptions and draft resume and blurb | Due Sept. 18 |

| Poster presentation | 10-30%* | Draft due Oct. 23; final due Oct. 30 |
| Licensing exam      | 10-30%* | Due Dec. 4                          |

*You decide % allocation by Oct 23. **Together two assignments must equal 40%.

| Paper | 15-25%** | Due Nov. 20 |
| Website | 15-25%** | Due Dec. 4 |

**You decide % allocation by Nov. 19. **Together two assignments must equal 40%.

Total 100%