

Social Work 790, section 010
Looking at Cases from a Family Perspective
Fall 2018, Room B798
Saturdays December 1, 8: 9-5

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Course Description:

This course will teach students the basics of system thinking and then explore their own cases (individual or family) from a family systems perspective. We will look at the dynamics of the case presented and ways the case could be handled using those dynamics. This is not supervision but a learning experience, using actual cases to explore how a family systems perspective could be used to shape understanding and planning. There will be inclusion of some role-playing experiences using the student cases. Students will need to be in field placement or have access to at least one case. This course will build on knowledge learned in SW 623 (Social Work with Families), which is recommended as a prerequisite, though not required. For those students who have not taken SW 623, there will be supplemental reading that will need to be read before the start of class.

Course Objectives:

From this course, students will

1. Learn what family systems theory is
2. Be able to apply family systems theory to different cases
3. Be able to construct a plan for how to work with clients from a family systems perspective

Course Design:

The course will include lecture, case presentation and exploration, role play and video.

Theme Relations to Multiculturalism and Diversity, Social Justice, Health Promotion, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Social work Ethics:

The unique characteristics of families of various diversity dimensions (age, ability, color, culture, ethnicity, to name a few) will be considered as well as looking at the multi-systems perspective in which students will learn to view the family as a system within a system. Identifying family functions and processes which are useful to developing each member of the family as well as using educational material to help with prevention will be taught. Ethical dilemmas unique to family work will be presented, such as balancing individual and family goals, confidentiality, and value conflicts that exist toward families.

Class Attendance and Participation:

Students will be expected to attend both class sessions and participate. Each student will present a case and some cases will be used for role play.

Grading:

Grades will be on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. The presentation of each student's case (including a genogram of both the family and the student) and participation (including in role plays) will be used to determine grades.

Readings:**For those who have not taken SW 623 or a family systems class:**

Worden, M., Family Therapy Basics (3rd edition), Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole

Goldenberg, Stanton, Goldenberg, Family Therapy: An Overview (9th edition), Chapter 4

For all:

Minuchin, S, Michael Nichols and Wai-Yung Lee, Assessing Families and Couples (2007), Chapter 1

Aponte, Harry and Joan Winter, The Person and Practice of the Therapist: Treatment and Training (1987)

Video: A Legacy of Unresolved Loss

I have placed a number of additional readings on Canvas for you to look at and read as you have time.

Assignment:

Case presentation (criteria on Canvas)

Genogram of case and self

Please contact me by email or a voice message on my work phone if you have any questions or wish to meet. I am not on campus but am happy to find a convenient time to meet with you.

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