

Bergen Community College

Division of Business and Social Sciences
Department of Social Sciences: Social Work

Course Syllabus

Introduction to Social Work (SOC 104)

Semester and year:

Section Number:

Meeting Times:

Locations:

Instructor:

Office Location:

Phone:

Departmental Secretary:

Office Hours:

Email Address:

Course Description:

This course is an analysis of the goals, ethics and values of social workers, agency structure, how social workers can advocate for change across client systems, considerations for the delivery of culturally competent social services, and the critical role that advocacy and a strengths-based perspective plays in the role of a social worker. Through lectures and group participation, students learn perspectives, definitions, dynamics, current issues, and social work roles while working within a multicultural society.

- Credits: 3, Lecture: 3

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, students will be able to:

Student Learning Outcome:	Means of Assessment:
1. Evaluate the general goals, competencies, responsibilities and objectives of generalist practice within the social work profession.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
2. Analyze social work’s core values, roles, fields of practice and career paths.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
3. Identify the structure and function of social work agencies and the range of services within social service networks.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
4. Describe the empowerment change process including: engagement, assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation and develop interviewing skills of beginning level generalist social work.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
5. Demonstrate the student’s perception of “self” including the distinction between self-interest and advocacy, and client self-determination.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.

Student Learning Outcome:	Means of Assessment:
6. Evaluate client systems in social work including the ecosystems perspective and the impact of community/physical environment on peoples' lives.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
7. Demonstrate an understanding in diversity and social work, including topics in multicultural social work practice, racial and ethnic diversity, and sexual identity.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
8. Identify contemporary issues in fields of practice including poverty, homelessness, criminal justice, health, mental health, intimate partner violence, child abuse, and elder abuse.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
9. Evaluate the understanding of why one needs to evaluate practice.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
10. Describe the major concepts of social justice and the necessity for all to have equal access to resources and opportunities.	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.

Signature Assignment:

Select one field of social work practice that interests you. Fields of social work practice include: mental health, aging/gerontology, child welfare, criminal justice, family violence, juvenile justice, health care, substance abuse, school social work, and crisis intervention. Once you have selected your social work field of practice, learn about this field using sources. You need to include at least two peer reviewed articles from professional social work journals. The paper needs to be 5-7 pages in length and needs to include answers to the following questions:

1. Why is this area of interest to you?
2. Describe some details about the target population.
3. What methods and interventions do social workers use when working in this area?
4. How would a social worker evaluate their interventions in this practice?
5. What are some specific skills needed for this social work practice area?
6. What are some of the issues and/or conflicts social workers are currently encountering when working in this field of practice?
7. What ethical conflicts do social workers in this field frequently face?
8. What type of organization (s)/agency does a social worker in this field work in?
9. Discuss client self-determination in this field of social work practice including how clients would be actively involved in shaping their service plan.

*SLOs to be assessed in this assignment:

- #1. Identify the general goals, competencies, responsibilities and objectives of generalist practice within the social work profession.
- #2. Identify social work's core values, roles, fields of practice and career paths.
- #4. Describe the empowerment change process.
- #5. Identify the student's perception of "self," including the distinction between self-interest and advocacy, and client self-determination.
- #8. Identify contemporary issues in fields of practice.
- #9. Identify the understanding of why one needs to evaluate practice.

Course Content:

As a general introduction to social work, students will be introduced to concepts and application of theories, research, and treatment related to social work. Students will gain an understanding of various social services and resources available to persons experiencing: poverty, child welfare, involvement with the criminal justice system, health care, mental health, developmental disability, homelessness, and aging.

This is a Social Service elective.

Major topics include:

What is social work?

The agency base of practice

The social service delivery system

Diversity and social work

Social Justice

Intervention skills: working with clients

Community context of practice

Introduction to social work research

Social work and social policy

Fields of practice

The public domain

Health, rehabilitation and mental health

Youth and families

Adult and aging

Social work values

Terminating with clients, colleagues and agency

Topics indicated in bold are foundational and every effort should be made to cover them in your course.

Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials:

Departmental text:

Hepworth, Rooney, Strom-Gottfried (2024). Direct Social Work Practice (14th ed.) Cengage.

Research, Writing, and/or Examination Requirement(s):

List/describe/comment on course research/writing/presentation/examination requirements.

State departmental policies on research, writing, presentation, and/or examination assignments [optional].

Include policy statements on student group work (if relevant).

Grading Policy:

Grading Scale

- A = 90-100
- B+ = 85-89
- B = 80-84
- C+ = 75-79
- C = 70-74
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

Describe/comment on the grading policy for the course (standards of evaluation; methods of evaluation; weights given to various requirements such as examinations, quizzes, projects, papers, oral presentations, class participation; faculty feedback to students on written work; etc.).

Include a statement on the role and weight of class participation in the course grading policy.

Include a policy statement on late work, make-up examinations, etc

Attendance Policy:

As you formulate, take note:

BCC Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

Append a statement on the departmental/discipline attendance policy (if any).
Append a statement on the attendance policy for the course.

Other College, Divisional, and/or Departmental Policy Statements:

Examples:

Statement on plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty:

[Academic Matters - Bergen Community College - Acalog ACMS™](#)

Statement on the appropriate use of AI (see the following link for guidance):

[AI-Guidance-Resource-Page.pdf \(bergen.edu\)](#)

ADA statement:

[Disability Services \(Office of Specialized Services\) | Bergen Community College](#)

Sexual Harassment statement:

[HR-003-001.2018-Policy-Prohibiting-Sexual-Harassment.pdf \(bergen.edu\)](#)

Statement on acceptable use of BCC technology:

[Acceptable-Use-Policy.pdf \(bergen.edu\)](#)

Recommended Syllabus Statements from the Office of Specialized Services:

[Syllabus Statements | Bergen Community College](#)

Statement on the purpose and value of faculty office hours.

Student and Faculty Support Services:

Accessibility Statement

Bergen Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact the Office of Special Services (OSS) as soon as possible at 201-612-5270 or www.bergen.edu/oss. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with OSS. The OSS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. The OSS serves as a clearinghouse on disability issues and works in partnership with faculty and all other student service offices.

Student Support Services

Bergen Community College provides exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. A comprehensive array of student support services including advising, tutoring, academic coaching, and more are available online at <https://bergen.edu/currentstudents/>.



Sidney Silverman Library Online Resources:

[Guides BY SUBJECT - LibGuides at Bergen Community College](#)

General Search and Databases: [Library | Bergen Community College](#)

Include a Course Outline and Calendar:

Date:	Topic/Activity:	Learning Outcomes:	Assignments/Events:
Week 1	What is social work?	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 2	The agency base of practice: The social service delivery system.	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 4	The social service delivery system, cont'd	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 5	Diversity and social work	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.

Week 6	Diversity and social work: Social justice	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 7	Intervention skills: working with clients	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 8	Intervention skills: working with clients, cont'd	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 9	Community context of practice - Community needs	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 10	Research resources for social workers, writing a professional paper and for evidence based practice. Social work and social policy.	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 11	Fields of practice: The	1-10	Objective tests, essay

	public domain Fields of practice: Health, rehabilitation and mental health		questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 12	Fields of practice: Youth and families Field of practice: Adult and aging	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 13	Social work values	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 14	Terminating with clients, colleagues and agency	1-10	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, in-class or online discussions, writing assignments or other activities selected by the instructor.
Week 15	Instructor's discretion		

Note to Students: This Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.