Human Behavior Elective (HBEL)

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5300. Substance Abuse I: Intro to Alcohol and Other Drugs

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Examines the special issues and problems in dealing with alcohol and drug abuse. Focuses on: developing a conceptual framework of drug abuse and addiction; major classifications of drugs; examining high risk populations with an emphasis on their unique problems and needs; integrating knowledge with practice by giving careful consideration to treatment issues such as identification, assessment, referral, therapeutic strategies, treatment modalities and settings; providing information on the role of federal, state, and voluntary organizations which impact on prevention, education and treatment programs. Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice.

5301. Substance Abuse II: Prevention and Treatment of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

Three credits. Prerequisite: HBEL 5300; open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Builds upon HBEL 5300, an overview of the various classes of drugs and the acute and chronic effects of drugs on human behavior and the body. Focuses on traditional and new intervention techniques that could be applied to social work practice. Provides knowledge of clinical applications and the empirical validation of effectiveness of major intervention strategies used in treatment of addictions. Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice.

5327. Ethnic Minorities and the Social Work Profession: Black Experience

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Considers the Black Experience from historical, social, political, and economic perspectives. Addresses the evolution of male/female roles and relationships, the genesis of Black family patterns, and the consequences for social work practice. Examines the impact of poverty and discrimination in a context of international and national cultural factors. Required course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Black Studies for Social Work Practice; Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Urban Issues in Social Work.

5328. Ethnic Minorities and the Social Work Profession: The Puerto Rican/Latino/a Experience

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Considers the Puerto Rican experience in the United States from the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural perspectives. Examines the impact of poverty, migration, and discrimination on individuals, families and communities. Required course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Puerto Rican/Latino/a Studies Social Work; Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Urban Issues in Social Work; Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on International Issues in Social Work.

5344. Aging and Mental Health

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Uses ecological theory as a framework for understanding the psychological processes of adaptation and the mental health needs of the elderly. Analyzes various service arrangements in terms of their usefulness in rehabilitation and prevention. Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Social Work Practice with Older Adults.

5352. Death and Dying

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Focuses on dying as experienced by persons of all ages (not only the elderly) and on its psychological concomitants, such as rage and grief, bereavement and mourning; suicide and suicide prevention; dying as a career with identifiable states, as well as the concept of death as a social phenomenon. Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice. Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Social Work Practice with Older Adults.

5357. Social Gerontology

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Considers the societal aspects of aging, including the social psychological concomitants of adjustments, changing roles, and systems of social relationships. Includes an overview of the economic aspects of aging and the service delivery system. Required course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Social Work Practice with Older Adults.

5367. Culture and Health/Mental Health Disparities: Micro and Macro Perspectives

Three credits. Prerequisite: FED 5301.

This course will examine health/mental health disparities as it relates to contemporary micro and macro practice with diverse populations. The objective of the course is the examination and analysis of the inter-relations among differential diagnosis, culture, and varying treatment strategies. The content will cover important aspects of health such as factors influencing wellness and disease, contemporary socio-political factors, and agendas that shape how health care services are delivered and accessed. We will explore current domestic and international health epidemics, discuss their implications for populations that are at risk, and the professional communities' responses to them.

5370. The LGBTQ Experience: Sexual and Gender Diversities

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Examines the problems of America's homosexual minority. Presents homophobia (fear of homosexuals or homosexuality) as a prejudice held by all people, gay and straight, in a society which holds that heterosexuality is the "normal" and "acceptable" behavior and attitude. Intended to expand the students’ awareness of how homophobic attitudes affect them and their relationships with other people in both professional and non-professional settings.

5373. Leadership Development in Anti-Violence Work: The Susan Schechter Social Action Seminar

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Collaboratively sponsored by Futures Without Violence, The Susan Schechter Leadership Development Fellowship and University of Connecticut School of Social Work, this interdisciplinary seminar will give students a structure for developing their analytic and social action abilities in the area of violence against women, children and in families. Study of the movement to end violence against these populations and its connections to other social change movements, such as civil rights and GLBT rights will be examined. The leadership approach demonstrated in the course is based on the work of Susan Schechter, an academic, activist, practitioner and writer.

5376. Puerto Rican and Latina Women and Their Reality

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Emphasizes the double oppression that the Puerto Rican woman faces. Analyzes the double burden that she confronts when seeking to maintain her identity as a Puerto Rican and as a woman in a society which discriminates against both groups. Equal emphasis is placed on issues of racism, classism, and heterosexualism since these issues create an even stronger burden on Puerto Rican women. Special consideration is given to Puerto Rican cultural aspects of the socialization process of males and females with a focus on rigid adherence to sex roles (e.g., machismo - marianismo).Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Puerto Rican/Latino/a Studies Social Work; Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Social Work with Women and Children in Families; Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Urban Issues in Social Work.

5381. Child Maltreatment: History, Theory, Prevention and Intervention

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program.

Primarily for students with some practice experience in family and children's services, examines the phenomena of child abuse and neglect and societal and professional responses aimed at their prevention and treatment. As with other courses in the Substantive Area in Family and Children’s Services, it is presented in the context of ecologically oriented, family-centered child welfare policy and practice. Elective course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Social Work with Women and Children in Families.

5386. Studies in the Holocaust: Implications for Social Work

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to Social Work M.S.W. and non-degree students.

Focuses on the Holocaust and its many implications for social work students. The course traces the rise of the Nazi totalitarian state resulting from defeat after World War I, the world wide depression of the 1930's and Hitler's targeting of Jews in Germany and eventually Europe-wide. The lessons for social workers will be drawn from these experiences. The integration of this material by students into other courses is encouraged.

5393. Emerging Issues in Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Three credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students in the M.S.W. or STEP program. May be repeated once for credit.

This course is designed to introduce students to current issues confronting providers of mental health and addiction services and consumers of these services as we enter the 21st Century. Philosophies about people with mental health, addiction and co-occurring disorders are changing in response to the developing knowledge base and the rise of consumer movements. Specific emphasis on the growing need for broad based multicultural service systems for consumers will be fostered. Issues of poverty and the "severely and predominantly mentally ill" will be discussed. Required course for Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study on Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice.