



USC | School of Social Work

Brief Therapy and Crisis Intervention

"Suffering is inevitable... Misery is optional" Aaron Beck

Social Work 615

3 Units

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Office Hours: By appointment on Thursdays at 11am

Course Day: Thursdays
Course Time: 8:00am – 10:50am
Course Location: MRF 303

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students enrolled in SOWK 615 are required to have completed two semesters of foundation year practice.

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Theory and multimodal approaches for brief therapy and crisis intervention with diverse clientele in a range of mental health and health settings.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOWK 615, Brief Therapy and Crisis Intervention, is an advanced clinical practice course designed to teach second year practice students the theories and techniques of brief treatment and crisis intervention. Students will receive historical, theoretical, and clinical information sufficient to work with individuals, couples, families, groups, and organizations. Ethical, professional, transference, and counter transference issues will be addressed as they relate to brief therapy modalities.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objective #	Objectives
1	Demonstrate knowledge of relevant brief therapy and crisis intervention theories.
2	Implement brief therapy and crisis intervention models and techniques with individuals' families, groups and organizations.
3	Treat specific client problems and populations including, but not limited to: Ethnically, culturally and sexually diverse clients, psychiatric, mood and substance abuse issues, medical and community crises
4	Become knowledgeable about research based, best practice models and what client populations are best served by them.
5	Explore efficacy and ethical issues, raised by managed care and mandated brief therapy for clients.

V. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This advanced practice course will be taught with a combination of didactic lecture, classroom discussion, videos, and experiential exercises. Students will be expected to work with a client in their field placement agency, applying course content and sharing the process of this experience with classmates.

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning for this course relates to one or more of the following ten social work core competencies:

	Social Work Core Competencies	SOWK 615	Course Objective
1	Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	X	1-5
2	Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice	X	1-5
3	Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice		
4	Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice		
5	Engage in Policy Practice		
6	Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	X	1-5
7	Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	X	1-5
8	Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	X	1-5
9	Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities	X	1-5

* Highlighted in this course

The following table explains the highlighted competencies for this course, the related student learning outcomes, and the method of assessment.

Competencies/ Knowledge, Values, Skills	Student Learning Outcomes	Method of Assessment
Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant laws and regulations that may impact practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels Understand frameworks of ethical decision-making and how to apply principles of critical thinking to those frameworks in practice, research, and policy arenas Recognize personal values and the distinction between personal and professional values and understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions influence their professional judgment and behavior Understand the profession's history, its mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the profession Understand the role of other professions when engaged in inter-professional teams Recognize the importance of life-long learning and are committed to continually updating their skills to ensure they are relevant and effective Understand emerging forms of technology and the ethical use of technology in social work practice 	Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Understand that, as a consequence of difference, a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power. 	<p>Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education Understand the global interconnections of oppression and human rights violations, and are knowledgeable about theories of human need and social justice and strategies to promote social and economic justice and human rights. Social workers understand strategies designed to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social goods, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, environmental, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected. 	<p>Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. Understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice. 	<p>Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

<p>Engage in Policy Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and services, are mediated by policy and its implementation at the federal, state, and local levels. Understand the history and current structures of social policies and services, the role of policy in service delivery, and the role of practice in policy development. Understand their role in policy development and implementation within their practice settings at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and they actively engage in policy practice to effect change within those settings. Recognize and understand the historical, social, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. Knowledgeable about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation. 	<p>Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

<p>Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Value the importance of human relationships. Understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate. 	<p>Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

<p>Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making. 	<p>Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Value the importance of inter-professional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, inter-professional, and inter-organizational collaboration. 	<p>Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	<p>Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.</p> <p>Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness. 	Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program Processes and outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions
	Apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Reaction Paper Crisis Intervention Demonstration Application Exercise of Brief Therapy Brief Therapy Demonstration Class Discussions

VII. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & GRADING

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
#1 - Brief Reaction Paper	Unit 4	10%
Midterm – Crisis Intervention Demonstration	Unit 8	35%
#2 - Application Exercise of Brief Therapy	Unit 12	10%
Final Assignment - Brief Therapy Demonstration	Finals Week	35%
Class Participation (<i>including Finals Week Summative Experience</i>)	Ongoing	10%

Each of the major assignments is described below. Class grades will be based on the following:

ASSIGNMENT #1: BRIEF REACTION PAPER – 10%*Due on Unit 4*

After the week of Unit 3, the student will watch the HBO documentary “Bellevue Inside Out”. For VAC students, the film is located in Unit 4 of your asynchronous material. All other students may access the film via the internet at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1Bab-bjsLQ>. The student will be required to write a short paper (3 pages maximum) which includes a brief overview of the film, discusses pertinent themes/issues and applies knowledge of crisis theory and intervention to an individual from the film. The student will be graded on how well they demonstrate an understanding of and application of topics discussed in class and the reading material. Papers not received by the deadline will lose half a grade for each day they are late.

I. Introduction

- Provide a brief overview of the film. (Limit your discussion to 1-2 paragraphs)
- Include a discussion of the key topic/subject of the film and what you feel is its overall purpose.
- Discuss how the film relates to course material/content.

II. Reaction/Analysis- Discuss a minimum of 2 of the following:

- Do you think the film overlooked or left out anything important? What?
- Did the film hold your interest? Why or why not?
- What did you realize as the result of watching this film?
- What questions does the film raise for you—about the material or other issues?
- Did the film challenge your existing views about mental health crisis?

III. Application

Select an individual from the documentary.

- Using crisis theory describe the development of the crisis for this individual.
- How would you apply the Robert’s crisis intervention model to your work with this individual? (For example, if the client identifies substance abuse as the last straw precipitant, discuss how you might help the client to generate and explore alternative ways to cope/manage their psychiatric symptoms as means of decreasing future crises and building resiliency.) Use all 7 stages of the Robert’s crisis intervention model as headings.
- Identify and briefly discuss potential barriers to implementation of your intervention. How might you decrease these barriers?

MIDTERM: CRISIS INTERVENTION DEMONSTRATION – 35%*Due on Unit 8*

The purpose of the midterm assignment is to integrate learning obtained from the unit readings and discussion about crisis intervention and apply it to a clinical case. The 2-part assignment will consist of a role play exercise and a critical analysis/reflective written paper. Both parts of the midterm assignment are due during the week of **Unit 8**. The date will be provided by your instructor. Papers may be submitted via the course assignment upload page at the VAC, or submitted via e-mail to the instructor (UPC students). Papers and recordings not received by the deadline will lose half a grade for each day they are late. Your instructor will provide written instructions on how to record and submit your role play recordings.

PART 1

The objective of Part 1 of this assignment is to demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply the Robert's 7 Stage crisis intervention model within a single session.

In Part 1 the student will record an unrehearsed, spontaneous crisis intervention “session” that lasts 30-45 minutes in length. The student will be the therapist. The student will receive case vignettes of three potential clients. The student may select which case vignette they wish to work with. In the case vignette, the student will be provided with a limited amount of biopsychosocial information. The student will be responsible for completing a brief crisis assessment in their demonstration which includes an assessment of lethality. The crisis assessment should also include a discussion and identification of any relevant hazards and final straw precipitants as well as relevant coping mechanisms the client engages that are pertinent to understanding the dimensions of the problem in stage 3. Students will be expected to offer interventions consistent with the problem identified in the assessment and demonstrative of the remaining 5 stages of the Robert's crisis intervention model which include, dealing with feelings, generating alternatives, developing action plan and plans for follow up. Finally, students must demonstrate basic attending skills throughout the session that support the development of rapport, which is the goal of stage 2. This may include verbal or non-verbal skills.

PART 2

The objective of Part 2 of the assignment is for the student to review and reflect upon their demonstration.

In Part 2 the student will review the role play recording and write a 6-8 page, double spaced, typed paper where you answer each of the questions below. Students are not required to utilize any outside literary resources to complete the written portion of the assignment and students may utilize the first person perspective.

1. Identify 2 interventions you feel you executed exceptionally well. Why did you select these interventions?
2. Identify 2 interventions that you feel you need to focus on improving. Why did you select these interventions? After reviewing the video how would you improve upon these interventions? Give an example of how you would revise each of the interventions.
3. How did you conceptualize the client's problem using the crisis formation discussed in class?
4. Was this conceptualization consistent with the interventions that you offered? Discuss the connection between the two. If your understanding of the problem was inconsistent with the interventions offered, how would you make them consistent? Give an example of how you might change either your understanding of the problem or the interventions and discuss.
5. Did you assess potential legal and ethical considerations? If you did, what client factors led you to make these considerations? If you did not, what client factors led you to *not* make these considerations?
6. How did you operationalize the Robert's crisis intervention model in your session? Provide 1 example of an intervention that is representative of each of the stages. Identify and discuss 1 pro and 1 con to the use of this model when conducting crisis intervention.

The evaluation of the paper will be based on whether you addressed all aspects of the assignment, and the quality of your written work (organization, flow, clarity, grammar, spelling).

The assignment is worth 35% of your overall grade for this course.

ASSIGNMENT #2: APPLICATION OF BRIEF THERAPEUTIC METHODS—10%*Due on Unit 12*

The student will watch an episode of A&E “Obsessed” which explores symptoms and treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder utilizing CBT. Students will be given instruction on how to obtain the media for this assignment from their instructor (UPC students may obtain the video on Blackboard). The student will select an individual from the episode and apply knowledge of CBT theory and clinical skills discussed during class and in the reading material. The student will be required to select either Sharon or Patricia and discuss the following:

Case Conceptualization**Conceptualize the client’s problem utilizing cognitive behavioral formulation.**

- Identify automatic thoughts and core schema demonstrated by the selected individual.
 - *Automatic thoughts and core schema may not be explicitly identified and the student’s discussion of these elements may be hypothesized based on the information given.*
- Identify emotional and behavioral responses/compensatory strategies that the individual engages in.
 - *Include a discussion of the resulting functional impairments caused by these behaviors.*
- Include discussion and identify any psychosocial history which may be used to explain and understand the development and maintenance of symptoms. Include identification of any relevant psychosocial stressors experienced by the individual discussed.

Cognitive Interventions

- Identify and describe 2 interventions demonstrated by the therapist that addressed the selected individual’s cognitions.
- What cognitive interventions would you add? Describe how you would integrate these interventions into treatment (i.e. use of automatic thought records, generating rational alternatives, decatastrophizing etc.)

Behavioral Interventions

- Identify and describe 2 interventions demonstrated by the therapist that addressed the selected individual’s behavioral responses.
- Describe 1 additional behavioral intervention you would add to enhance the overall efficacy of treatment with this individual? (This may include activity scheduling, activation etc.)

Client’s Barrier’s to Treatment

- Describe barriers that the client demonstrated and evaluate how the therapist managed these throughout the treatment process.
- What additional methods could be utilized to manage barriers or obstacles to change in the therapeutic process?
 - *You may include a discussion of how you would utilize CBT to work with barriers within treatment, psychoeducation, motivational interviewing, relapse prevention etc.*

The evaluation of the paper will be based on whether you addressed all aspects of the assignment, and the quality of your written work (organization, flow, clarity, grammar, spelling). Papers not received by the deadline will lose half a grade for each day they are late.

BRIEF TREATMENT INTERVENTION DEMONSTRATION AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS— 35%*Due Finals Week*

The final assignment will apply Brief Treatment clinical skills learned in Units 8-14. The 2-part assignment will consist of a role play exercise and a critical analysis/reflective written paper.

PART 1

The objective of Part 1 of this assignment is to demonstrate an understanding of skills learned by application of them within a recorded session.

In Part 1 the student will record an unrehearsed, spontaneous therapy “session”. The student will be the therapist. The student will receive case vignettes of three potential clients at the conclusion of Unit 14. The student will randomly select a client that will be role played when they arrive to their “session.” In the case vignette, the student will be provided with all of the relevant biopsychosocial data that they would obtain by conducting an assessment. The student will assume that sufficient time has passed to develop the therapeutic relationship with their client. The session should be reflective of sessions in the “middle phase” of treatment which may be session 2 and beyond. The student should review the case vignettes and develop a “working hypothesis” or case conceptualization prior to the start of the session. The student may begin their “session” with a discussion with the client about this conceptualization / hypothesis.

The student may practice/prepare for the role play prior to taping, and it is encouraged that you consider potential issues that the “client” may present with and how to address these issues within the session. Students will not have the opportunity to “start over,” however, students may address any areas of improvement in Part 2 of the assignment. Finally, students may not script sessions. The purpose of the assignment is to approach the session as you would one in your clinical practice.

VAC Students: Contact student support 24 hours prior to completion of your recorded session if you would like to have a conference line connected to your room. Please note that it takes a minimum of 24 hours for recorded session to be available to review on the VAC platform.

The student will have a maximum of 30-45 minutes for their session. During the session, the student will utilize clinical skills from Cognitive Behavioral and/or Solution Focused Therapy Brief treatment models. The student may utilize an “eclectic” approach however, **no more** than 10% of interventions utilized may be outside of those discussed in class. Examples of interventions may include but are not limited to: the miracle question, Socratic questioning, homework assignments, exposure, decatastrophizing, activity scheduling, etc. There is no expectation of a minimum or maximum number of interventions, however, those offered should be appropriate to the “clients” presenting problem.

PART 2

The objective of Part 2 of the assignment is for the student to review and reflect upon their clinical work conducted in Part 1.

In Part 2 the student will review the recorded session and complete a written critical analysis and reflection about their role play. The written part of the final should be 6-8 pages and includes a discussion of the following:

Introduce the interviewee or client:

- Describe the interviewee or client in terms of their age, gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, spirituality or other relevant social identities.
- Describe the presenting problem. Include any relevant biopsychosocial data as it relates to understanding/explaining the “clients” presenting problem. Since this information was provided to the student, this portion of the paper should not exceed 1 page, and should include a brief discussion of the students’ formulation of the client’s presenting problem.

SOWK 615 – Final Assignment PART 2 (continued)**Analysis and Critique**

The student is required to analyze and evaluate a minimum of 5 skills/interventions demonstrated in the role play. No more than 1 may be a basic interviewing or attending skill (i.e. open ended questioning, empathic/reflective listening etc.) The student will include the interview dialogue that is being discussed and evaluated. The student should use quotes and/or describe how they used the intervention/skills within the session. The student will analyze their role play, identifying the skill that is being demonstrated in the dialogue. In your analysis, include a discussion about the clinical rationale/intent of the skill/intervention demonstrated.

Finally, the student will critically evaluate the skill/intervention utilized, specifically discussing the relevant strengths and weaknesses; and any modifications you would make to your use of the skill/intervention. If there was not an opportunity during the interview to demonstrate a particular skill, include a discussion with an example of how you may have utilized the skill/intervention if the occasion had arisen to do so.

Personal Reflection

To conclude their written analysis and critique, the student will reflect upon their overall ability to implement brief treatment interventions that were discussed throughout the course. The student should identify areas of growth as well as areas of continued practice and study that they may have at the conclusion of the course.

The student will be graded on how well they execute the brief treatment interventions utilized (40%) and their overall analysis and critique of skills demonstrated (50%). Finally, they will be graded on the overall organization and clarity of their written work (10%). The assignment does not require the use of any outside resources, however, if the student chooses to do so, all work must be cited utilizing 6th edition APA format guidelines and include a reference page. On your cover page, the student must include the URL for the recorded session which will be reviewed by the instructor, or provide a DVD or other electronic version of the recording. **UPC Students:** You may utilize Google Drive or Dropbox to share your video link with your instructor.

The student's written assignment must be submitted (e-mailed/uploaded) by the due date. The due date will be provided by your instructor. Late assignments will be penalized a half grade for each 24 hour period after the due date.

CLASS PARTICIPATION - 10%

The student is expected to come to and remain in class for entire sessions, including the Summative Experience during finals week. The student is expected to participate in class discussions. Texting and working on anything other than course material is considered not participating and participations points will be deducted accordingly.

Grading Standards

Class Grades		Final Grade	
3.85 – 4	A	93 – 100	A
3.60 – 3.84	A-	90 – 92	A-
3.25 – 3.59	B+	87 – 89	B+
2.90 – 3.24	B	83 – 86	B
2.60 – 2.87	B-	80 – 82	B-
2.25 – 2.50	C+	77 - 79	C+
1.90 – 2.24	C	73 – 76	C
1.70 - 1.89	C-	72 - 70	C-

Grades of A or A- are reserved for student work which not only demonstrates very good mastery of content but which also shows that the student has undertaken a complex task, has applied critical thinking skills to the assignment, and/or has demonstrated creativity in her or his approach to the assignment. The difference between these two grades would be determined by the degree to which these skills have been demonstrated by the student.

A grade of B+ will be given to work which is judged to be very good. This grade denotes that a student has demonstrated a more-than-competent understanding of the material being evaluated in the assignment.

A grade of B will be given to student work which meets the basic requirements of the assignment. It denotes that the student has done adequate work on the assignment and meets basic course expectations.

A grade of B- will denote that a student's performance was less than adequate on an assignment, reflecting only moderate grasp of content and/or expectations.

A grade of C would reflect a minimal grasp of the assignment, poor organization of ideas and/or several significant areas requiring improvement.

Grades between C- and F will be applied to denote a failure to meet minimum standards, reflecting serious deficiencies in all aspects of a student's performance on the assignment.

REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Required Textbooks

The following textbooks are required readings for SOWK 615. Each book was carefully chosen to expose students to the most essential concepts for this course. There are very few articles on the reading list. We understand that these books are expensive. There are alternative methods for retrieving the readings, including accessing digital copies of books on library reserve services, renting text books from commercial online services, etc.

Berg, I. & de Jong, P. (2013). *Interviewing for Solutions*. 4th Edition. New York: Thompson Brooks/Cole.

Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). 4th Edition. *Crisis Intervention Handbook*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Wright, J., Basco, M. & Thase, M. (2006) *Learning Cognitive Behavior Therapy: An Illustrated Guide*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

Course readings outside of the course texts may be located on ARES. Additional required and recommended readings may be assigned by the instructor throughout the course.

Course Overview

Unit	Topics	Assignments
1	Course Introduction Overview of Course Expectations Introduction to Crisis Theory	
2	Introduction to Crisis Intervention Clinical Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General Engagement Skills ➤ Crisis Assessment ➤ Robert's 7-Stage Crisis Intervention Model 	
3	Crisis Intervention: Legal and Ethical Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mandated Reporting Laws and Professional Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Abuse / Neglect/ Child Sexual Involvement Elder / Dependent Abuse / Neglect Danger to Self Danger to Other or Property / Tarasoff Notification / Duty to Warn 	
4	Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: People with Psychiatric Disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic Criteria ➤ Crisis Assessment, Establishing Clinical Goals, and Treatment Planning Video Activity	<i>Assignment #1 Due</i>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: Substance Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Substance Abuse: Signs and Symptoms ➤ Crisis Assessment and Management of Substance Related Issues ➤ Intimate Partner Violence: Assessment and Clinical Skills 	
6	Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: Grief, Loss, and Medical Crises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Types of Medical / Health Crises ➤ Single Session Crisis Intervention ➤ Elisabeth Kubler-Ross's Stages of Grief and Loss ➤ Crisis of Loss: Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Clinical Skills 	
7	Types of Group and Organizational Crises Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) Vicarious and Secondary Trauma: Help for the Helper	

Unit	Topics	Assignments
8	Introduction to Brief Treatment Modalities: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Theory and Basic Principles ➤ Assessment, Problem Formulation, and Treatment Planning ➤ General Worker Tasks and Interventions at the Beginning, Middle, and Termination Phases of Treatment ➤ Evaluation of Progress and Treatment Outcomes Measurements 	<i>Midterm Assignment Due</i>
9	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification, Evaluation, and Modification of Automatic Thoughts and Core Schema Common Problems and Pitfalls 	
10	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Clinical Skills Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Behavioral Skills Training 	
11	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Special Populations: Clinical Skills Application to People Addictive Disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Application of Clinical Skills ➤ Identifying and Overcoming Resistance and Barriers to Change 	
12	Solution Focused Therapy: Basic Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Theory, Assessment, and Problem Formation 	<i>Assignment #2 Due</i>
13	Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working with clients strengths and “building solutions”: Miracle Question, Exception Finding, Scaling, and Coping Questions ➤ Evaluation of Progress and Treatment Outcomes Measurements 	
14	Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Application to Psychiatric Disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assessment and Clinical Intervention 	
15	Course Review, Wrap Up and Course Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Course Wrap-Up ➤ Course Evaluations 	
STUDY DAYS / NO CLASSES		
FINAL EXAMINATIONS PERIOD		
<i>Final Assignment Due & Summative Experience via Virtual Class Meeting on the Blackboard Collaborate Videoconferencing System</i>		
FINALS WEEK: Date & Time TBD		
<u>INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING BLACKBOARD COLLABORATE FOR SUMMATIVE EXPERIENCE:</u>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access the course on Blackboard 2. On the left-hand side of the page, select “Tools” 3. Select “Blackboard Collaborate” 4. Call into the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - open the “Session menu” - select “Use your phone for audio” - call the number listed and enter the PIN provided 		

Course Schedule—Detailed Description

Unit 1: Course Introduction and Overview

Topics

Course Introduction
 Overview of Course Expectations
 Introduction to Crisis Intervention Theory
 Culture and Crisis Development and Intervention

Required Readings

Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Crisis Intervention Handbook*. Introduction, Chapter 1 and 26
 Dykeman, B. (2005) Cultural Implications of Crisis Intervention. *Journal of Instructional Psychology*. 32.1 (ARES)

Unit 2: Introduction to Crisis Intervention Theory and Clinical Skills

Topics

Introduction to Crisis Intervention Clinical Skills
 ➤ Crisis Assessment
 ➤ Application of Robert's Model of Crisis Intervention

Required Readings

Berg, I. and de Jong, P. (2013). *Interviewing for Solutions*. Chapter 10 and pgs. 397-404
 Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Crisis Intervention Handbook*. Chapter 3.
 Roberts, A. and Ottens, A. (2005). The Seven Stage Crisis Intervention Model: A Road Map to Goal Attainment, Problem Solving and Crisis Resolution. *Brief Treatment and Crisis Intervention*. 5. 4. (ARES)

Unit 3: Crisis Intervention: Legal and Ethical Considerations

Topics

Crisis Intervention: Legal and Ethical Considerations
 ➤ Mandated Reporting Laws and Professional Guidelines
 Child Abuse / Neglect/Child Sexual Involvement
 Elder / Dependent Abuse / Neglect
 Danger to Self
 Danger to Other or Property / Tarasoff Notification / Duty to Warn

Required Readings

California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention: The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law. Booklet. (ARES)
 Meichenbaum, D. (2005). 35 Years of Working with Suicidal Patients: Lessons Learned. *Canadian Psychologist*. 46, 2. (ARES)
 Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Crisis Intervention Handbook*. Chapters 2 and 6.
 VandeCreek, L and Knapp, S. (2007) Legal and Ethical Issues in Crisis Intervention. In Dattilio, F. and Freeman, A. Cognitive Behavioral Strategies in Crisis Situation. pp. 531-543. New York: Guilford Press (ARES)
 Handout: Steps in Ethical Decision Making Process (ARES)

Unit 4: Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: People with Psychiatric Disorders

Topics

Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: People with Psychiatric Disorders

- Overview of DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic Criteria

Crisis Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Clinical Skills

Required Readings

Ball, J., Links, P., Strike, C., Boydell, K. (2005). It's Overwhelming... Everything Seems to Be Too Much: A Theory of Crisis Formation for Individuals with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, Summer, 29, 1; 10. (ARES)

Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Crisis Intervention Handbook*. Chapters 4, 10, 16

U.S Department of Health and Human Services: Practice Guidelines Core Elements in Responding to Mental Health Crises. Pgs. 1-26.

Unit 5: Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: Substance Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence

Topics

■ Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: Substance Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence

- Substance Abuse: Signs and Symptoms
- Crisis Assessment and Management of Substance Related Issues
- Intimate Partner Violence: Clinical Assessment and Skills

Required Readings

Kanel, K. (2007). *A Guide to Crisis Intervention*. Chapter 10 & 12 (pp. 220-230). (ARES)

Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Crisis Intervention Handbook*. Chapters 16 and 18.

Unit 6: Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: Grief, Loss, and Medical/Health Related Crises

Topics

Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: Grief, Loss, and Medical / Health Crises

- Medical Social Work: Roles and Responsibilities
- Crisis Intervention in Medical Settings
- Elisabeth Kubler-Ross's Stages of Grief and Loss
- Crisis of Loss: Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Clinical Skills

Required Readings

Dattilio, F., Davis, E. and Goisman, R. (2007) Crisis with Medical Patients. In Dattilio, F. and Freeman, A. Cognitive Behavioral Strategies in Crisis Situation. pp. 199-219. New York: Guilford Press (ARES)

Deranieri, J. Clements, P, Henry, G. (2002) When Catastrophe Happens: Assessment and Intervention After Sudden Traumatic Death. *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing & Mental Health Services*. 40. 4 (ARES)

NASW Standards for Palliative and End of Life Care. (ARES)

Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Crisis Intervention Handbook*. Chapter 24

Unit 7: Family and Large Scale Crisis Worker Burnout and Compassion Fatigue

Topics

Types of Large Scale Natural and Man Made Disasters
Families in Crisis
Psychological First Aid
Vicarious and Secondary Trauma: Help for the Helper

Required Readings

Price, S, Price, C and McKerney, P. (Eds.) (2010) *Families and Change: Coping With Stressful Events and Transitions*. Sage Publications. Families Coping with Change: A Conceptual Overview. Chapter 1. (ARES)

Psychological First Aid- MRC Field Operations Guide (ARES)

Roberts, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Crisis Intervention Handbook* Chapter 7 and 22

Rothschild, B. and Rand, M. (2006). *Help for the Helper: The Psychophysiology of Compassion Fatigue and Vicarious Trauma*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. Chapter 3. (ARES)

Unit 8: Introduction to Brief Treatment Modalities: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Topics

Introduction to Brief Treatment: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Theory and Basic Principles
- Assessment, Problem Formulation, and Treatment Planning

Required Readings

Corcoran, J. (2005). *Building Strengths and Skills: A Collaborative Approach to Working with Clients*. Oxford University Press: New York. Chapters 3 & 5 (pp.88-89; 92-103). (ARES)

Dudley, R., Kuyken, W., Padesky, C. (2009) Collaborative Case Conceptualization: Working Effectively with Clients in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. (ARES)

Wright, J., Basco, M. & Thase, M. (2006). *Learning Cognitive Behavior Therapy: An Illustrated Guide*. Chapter 1, 2, & 3.

Unit 9: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills**Topics**

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills

- General Worker Tasks and Interventions at the Beginning, Middle, and Termination Phases of Treatment
- Identification, Evaluation, and Modification of Automatic Thoughts and Core Schema
- Common Pitfalls and Problems
- Evaluation of Progress and Treatment Outcomes Measurements

Required Readings

Wright, J., Basco, M. & Thase, M. (2006). *Learning Cognitive Behavior Therapy: An Illustrated Guide*. Chapters 5, 8 & 9.

Unit 10: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills**Topics**

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills

- Behavioral Skills Training

Required Readings

Wright, J., Basco, M. & Thase, M. (2006). *Learning Cognitive Behavior Therapy: An Illustrated Guide*. Chapters 6 & 7.

Unit 11: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Special Populations: Clinical Skills Application to People with Addictive Disorders**Topics**

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Special Populations: Clinical Skills Application to People with Addictive Disorders

- Application of Clinical Skills
- Identifying and Overcoming Resistance and Barriers to Change

Required Readings

Frances R., Miller, S. & Mack, A. (Eds.) (2005) *Clinical Textbook of Addictive Disorders* (3rd Ed.) New York. Guilford Press. Chapter 22

Quick Guide for Clinicians: Brief Interventions and Brief Therapy of Substance Abuse. SAMSHA (2001).

Unit 12: Solution Focused Therapy: Basic Principles**Topics**

Solution Focused Therapy: Basic Principles

- Theory, Assessment and Problem Formation

Required Readings

Berg, I. and de Jong, P. (2013). *Interviewing for Solutions*. Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 15. Pgs. 380-384; 390

Unit 13: Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Development**Topics**

Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Development

- General Worker Tasks and Interventions throughout Beginning, Middle, and Termination Phases of Treatment
- Working with clients strengths and “building solutions”: Miracle Question, Exception Finding, Scaling, and Coping Questions
Common Pitfalls and Problems
- Evaluation of Progress and Treatment Outcomes Measurements

Required Readings

Berg, I. and de Jong, P. (2013). *Interviewing for Solutions*. Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8 & pgs. 385, 392-396; 404

Unit 14: Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Application to Psychiatric Disorders**Topics**

Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Application to Psychiatric Disorders

- Assessment and Clinical Interventions

Required Readings

Berg, I. and de Jong, P. (2013). *Interviewing for Solutions*. Chapter 14 (pgs. 288-345)

Corcoran, J. (2005). *Building Strengths and Skills: A Collaborative Approach to Working with Clients*. Oxford University Press: New York. Chapter 8.

Guterman, J. (2010) Advanced Techniques for Solution Focused Counseling. (Handout)

Unit 15: Final Assignment Demonstrations, Wrap-Up, and Course Evaluation**Topics**

Course Review, Wrap-Up, and Course Evaluation

- Course Wrap-Up
- Course Evaluations

FINALS WEEK: Final Assignment Due & 1-Hour Summative Experience

*Final Assignment Due & Summative Experience Via Virtual Class Meeting
on the Blackboard Collaborate Videoconferencing System*

FINALS WEEK: Date & Time TBD

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING BLACKBOARD COLLABORATE FOR SUMMATIVE EXPERIENCE:

1. Access the course on Blackboard
2. On the left-hand side of the page, select “Tools”
3. Select “Blackboard Collaborate”
4. Call into the session
 - open the “Session menu”
 - select “Use your phone for audio”
 - call the number listed and enter the PIN provided

University Policies and Guidelines

VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend every class and to remain in class for the duration of the unit. Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. Students are expected to notify the instructor by email (marciegi@usc.edu) of any anticipated absence or reason for tardiness.

University of Southern California policy permits students to be excused from class for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers scheduled final examinations which conflict with students' observance of a holy day. Students must make arrangements *in advance* to complete class work which will be missed, or to reschedule an examination, due to holy days observance.

Please refer to Scampus and to the USC School of Social Work Student Handbook for additional information on attendance policies.

IX. ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

X. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

XI. STATEMENT ABOUT INCOMPLETES

The Grade of Incomplete (IN) can be assigned only if there is work not completed because of a documented illness or some other emergency occurring after the 12th week of the semester. Students must NOT assume that the instructor will agree to the grade of IN. Removal of the grade of IN must be instituted by the student and agreed to be the instructor and reported on the official "Incomplete Completion Form."

XII. POLICY ON LATE OR MAKE-UP WORK

Papers are due on the day and time specified. Extensions will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. If the paper is late without permission, the grade will be affected.

XIII. POLICY ON CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS AND/OR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

It may be necessary to make some adjustments in the syllabus during the semester in order to respond to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances. Adjustments that are made will be communicated to students both verbally and in writing.

XIV. CODE OF ETHICS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (OPTIONAL)

Approved by the 1996 NASW Delegate Assembly and revised by the 2008 NASW Delegate Assembly
[\[http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp\]](http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp)

Preamble

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual wellbeing in a social context and the wellbeing of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:

- Service
- Social justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.

XV. COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint or concern about the course or the instructor, please discuss it first with the instructor. If you feel cannot discuss it with the instructor, contact the chair of the Social Work Department. If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact your advisor and/or Vice Dean Dr. Paul Maiden for further guidance.

XVI. TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN THIS COURSE (OPTIONAL)

- ✓ Be mindful of getting proper nutrition, exercise, rest and sleep!
- ✓ Come to class.
- ✓ Complete required readings and assignments BEFORE coming to class.
- ✓ BEFORE coming to class, review the materials from the previous Unit AND the current Unit, AND scan the topics to be covered in the next Unit.
- ✓ Come to class prepared to ask any questions you might have.
- ✓ Participate in class discussions.
- ✓ AFTER you leave class, review the materials assigned for that Unit again, along with your notes from that Unit.
- ✓ If you don't understand something, ask questions! Ask questions in class, during office hours, and/or through email!
- ✓ Keep up with the assigned readings.

Don't procrastinate or postpone working on assignments.

XVII. EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

To receive information, call main number (213)740-2711, press #2. "For recorded announcements, events, emergency communications or critical incident information."

To leave a message, call (213) 740-8311

For additional university information, please call (213) 740-9233

Or visit university website: <http://emergency.usc.edu>

If it becomes necessary to evacuate the building, please go to the following locations carefully and using stairwells only. Never use elevators in an emergency evacuation.

Students may also sign up for a **USC Trojans Alert** account to receive alerts and emergency notifications on their cell phone, pager, PDA, or e-mail account. Register at <https://trojansalert.usc.edu>.

UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS		ACADEMIC CENTERS	
City Center	Front of Building (12 th & Olive)	Orange County	Faculty Parking Lot
MRF	Lot B	San Diego	Building Parking Lot
SWC	Lot B	Skirball	Front of Building
VKC	McCarthy Quad		
WPH	McCarthy Quad		

Do not re-enter the building until given the "all clear" by emergency personnel.