Brief Therapy and Crisis Intervention

“Suffering is inevitable… Misery is optional” Aaron Beck

Social Work 615

3 Units

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Office: TBA
Office Hours: By appointment on Tuesdays at 3pm
Course Day: Tuesdays
Course Time: 4:10pm – 7:00pm
Course Location: MRF 206

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective #</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Demonstrate knowledge of relevant brief therapy and crisis intervention theories.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Implement brief therapy and crisis intervention models and techniques with individuals’ families, groups and organizations.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Become knowledgeable about research based, best practice models and what client populations are best served by them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Explore efficacy and ethical issues, raised by managed care and mandated brief therapy for clients.</td>
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</table>
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:

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies/ Knowledge, Values, Skills</th>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Method of Assessment</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior: | 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 | • 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 | • 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; | • 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; | • 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. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
### Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice:

- 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Checkpoints</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;</td>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper, Crisis Intervention Demonstration, Application Exercise of Brief Therapy, Brief Therapy Demonstration, Class Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences;</td>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper, Crisis Intervention Demonstration, Application Exercise of Brief Therapy, Brief Therapy Demonstration, Class Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.</td>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper, Crisis Intervention Demonstration, Application Exercise of Brief Therapy, Brief Therapy Demonstration, Class Discussions</td>
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</table>

### Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice:

- 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels;</td>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper, Crisis Intervention Demonstration, Application Exercise of Brief Therapy, Brief Therapy Demonstration, Class Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice</td>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper, Crisis Intervention Demonstration, Application Exercise of Brief Therapy, Brief Therapy Demonstration, Class Discussions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice:

- 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.

| Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
 • Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
 • Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
 • Brief Therapy Demonstration  
 • Class Discussions |
|---|---|
| Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
 • Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
 • Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
 • Brief Therapy Demonstration  
 • Class Discussions |
| Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
 • Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
 • Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
 • Brief Therapy Demonstration  
 • Class Discussions |
| Engage in Policy Practice: | Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| --- | --- | --- |
| • 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. | Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| | Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities: | Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| • 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. | Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities:

- 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.

| Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies | • 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 analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
**Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities:**

- 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.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper</td>
<td>Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Intervention Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Exercise of Brief Therapy</td>
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<td>Brief Therapy Demonstration</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper</td>
<td>Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Intervention Demonstration</td>
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<td>Application Exercise of Brief Therapy</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper</td>
<td>Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Intervention Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Exercise of Brief Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Reaction Paper</td>
<td>Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Intervention Demonstration</td>
<td>Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Exercise of Brief Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Therapy Demonstration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Discussions</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities: | Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| --- | --- | --- |
| • 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. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| • Recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| • Understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
| • Understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness. | • 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. | • 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. | • 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. | • Brief Reaction Paper  
• Crisis Intervention Demonstration  
• Application Exercise of Brief Therapy  
• Brief Therapy Demonstration  
• Class Discussions |
VII. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 - Brief Reaction Paper</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm – Crisis Intervention Demonstration</td>
<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 - Application Exercise of Brief Therapy</td>
<td>Unit 12</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Assignment - Brief Therapy Demonstration</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>10%</td>
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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 [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nVEN1Reeaw&list=PL64D75B9549BB123D](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nVEN1Reeaw&list=PL64D75B9549BB123D). 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 point for each day they are late.

I. **Introduction**
   a. Provide a brief overview of the film. (Limit your discussion to 1-2 paragraphs)
   b. Include a discussion of the key topic/subject of the film and what you feel is its overall purpose.
   c. 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.

   a. Using crisis theory describe the development of the crisis for this individual.
   b. 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.
   c. 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 emailed to the instructor (UPC students). Papers and recordings not received by the deadline will lose half a grade point 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 point for each day they are late.
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 point for each 24 hour period after the due date.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION - 10%**

Student is expected to come to and remain in class for entire sessions. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Grades</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.85 – 4</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.60 – 3.84</td>
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<td>3. – 72</td>
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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.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Course Introduction  
Overview of Course Expectations  
Introduction to Crisis Theory |  |
| 2    | Introduction to Crisis Intervention Clinical Skills  
➢ General Engagement Skills  
➢ Crisis Assessment  
➢ Robert’s 7-Stage Crisis Intervention Model |  |
| 3    | 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 |  |
| 4    | Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: People with Psychiatric Disorders  
➢ Overview of DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic Criteria  
➢ Crisis Assessment, Establishing Clinical Goals, and Treatment Planning | Assignment #1 Due |
| 5    | 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: Assessment and Clinical Skills |  |
| 6    | Crisis Intervention with Special Populations: Grief, Loss, and Medical Crises  
➢ 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 |  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Introduction to Brief Treatment Modalities: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy</td>
<td>Midterm Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Theory and Basic Principles</td>
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<td>- Assessment, Problem Formulation, and Treatment Planning</td>
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<td>- General Worker Tasks and Interventions at the Beginning, Middle, and Termination Phases of Treatment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Evaluation of Progress and Treatment Outcomes Measurements</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Identification, Evaluation, and Modification of Automatic Thoughts and Core Schema Common Problems and Pitfalls</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Clinical Skills Development</td>
<td>Assignment #2 Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Behavioral Skills Training</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Special Populations: Clinical Skills Application to People Addictive Disorders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Application of Clinical Skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Identifying and Overcoming Resistance and Barriers to Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Solution Focused Therapy: Basic Principles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Theory, Assessment, and Problem Formation</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Working with clients strengths and “building solutions”: Miracle Question, Exception Finding, Scaling, and Coping Questions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Evaluation of Progress and Treatment Outcomes Measurements</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Solution Focused Therapy: Clinical Skills Application to Psychiatric Disorders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Assessment and Clinical Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Course Review, Wrap Up and Course Evaluation</td>
<td>Final Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Course Wrap-Up</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Course Evaluations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 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

## 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

## 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
- 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

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

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

Psychological First Aid- MRC Field Operations Guide (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


### 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

### Unit 10: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills

#### Topics
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Clinical Skills
  - Behavioral Skills Training

#### Required Readings

### 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


### Unit 12: Solution Focused Therapy: Basic Principles

#### Topics
- Solution Focused Therapy: Basic Principles
  - Theory, Assessment and Problem Formation

#### Required Readings
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

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


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

Topics
Course Review, Wrap-Up, and Course Evaluation
   - Course Wrap-Up
   - Course Evaluations
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/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]

Preamble

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being 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 well-being in a social context and the well-being 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 you 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS</th>
<th>ACADEMIC CENTERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Center</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
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<td>Front of Building (12th &amp; Olive)</td>
<td>Faculty Parking Lot</td>
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<td>San Diego</td>
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<td>VKC</td>
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<td>McCarthy Quad</td>
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Do not re-enter the building until given the “all clear” by emergency personnel.