Social Work 627  
Section 61001D  

Policy and Macro Practice in Child, Youth and Family Services  

3 Units  

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination, yet the social sector remains focused on the isolated intervention of individual organizations.¹  

…we redefine social innovation to mean: A novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable or just than existing solutions and for which the value created accrues primarily to society as a whole rather than private individuals.²  

SPRING 2018  

Instructor:  Suma Mathai  
E-Mail:  mathaima@usc.edu  
Course Day:  Thursday  
Telephone:  323-985-8896  
Course Time:  1-3:50pm  
Office Hours:  Thursday 12 – 1 and by appointment  
Course Location:  City F  
Office:  City Faculty Office C  

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES  
None  

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION  
Provides context and preparation for social work practitioners on policy, macro practice and leadership roles in communities and organizations serving children, youth and families.  

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course prepares advanced social work practitioners for innovative policy, macro practice and leadership roles in community and organizational settings serving children, youth and families. Students will be exposed to key aspects of social change and innovation that are driving change in public and private agencies and in service systems that support children, youth, families and communities.  

The course is organized in three modules: 1) the policy and resource context of child and family services at the federal, state and local levels; 2) data-driven decision-making; and 3) social work macro practice and promising practices for social innovation and policy change. Students will be exposed to models of community change, place-based partnerships designed to enhance resident engagement in community building, cross-agency collaboration and network models of governance and service delivery. They will examine organizational models designed to integrate services for vulnerable children and families who live in poor under-resourced communities. Key drivers and social change methods that will be discussed in the course include: collective impact, pay for success models, data driven decision-making, disruptive innovation, constructive disruption, return on investment and governing by network.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective #</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Integrate information from multiple sources to assess and appraise social innovation models and system wide reforms that advance human rights and social justice for families and children in diverse communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enhance awareness of evidence-based, evidence-informed and promising practices that guide policy and macro practice in a variety of child and family service settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Develop skills that support macro practice in complex environments, including data-driven decision-making, cross-organizational collaboration and group work to connect individual policy change to collective, system wide reform for children, youth, families and communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Increase understanding of the four models of policy practice, including opportunities and strategies for advocacy and intervention, at the federal, state, county/city and organizational/agency level in an effort toward effectuating systemic change for children, youth, families and the communities they live in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Develop skills in policy research, policy analysis and policy implementation in order to provide/secure more appropriate services, supports and resources for communities, families and children.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The format for the course will include didactic instruction and experiential exercises. Case vignettes, videos, and role plays will also be used to facilitate student learning. These exercises may include the use of videotapes, role-play, and/or structured small group exercises. Material from the field will be used to illustrate class content and to provide integration between class and field. Confidentiality of material shared in class will be maintained. As class discussion is
an integral part of the learning process, students are expected to come to class ready to discuss required reading and its application to theory and practice.

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following table lists the nine Social Work core competencies as defined by the Council on Social Work Education’s 2015 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. This course focuses on competencies 3 and 5:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Work Core Competencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Engage in Diversity and Difference in Practice</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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<tr>
<td>5. Engage in Policy Practice **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations and Communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Highlighted in this course

The following table shows the competencies highlighted in this course, the related course objectives, student learning outcomes, and dimensions of each competency measured. The final column provides the location of course content related to the competency.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Behaviors</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice</strong></td>
<td>1. Integrate information from multiple sources to assess and appraise social innovations and system wide reforms that advance human rights and social justice for families and children in diverse communities.</td>
<td>3a. Incorporate social justice practices in advocating for policies that promote empowerment in vulnerable children, youth and families.</td>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Increase understanding of the four models of policy practice, including opportunities and strategies for advocacy and intervention, at the federal, state, county/city and organizational/agency level in an effort toward effectuating systemic change for children, youth, families and the communities they live in.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. Develop skills in policy research, policy analysis and policy implementation in order to provide/secure more appropriate services, supports and resources for communities, families and children.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3a. Incorporate social justice practices in advocating for policies that promote empowerment in vulnerable children, youth and families.</td>
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**Assignment 3:** Systemic Reform and Model for Change Group Paper

**Assignment 4:** Capstone Oral Presentation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Behaviors</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice</strong></td>
<td>2. Enhance awareness of evidence-based, evidence-informed and promising practices that guide policy and macro practice in a variety of child and family service settings.</td>
<td>5a. Identify policy and resource contexts of child, youth, and family services at the local, state, and federal levels.</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 &amp; 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Develop skills that support macro practice in complex environments, including data-driven decision-making, cross-organizational collaboration and group work to connect individual policy change to collective, system-wide reform for children, youth, families and communities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment 1: Policy analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Increase understanding of the four models of policy practice, including opportunities and strategies for advocacy and intervention, at the federal, state, county/city and organizational/agency level in an effort toward effectuating systemic change for children, youth, families and the communities they live in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment 2 Data-Driven Research Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Develop skills in policy analysis and in development of new policies needed to provide more appropriate services, supports and resources for communities, families and children.</td>
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**Knowledge Units:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 & 15

**Assignments:**
- Assignment 1: Policy analysis
- Assignment 2: Data-Driven Research Paper
VI. 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>Assignment 1: Policy Analysis (Individual assignment)</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Data Driven Decision Making (individual assignment)</td>
<td>Unit 10</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Capstone Paper: Systemic Reform and Model for Change (Group Paper)</td>
<td>Unit 14</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 4: Capstone Presentation: Systemic Reform and Model for Change Policy (Group Presentation)</td>
<td>Unit 14 &amp; 15</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments for this course include a combination of individual assignments (1 and 2) and group assignments (3 and 4), all done in collaboration with an assigned small group (content cluster) with a focus on one following broad content areas: Child Welfare; Juvenile Justice; Education; Health/Mental Health; and Poverty. Students will choose/be assigned their content cluster area during Class Session 1.

Assignment 1 will be an individual assignment focused on a policy change in support of the identified target population within the assigned content area. Assignment 2, also an individual assignment, will build off of Assignment 1 and asks students to identify available data to support implementation of their chosen policy at the organizational and/or community level.

Assignments 3 (Capstone paper) and 4 (Capstone presentation), both group assignments, ask content clusters to shift their research from individual policy change to larger scale reform, identifying relevant policy changes and available data in support of an identified area of systemic reform related to their content area and target population (i.e. Continuum of Care Reform as it relates to Transition Age Youth in Child Welfare). Groups will also be responsible for developing and presenting an innovative model for change to address the identified area of systemic reform based on one of the models/approaches discussed during class sessions 8-11 and developing a visual representation of the model to share with their colleagues.

Because group assignments 3 and 4 build off of the individual assignments 1 and 2, it is strongly encouraged that content clusters consult with one another throughout the semester to ensure that their individual work completed for Assignments 1 and 2 will contribute to successful completion of Assignments 3 and 4.

Assignment 1. Policy Analysis (6-8 pages), 20%, (Individual Assignment)

Assignment 1 is an analysis of a policy change related to each student's content cluster area and identified target population. Students will select a recent state or local level policy (or proposed policy change) and submit a written 6-8 page policy analysis paper. The policy
identified as the focus of student work for the semester should be approved by the instructor no later than Class Session 4. General guidelines for the policy analysis, which will be discussed in class, will include: description of the context for policy change; relationship to human rights and social justice; data used to make the case for or against passage of the policy; proponents and opponents; the policy enactment/legislative process; policy objectives, expectations and criteria; resource requirements and how this policy affects or could affect your agency and identified target population(s).

Due: Unit 6

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 4 & 5.

Assignment 2. Data-Driven Decision-Making (6-8 pages), 25%, (Individual assignment)

Assignment 2 ask students to expand their understanding of their identified policy by considering the quantitative and qualitative data available to support policy implementation at the organizational and/or community level.

Students will describe the practice issues that could be of concern to agencies and groups affected by this policy with respect to implementation. They will identify and describe research findings, sources of administrative data and other data available on public information websites that would be useful in informing social work practice, planning or decision-making. They will also identify an evidence based practice and/or model that could support implementation of the policy at the agency and/or community level. Finally, they will discuss the research questions they developed in preparation for their informant interviews (the process for these interviews will be discussed in detail in class) and the data obtained through these informant interviews in their discussion of implementation of the policy at the organizational level and/or community level. The paper should be 6-8 pages in length.

Due: Unit 10

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 2,3,4 & 5.

Assignment 3 - Capstone Project: Systemic Reform and Model for Change Paper and Canvas of Model (8-10 pages), 25%, (Group assignment)

Assignment 3 is a group paper in which Content Clusters will identify how individual reform efforts (e.g. policy changes) within their assigned content area and chosen target population and available quantitative and qualitative data can support larger level reform. Each content cluster will identify an area of systemic reform to address and propose a model for change based on one the social change models/approaches discussed in class sessions 8-11. Groups should use their findings from Assignment 1 and 2 to drive Assignment 3. A “Canvas” that summarizes the proposal should also be included to provide a visual representation of the model. The paper will be divided into the following sections.

1) Overview of the identified area of systemic reform, the target population, and context/need for change

2) Overview of the recent history of individual policy reform efforts and/or any current reform efforts to support the identified area of systemic reform (not limited to the individual policies researched from Assignments 1 and 2).
3) Overview of the most relevant data and evidence based research/models available to support the reform efforts (include relevant research gathered from Assignments 1 and 2 by cluster members as well as any additional data).

4) A proposed Model for Social Change based on one of the models/approaches discussed in this course (Sessions 8-11) to address the identified area of systemic reform. Groups should also include a visual “Canvas” representation of the model to be included as an attachment in the appendices section.

5) Discussion on how the proposed model advances at least one of the Social Work Grand Challenge.

Due: Unit 14

Papers should be 8-10 pages in length not including the title and reference page and one page “Canvas” (visual representation) of the proposed model for change.

Assignment 4- Capstone Presentation: Systemic Reform and Model for Change Presentation (30-35 minute in class group presentation), 20%, (Group Presentation)

Each Content Cluster will make a 30-minute presentation to a governing body (class members) highlighting the way in which individual policy reform efforts and available data and research can advance systemic reform. The presentation will follow the format of Assignment 3 with an additional section on the process the group took to incorporate the individual work of each member into the overall paper. Students will also be asked to submit a peer evaluation (responses will not be shared with team members) which will provide each student an opportunity to reflect upon their own contributions and that of each group member as well as the group process to the Capstone Paper and Presentation. Additional details will be provided in the assignment prompt and in class as to what to include in the presentation as well as the peer evaluation piece of this assignment.

Due: Units 14 & 15

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Class Participation (10% of Course Grade)- Participation points will be determined by the quality of in class contributions and engagement in classroom activities, the quality of teamwork in preparation for Assignments 3 and 4 (as demonstrated by peer review feedback and instructor observation) and engagement with students and the instructor throughout the semester.

Note: Additional required and recommended readings may be assigned by the instructor throughout the course. Students may also be assigned readings throughout the semester which they will then facilitate a discussion about in class.
Class grades will be based on the following:

<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.60 – 3.84</td>
<td>90 – 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25 – 3.59</td>
<td>87 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.90 – 3.24</td>
<td>83 – 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.60 – 2.87</td>
<td>80 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.25 – 2.50</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.90 – 2.24</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
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<td></td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the School of Social Work, grades are determined in each class based on the following standards which have been established by the faculty of the School: (1) 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. (2) 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 tested in the assignment. (3) 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. (4) 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. (5) A grade of C would reflect a minimal grasp of the assignments, poor organization of ideas and/or several significant areas requiring improvement. (6) 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.

VII. REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Required Textbooks

There is no textbook required for this course. All required readings will be available through ARES

Recommended Guidebook for APA Style Formatting

## Course Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MODULE 1: Policy Landscape, Four Models of Policy Practice, Opportunities for Advocacy Intervention</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Social policy landscape for children youth and families</td>
<td>1/11/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Policy analysis framework, government structure and points of intervention for advocacy</td>
<td>1/18/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Legislative and ballot based advocacy at the national, state and local level</td>
<td>1/25/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Policy Implementation: Opportunities and Challenges</td>
<td>2/1/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Analytic Advocacy, Think Tanks and other external factors</td>
<td>2/8/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MODULE 2: Data Driven Decision Making</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Data-Driven decision making and the role of administrative data</td>
<td>2/15/18: Asnmt 1 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tracking Implementation and results and evidence-based research/programs</td>
<td>2/22/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MODULE 3: Social Innovation, Promising Models for Change and Systemic Reform</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Networks, collaboration and service Integration</td>
<td>3/1/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Moving from individual to systemic reform through collaboration and social innovation</td>
<td>3/8/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Learning from community and place-based initiatives</td>
<td>3/22/18: Asnmt 2 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Disruptive innovation, constructive disruption and financing social reform</td>
<td>3/29/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Systemic reform case study: Blue Ribbon Commission and child welfare reform in Los Angeles County</td>
<td>4/5/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Systemic reform case study: Blue Ribbon Commission</td>
<td>4/12/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Group Policy presentations</strong></td>
<td>4/19/18: Asnmt 3 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Group Policy presentations</strong></td>
<td>4/26/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Schedule—Detailed Description

Module 1: Policy Landscape and Four Models of Policy Practice

Unit 1: Introduction

Topics

- The role of social policy in advancing individual and systemic reform
- The intersection of policy, practice, research and advocacy
- Our ethical obligation to advocacy and social justice

This Unit relates to course objective 5

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Unit 2: Policy Analysis Framework, Government Structure and Points of Intervention

Topics

- The policy framework - 4 models of policy practice (legislative, ballot based, analytic and implementation advocacy)
- Civics 101: Policy making bodies and government structure
- Assessing the policy landscape and identifying opportunities for intervention

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 4 and 5

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


The influence of policy | Amy Hanauer | TEDxSHHS. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBRxl3Klhj0


Unit 3: Legislative and Ballot Based Advocacy

Topics

- Navigating the political arena: Ballot based advocacy and the legislative process
- Federal, state and local policy making

This Unit relates to course objective 5

Required Readings


Recommended Reading


Unit 4: Implementation Advocacy

Topics

- Implementation strategies
- Implementation of social policy: Opportunities and Challenges
- Case Study: Implementation of extended foster care

This Unit relates to course objectives 1 and 3

Required Readings


Recommended Reading


Recommended Resources

California Fostering Connections Website
[https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/federal/fosteringconnections/](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/federal/fosteringconnections/)

Unit 5: Analytic Advocacy and role of external factors in shaping policy

Topics

- The role of external influences such as media, PACS, unions, funding and lobbying in shaping policy
- Analytic advocacy and the role of research based groups/think tanks in shaping policy

This Unit relates to course objectives 1 and 5.

Required Readings


Read one of the following four reports/briefs (students will be assigned by instructor week prior) and be prepared to discuss and complete and in class activity


***Read only up to page 24, skim charts on pp 25-44 and review state profile report for the state you live in).

4) California Child Advocates for Change- Read both of the short policy briefs below

AND


**Recommended Readings**


**Recommended resource for Assignment 2**


**Module 2: Data Driven Decision Making**

**Unit 6: Data-Driven Decision-Making**

**Topics**

- Using administrative data effectively
- Addressing a Social Work Grand Challenge from a data informed approach
- Dashboards, scorecards and other uses of publicly available data

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2 & 3

**Required Readings**


Connelly, R., Playford, C., Gayle, V, and Dibben, C. The role of administrative data in the big data revolution in social science research. *Social Science Research.*, Volume 59. September 2016, Pages 1-12


Recommended Reading


Assignment 1 Due

Unit 7: Use of Data in Tracking Outcomes, Planning, Decision-making and systemic reform

Topics

- Use of data to track outcomes
- Data for planning and decision-making
- Role of evidence based research/programs in planning and decision making

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3

Required Readings


Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP). Year 1 and Year 2

Executive Summary Year 1 (2009) retrieved from https://cdn.casey.org/media/PIDP_Year1_es.pdf

Brief Summary Year 2 (2010) retrieved from https://cdn.casey.org/media/PIDP_year2_BriefES.pdf

Recommende Resources for Assignment 2


Coalition for Evidence Based Policy website (organized by topics). Retrieved from http://evidencebasedprograms.org/

Recommended Reading/Videos


Module 3: Social Innovation, Promising Models for Change and Systemic Reform

Unit 8: Networks, Collaboration and Service Integration

Topics

- History and models of service integration
- Network theory and network development
- Inter-agency and community collaboration

This Unit relates to course objectives 1,2,3,5

Required Readings


Chapter 2. Advantages of the Network Model: 25–38

Chapter 3. Challenges of the Network Model: 39–53


The White House, Office of Press Secretary (2016). *Obama Administration announces final round of Promise Zone designations to expand access to opportunity in urban, rural and tribal communities*. Retrieved from https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/Promise-Zone-Fact-Sheet.pdf
Unit 9: Working collaboratively and promising models for social change

Topics

- Coalition building, working in committees and moving from individual reform efforts to systemic reform
- Social innovation
- Collective Impact as a model for social change

This Unit relates to course objectives 1,2 & 3

Required Readings


Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, Youth Diversion Committee and the Los Angeles Chief Executive Office (2017). A roadmap for advancing youth diversion in Los Angeles County.


Recommended website

Collective Impact Forum website at https://collectiveimpactforum.org/
Unit 10: Learning from Community and Place-Based Initiatives

Topics

- Magnolia Community Initiative
- Best Start Communities
- Harlem Children’s Zone
- No wrong door for families

This Unit relates to course objective 1, 2, 3 & 5.

Required Readings


Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs (2013). No wrong door: A comprehensive approach to safe harbor for Minnesota’s sexually exploited youth.


Recommended Resource


First 5 LA Best Start Communities. Select at least one of the communities described on the First 5 LA website under Best Start Communities and read description of community processes underway. www.first5la.org

Assignment 2 Due
Unit 11: Social Work in the Context of Social Change

Topics

- Disruptive innovation and constructive disruption
- Financing social reform
  - Pay for Success
  - Return on Investment

This Unit relates to course objectives 1,2,3,5

Required Readings


Recommended Resources

Pay for Success


Unit 12: Systems Reform

Topics

- Systems Reform- Child Welfare
- Case Study: LA County Blue Ribbon Commission

This Unit relates to course objectives 1,2,3 and 5

Required Readings


Recommended video


Unit 13: System Reform

Topics

- Systems Reform- Child Welfare
- Case Study: LA County Blue Ribbon Commission

This Unit relates to course objectives 1,2,3 , and 5

Required Readings


### Unit 14: Group Presentations: Addressing Systemic Reform

**Topics**

- Putting it all together

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

**ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE**

Assignment 4 Student Capstone Presentations


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### Unit 15: Group Presentations: Addressing Systemic Reform

**Topics**

- Putting it all together

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

**Assignment 4 Student Capstone Presentations**


### STUDY DAYS / NO CLASSES

**NO FINAL EXAMINATION**
University Policies and Guidelines

VII. 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 (mathaima@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.

VIII. 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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/. 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.

IX. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/

Sexual Assault Resource Center
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: http://sarc.usc.edu/

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. https://equity.usc.edu/
Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. [https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/)

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. [https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/)

Diversity at USC – [https://diversity.usc.edu/](https://diversity.usc.edu/)
Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

X. 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.”

XI. 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.

XII. 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.

XIII. 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 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.

XIV. 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 Department. If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact your advisor and/or Associate Dean and MSW Chair Dr. Leslie Wind for further guidance.

XV. Tips for Maximizing Your Learning Experience in this Course

- 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.