

USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck

School of Social Work

Social Work 588 Section XXXXX

Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice Social Change and Innovation

2 Units

"He who is reluctant to recognize me opposes me."
—Franz Fanon

2018

Instructor:

E-Mail:

Office: VAC

Office Hours:

Course Day:

Course Time:

Course Location: VAC

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students are required to take this course concurrently with SOWK 589b.

SOWK 588 Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice (2 credits) integrates content from one of the three departments—CYF, AMHW, or SCI—and graded CR/NC. Students must earn at least 83/100 points in the course in order to receive a CR.

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Integrative learning is organized as a small-group educational environment that incorporates field experiences, case vignettes, and dialogical inquiry through a problem-based learning framework.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

CYF students will enhance core practice skills underlying social work services to children, youth, and families within a complex system. AMHW students will enhance core practice skills underlying social work services within health, mental health, and integrated care settings with the adult population. SCI students will enhance core practice skills underlying social work services to organizations, and business and community settings.

Students will engage in critical thinking, focused dialogue, exploration of theory, examination of practice, and policy analysis utilizing department specific field experiences. In addition, this course will provide a forum for learning and building practice skills through interaction, self-reflection, role-play, case

discussion, and other experiential exercises designed to encourage students' creativity. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in activities that enhance professional communication. Therefore, **collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity** will be the primary skills to be developed.

The outcomes of the course are to develop requisite skills as professional social workers in the areas of **engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation** utilizing best-practice models and evidence-based practices. Honoring both the diversity of the clients and the multiplicity of problems that clients bring with them, the student will have the capacity to frame these issues for the enhancement of client well-being, resolution of problems, and securing creative solutions.

The curriculum in this course is driven by problem-based learning, social development theory, transformative learning theory, and constructivism. This course also promotes mindfulness, in theory as well as in practice.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Integrative Learning for Social Work Practice course (SOWK 588) will cover the following objectives:

Objective #	Objectives
1	Prepare AMHW, CYF, and SCI students for field placement experiences and working with clients by exploring the role and responsibilities of a professional social worker, the values and mission of the profession, alongside the vision and mission of the agency for a more sustainable community.
2	AMHW, CYF, and SCI students will develop critical thinking skills, apply professional values that underlie social work practice, and the ethical standards of professional social work as they are applied in the students' field work experiences with clients, agency staff, and various other stakeholders. The course also facilitates participation in experiential learning that encourages students to explore how their particular gender, age, religion, ethnicity, social class, and sexual orientation influence their values and work with clients, agency staff, and various other stakeholders.
3	To increase AMHW, CYF, and SCI students' awareness of individual needs that diverse populations (gender, race, sexual orientation, social class, religion, and vulnerable and oppressed groups) present and which require appropriately matched effective services.
4	Integration of core social work concepts with emphasis on <i>a systems paradigm and person-in-environment framework</i> .
5	AMHW, CYF, and SCI students will develop core practice skills underlying social work service to individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations. The course will also demonstrate major concepts to support the intervention process (engagement, assessment, planning and contracting, implementation, and termination/evaluation phases), evidence-based practice protocols and procedures, and integrating and applying the knowledge and values taught in the foundation semester and first semester of department-specific coursework with field experience.
6	AMHW, CYF, and SCI students will develop and expand effective communication skills demonstrating critical thinking and creativity for intra-/interdisciplinary collaboration, service delivery, oral presentation, and written documentation within the field practicum setting.

V. COURSE FORMAT/INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Four primary instructional methods will be used in the course: (1) critical discussion, interaction, and transaction among the instructor and students; (2) interactive and experiential exercises; (3) problem-based learning; and (4) student reflection. Open and honest participation in class discussion and activities is essential in the development of self-awareness, professional identity, and the appropriate use of self in practice.

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning for this course relates to all nine social work core competencies:

and responsible practice. Social workers incorporate ethical approaches to the use of technology in meeting the needs of their clients in communities, organizations, and business environments. Social workers understand that work within complex systems can generate conflicting priorities and ambiguities that require professional value-based judgments.				
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Competency	Objectives	Behaviors	Dimensions	Content
<p>Competency 2: Diversity and Difference in Practice — Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to identity formation across one's life span and in a variety of settings. 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 perspectives, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand how life experiences arising from oppression, poverty, marginalization, or privilege and power, can affect community and organizational culture and well-being. Social workers recognize the extent to which social structures, values and cultural systems, including those within communities, organizations, and businesses, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, exclude, or create or enhance privilege and power in arenas of intervention.</p>	<p>To increase student's awareness of individual needs that diverse populations (gender, race, sexual orientation, social class, religion, and vulnerable and oppressed groups) present and which require appropriately matched effective services.</p>	<p>2a. Understand the importance of diversity and difference in shaping one's own and others' life experiences and biases and their possible impact on occurring in community, organization, and business environments.</p> <p>2b. Critically identify and select solutions that create inclusion and empowerment, based upon a scholarly understanding of human behaviors that drive exclusion, disengagement and conflict in diverse groups and organizations.</p>	<p>Affective Reactions</p> <p>Critical thinking</p>	<p>Assignment: Feedback Informed Treatment</p> <p>Assignment: Expressive Arts-as-Reflection</p>

VII. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES, AND GRADING

Written Assignments and Class Participation	Due Date	Percentage
Assignment 1: PBL Group Presentation	Week 7	25%
Assignment 2: Evidence-Based Practices—Feedback-Informed Treatment (Students Utilize FIT During Weeks 3–10)	Week 11	25%
Assignment 3: Expressive Arts as Reflection	Weeks 13 and 14	25%
Critical Reflections on class textbook - Afuape, T. (2011). Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma. New York, NY: Routledge.	Weeks 1-15	15%
Participation	Weeks 1–15	10%

Each of the major assignments are described below.

Assignment 1: Problem-Based Learning Group Presentations—Engagement, Assessment, Intervention, and Evaluation

Students will be presented with a real-world vignette of client narratives that increase with complexity over the semester. The assignment will challenge the students in group settings to conceptualize and frame the problem, integrate theory and practice related to the client's situation, and allow the group to work together in solving the client problems utilizing best practices.

Assignment 2: Evidence-Based Practices—Feedback-Informed Treatment

Feedback-informed treatment (FIT) is a pan-theoretical approach for evaluating and improving the quality and effectiveness of social work treatment that dramatically improves both retention and outcome of social work services. FIT involves routinely and formally soliciting feedback from clients regarding the therapeutic alliance and outcome of care, and using the resulting information to inform and tailor service delivery. Students will utilize this new skill set (FIT) with clients and discuss their experiences with their field instructor. For the class, students will write a three-page reflection paper. Students will learn:

- The empirical foundation for routine monitoring of the alliance and outcome in treatment
- How to administer valid, reliable, and feasible measures of alliance and outcome
- How to use alliance and outcome measures to inform and improve the quality and outcome of social work treatment

Assignment 3: Expressive Arts as Reflection

Expressive arts therapy, also known as creative arts therapy, is the use of the creative arts (dance, photography, art, poetry, music, drama, drum circle, creative writing, etc.) as a form of therapy, teaching, mediation, social action and group facilitation, and/or to awaken personal growth and creativity. Unlike traditional art expression, the process of creation is emphasized rather than the final product. Students will explore one expressive art through process and content and share experiential learning, theory, and practice to the class. In the session, students will learn to:

- Identify different clinical applications of expressive arts modalities
- Deepen cognitive skills, self-reflection, and creative explorations

Class Participation

Class participation should consist of thoughtful, respectful, and meaningful contributions based on having completed required and independent readings and assignments prior to class. When in class, students are encouraged to ask questions, share thoughts/feelings/experiences appropriately, and demonstrate

understanding of the material. The PBL instructional format requires that all students participate in their own learning and learn from one another. Active involvement in the classroom activities is essential to develop effective communication and collaboration skills.

Guidelines for Evaluating Class Participation

10: Outstanding contributor—Contributions in class reflect exceptional preparation and participation is substantial. Ideas offered are always substantive, provides one or more major insights as well as direction for the class. Application to cases held is on target and on topic. Challenges are well substantiated, persuasively presented, and presented with excellent comportment. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished markedly. Exemplary behavior in experiential exercises demonstrating on target behavior in role-plays, small-group discussions, and other activities.

9: Very good contributor—Contributions in class reflect thorough preparation and frequency in participation is high. Ideas offered are usually substantive, provides good insights and sometimes direction for the class. Application to cases held is usually on target and on topic. Challenges are well substantiated, often persuasive, and presented with excellent comportment. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished. Good activity in experiential exercises demonstrating behavior that is usually on target in role-plays, small-group discussions, and other activities.

8: Good contributor—Contributions in class reflect solid preparation. Ideas offered are usually substantive and participation is very regular, provides generally useful insights but seldom offers a new direction for the discussion. Sometimes provides application of class material to cases held. Challenges are sometimes presented, fairly well substantiated, and are sometimes persuasive with good comportment. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished somewhat. Behavior in experiential exercises demonstrates good understanding of methods in role-plays, small-group discussions, and other activities.

7: Adequate contributor—Contributions in class reflect some preparation. Ideas offered are somewhat substantive, provides some insights but seldom offers a new direction for the discussion. Participation is somewhat regular. Challenges are sometimes presented, and are sometimes persuasive with adequate comportment. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished slightly. Occasionally applies class content to cases. Behavior in experiential exercises is occasionally sporadically on target demonstrating uneven understanding of methods in role-plays, small-group discussions, and other activities.

6: Inadequate—This person says little in class. Hence, there is not an adequate basis for evaluation. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would not be changed. Does not participate actively in exercises but sits almost silently and does not ever present material to the class from exercises. Does not appear to be engaged.

5: Nonparticipant—Attends class only.

0: Unsatisfactory contributor—Contributions in class reflect inadequate preparation. Ideas offered are seldom substantive; provides few if any insights and never a constructive direction for the class. Integrative comments and effective challenges are absent. Comportment is negative. If this person were not a member of the class, valuable air time would be saved. Is unable to perform exercises and detracts from the experience.

Additional Expectations and Guidelines

Students are expected to contribute to the development of a positive learning environment and to demonstrate their learning through written and oral assignments and through active class participation.

Expectations

1. Students are expected to do the assigned readings, be prepared to discuss them in class, and complete all written and other assignments on time.
2. Students are encouraged to share readings gleaned from their field placement, as well as from other class assignments.
3. Students are expected to respect the confidentiality of clients: use pseudonyms when discussing specific cases, and respect and maintain confidentiality regarding class discussions that may reveal personal information about other students in the seminar.
4. Active participation is required of all students and will be considered in students' final evaluation.
5. Problem solving, identification of issues of concern, and learning needs should evolve from the group.
6. Periodic evaluation of the course will be conducted. Students will be asked to complete a written evaluation at the end of the semester.

Guidelines

Much of the seminar content will center on critical issues that may be controversial. The following guidelines have been adopted. It is hoped that these guidelines will create an environment in which we can learn from one another and enrich our experience in the field seminar.

1. Every person participating in the program is of equal worth and value.
2. All opinions are valued and needed, even those with which you do not agree!
3. Please speak in "I" terms: "I think," "I believe," "It's been my experience that," etc.
4. Listen. We will be speaking from our experiences; it is important to understand and appreciate that we will be talking about what is true for us. We agree to listen to one another with respect. We also understand that points may arise on which we do not agree.
5. We want you to take home whatever you learn here. However, personal and client information shared in seminar is confidential.
6. Be aware of your level of participation in the group and act accordingly. If you tend to be quiet in group situations, please work at increasing your contribution. We are here to learn from one another. On the other hand, avoid monopolizing discussion by talking too much, too long, or too loudly.
7. This seminar's content is shared by each member's contributions to the class discussion.
8. This is a setting where social work values need to be implemented, including respect and tolerance of differences.

Grading

Class is graded Credit/No Credit (CR/NC): Students must earn at least 83 out of a possible 100 points in the course in order to receive a CR.

VIII. REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Required Textbook

Afuape, T. (2011). *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Note: Additional required and recommended readings may be assigned by the instructor throughout the course.

On Reserve

All additional required readings that are not in the above required texts are available online through electronic reserve (ARES). The textbooks have also been placed on reserve at Leavey Library.

The online teaching and learning environment provided by the University's Blackboard Academic Suite will support and facilitate student-to-student communication and interaction outside of class as well as access to instructor support. The URL for Blackboard is <https://blackboard.usc.edu>.

Department specific readings can be found in the supplemental syllabus.

Course Overview

Course Schedule—Detailed Description

Module 1 (Weeks 1–2): Introduction to Integrative Learning, Field Practicum Experience, and Problem-Based Learning (PBL)

- Introductions
- Fundamentals of PBL
- Introduction to feedback-informed treatment (FIT) utilizing Outcome Rating Scale (ORS) and Session Rating Scale (SRS)
- Overview of semester assignments: Vignettes, Feedback-Informed Treatment, and Expressive Arts
- Professional consultation, development, and mindful reflection that allows students to process and reflect on their agency placement

Required Readings

- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Introduction. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 4–15). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Therapy and social context and power. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 19–35). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Shaw, S. L., & Murray, K. W. (2014). Monitoring alliance and outcome with client feedback measures. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 36(1), 43–57.
- ❖ Boswell, J. F., Kraus, D. R., Miller, S. D., & Lambert, M. J. (2015). Implementing routine outcome monitoring in clinical practice: Benefits, challenges, and solutions. *Psychotherapy Research*, 25(1), 6–19.
- ❖ Miller, S. D., Duncan, B. L., Brown, J., Sorrel, R., & Chalk, M. B. (2006). Using formal client feedback to improve retention and outcome: Making ongoing, real-time assessment feasible. *Journal of Brief Therapy*, 5(1), 5–22.

Module 2 (Weeks 3–7): Vignette Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and Assessing Feedback-Informed Treatment (FIT) in Placement

- PBL vignette Parts A, B, and C
- **Assignment 1: PBL Student Group Presentations** (due Week 7)
- Introduction to expressive arts

- FIT discussions: assess the use of FIT in placement
- Professional consultation, development, and mindful reflection that allows students to process and reflect on their agency placement

- ENGAGEMENT, ASSESSMENT, INTERVENTION, EVALUATION
- What are the facts as we know them?
- Organize the facts into a framework to help understand the facts: for example, genogram, ecomap, or timeline
- What are your hypotheses/hunches and what steps can you take to gather information to confirm or refute your hypotheses?
- What do you know from the readings and your coursework to date that helps inform you at this stage in the case?
- What would you like to know from the research/literature that will help inform this case?

Required Readings

- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Resistance and understanding trauma. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 36–54). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Liberation psychology: An overview. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 57–67). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Liberation psychology: Critical reflection. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 68–77). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Narrative approaches to liberation. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 78–84). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Communication/social context approaches to liberation. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 85–95). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Savery, J. R. (2006). Overview of problem-based learning: Definitions and distinctions. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Problem-Based Learning*, 1(1), 9–20.

Module 3 (Weeks 8–11): Expressive Arts, Liberation Psychology, and Termination

- **Assignment 2: Feedback-Informed Treatment (FIT) Reflection Paper** (due Week 11)
- Advancing social justice through clinical practice and critical consciousness in action
- Termination in social work practice with clients, field instructor, preceptor, and stakeholders
- FIT discussion
- Professional consultation, development, and mindful reflection that allows students to process and reflect on their agency placement

- **Spring Break: Field Placement will continue as normal. Field Seminar classes will not meet during this period.**

Required Readings

- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Drawing the theory together. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 96–105). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Ways of working with power, resistance and liberation. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 109–130). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). The recovery of historical memory. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 131–144). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). De-ideologising everyday experience. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 145–166). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Kossak, M. S. (2009). Therapeutic attunement: A transpersonal view of expressive arts therapy. *Arts in Psychotherapy, 36*, 13–18.
- ❖ Slayton, S. C., D'Archer, J., & Kaplan, F. (2010). Outcome studies on the efficacy of art therapy: A review of the findings. *Art Therapy, 27*(3), 108–118.
- ❖ Wilkinson, R. A., & Chilton, G. (2013). Positive art therapy: Linking positive psychology to art therapy theory, practice, and research. *Art Therapy, 30*(1), 4–11.
- ❖ Gutheil, I. A. (1993). Rituals and termination procedures. *Smith College of Social Work, 63*(2), 163–176.

Module 4: (Weeks 12–15): Presentation of Expressive Arts as Reflection, Assessment, and Awareness

- **Assignment 3:** Presentation of Expressive Arts as Reflection—Exhibition and Dialogue (Weeks 13 and 14)
- Course wrap-up
- Professional consultation, development, and mindful reflection that allows students to process and reflect on their agency placement

Required Readings

- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Utilizing the people's virtues. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 167–185). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Drawing the practices together. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 186–191). New York, NY: Routledge.
- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Resistance as creativity. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with s*

- ❖ Afuape, T. (2011). Therapy that breaks the heart; Appendix. In *Power, resistance and liberation in therapy with survivors of trauma* (pp. 202–207). New York, NY: Routledge.

STUDY DAYS / NO CLASSES

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Final Summative
Experience (ground
program only)

University Policies and Guidelines

IX. 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 (xxxxxx@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.

X. 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>.

XI. 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/>

Virtual Academic Center (VAC) Students can access counseling services through Perspectives – (800)456-6327 – 24/7 on call. www.perspectivesltd.com

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/>

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. <http://dsp.usc.edu>

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/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tab for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>

XII. 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.”

XIII. 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.

XIV. 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.

XV. CODE OF ETHICS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

*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.

XVI. COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint or concern about the course or the instructor, please discuss it first with the instructor. If you feel cannot discuss it with the instructor, contact the 588 Lead Instructor (email vacfield@usc.edu for the Lead Instructor's contact information). If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact your advisor and/or Vice Dean, Dr. Marleen Wong for further guidance.

XVII. 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.
