SOWK 704: Strategic Innovations for the Grand Challenges
Summer, 2018

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https://mswatusc.adobeconnect.com/r5aevf56gv2/

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES
Acceptance to the doctorate in social work program.

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION
Doctoral students will be introduced to discipline specific and interdisciplinary ideas and approaches for innovation and change as they address the Grand Challenges for social work. Students will leave the course with the ability to respond to the fast-paced and changing organizational environment and with a skill set that supports new strategies and approaches for targeting “wicked problems” and managing change.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION
The 12 Grand Challenges of Social Work initiative focuses on improving the well-being of individuals and families, strengthening the social fabric, and helping to create a more just society. Students will learn the ways that social work experts are applying innovation and using scientific intervention to address critical social issues. In addition, students will select and discuss the Grand Challenge that they will be focusing on during the semester, as well as assess current research, best practices, and gaps in the literature. Students will examine strategies that they will pursue to find innovative solutions to specific intractable (“wicked”) problems embedded within the Grand Challenges of Social Work. Following their selection of these intractable problems, students will continue to design and propose innovative solutions in concurrent and subsequent DSW courses. Lastly, students will investigate and identify a wide array of possible techniques and tools to put their innovative ideas into action.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate an awareness of how changes in the global macro system are relevant to social services management and leadership.

2. Develop new ideas to address the Grand Challenges and “wicked problems.”

3. Attach an environmental context to perspectives on management and employ environmental scanning and a search of the literature as a management practice.

4. Understand that innovations are disruptive and know how to prepare for that disruption.

5. Develop an emerging skill set to create and manage changes in communities and organizations.

6. Become leaders who can adapt, and teach others to, adapt to and respond to rapidly changing environments.

V. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This doctoral course will employ lectures, interactive discussions, experiential exercises, videos, presentations, public speaking, and guest lectures from experts across a wide variety of leadership positions. Individual and group in-class activities will be used to provide application of content, theories, and concepts.

The course will be taught from the perspective that doctoral students will be engaged throughout their professional lives in innovation and change as they strive to influence social and organizational contexts. Appearances of guest experts, lectures, discussions, and activities highlight interdisciplinary perspectives. The intent is to extend, provide insight, employ actual examples, and generate innovative ideas from guest experts and students’ experiences.

VI. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Researching the Grand Challenges Annotated Bibliography Paper</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Grand Challenge Selection Paper Weekly reflection paper beginning in Week 6</td>
<td>Beginning in Week 6</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Group Power Point Presentations</td>
<td>Presentations take place during Weeks 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 4: Final Paper</td>
<td>Due Week 15</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collegial Contributions:</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Each of the major assignments is described below.

**Assignment 1: RESEARCHING THE GRAND CHALLENGES ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY PAPER:** Students will develop a 5 to 6 page paper, not including title page and reference pages. Students will begin a search of the academic literature, which should be limited to peer-reviewed journal articles and/or government research reports relevant to the 12 Grand Challenges. Students will develop an annotated bibliography for each of the 10 to 12 peer-reviewed articles related to one of the Grand Challenges. Each citation will be followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph for the annotation. **This assignment is worth 10% of the grade. This assignment is Due Week 4.**

**Assignment 2: GRAND CHALLENGE SELECTION PAPER:**

Students will develop a 4 to 5 page paper, not including title page and reference pages, to identify a particular element of a Grand Challenge that they plan to address in this class. Subheadings for the Assignment 2 paper are the following: (a) summary of the Grand Challenge; (b) trends that have contributed to the development of problems embedded in the Grand Challenge; and (c) the intractable (i.e., “wicked”) problem related to the Grand Challenge that will be examined in the final paper. **This assignment is worth 20% of the grade. This assignment is Due Week 6.**

**Assignment 3: GROUP POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS:**

This Group Power Point Presentation will focus on trends, societal shifts, and/or the Grand Challenges as an exercise in understanding intractable, or wicked social problems. The content of the PowerPoint and presentation must include:

(a) Identifying the emerging societal forces or shifts linked to one of the Grand Challenges that will have a major impact on social work and social services over the next 20 years

(b) Discuss the concepts contributing to the problem

(c) Provide data on the incidence and prevalence of the problem

(d) Demonstrate a process that employs multiple ways of thinking (i.e., vertical/lateral thinking, and/or entrepreneurial resource leveraging).

(e) The group’s presentation will be in class and should be of 20 to 30 minutes in length, involving all group members in the presentation.

(f) Include reference list of all sources cited in the PowerPoint on the last slide.

(g) Email presentation the day before the presentation to the professor.

This assignment will be accessed in terms of adherence to the assignment guidelines and students’ use of current and scholarly literature from social work and other relevant disciplines. The final presentation will take place in Weeks 8 and Week 9. Requirements for the presentation include the following: (a) adherence to assignment guidelines mentioned earlier; (b) a Power Point presentation that includes a reference list comprising research from the social work and interdisciplinary literature; (c) a compelling visual presentation; and (d) a presentation style that reflects the skills of engagement, professionalism, and knowledge. Given certain circumstances, and after being discussed with and approved by the professor, students will be allowed to provide an individual instead of group presentation for Assignment 3. If approved, individual
presentations should be approximately 10-15 minutes, and group presentations should be approximately 20-30 minutes. Both individual and/or group presentations will be led by the student/s, followed by Q&A sessions and discussions. This assignment is worth 20% of the final grade.

Assignment 4: FINAL PAPER.

This assignment is worth 40% of the grade. Percentages are 30% for the paper, and 10% for the oral presentation.

This is an individual assignment. Each student will produce an 18 to 20-page paper not including title page and reference pages, that gives an interdisciplinary perspective of the development and current state of a specific intractable problem aligned with the student’s chosen Grand Challenge. The paper should reflect the scientific method (i.e., vertical thinking) as well as the creative process (i.e., lateral thinking).

Specifically, the student will:

1. Introduce to the problem by providing current data reflecting the incidence and prevalence of the problem, along with a review of the scholarly literature that includes an interdisciplinary perspective, theoretical framework, and a critical assessment of the problem. In terms of format and writing style, this section should be written in the tone and style of a journal article (5 pages). (20%)
2. Describe two current attempts to address this intractable problem via policy, program, and/or research. This section should reflect literature, research, and promising practices (4 pages). (20%)
3. Building on Point 2, suggest a prototype within an organizational setting to address this wicked problem. Demonstrate how your prototype is new and builds on what has come before (4 pages). (20%)
4. Generate a list of potential collaborators. Discuss how your understanding of generational differences, social justice, and diversity will minimize unhealthy conflicts and guide your work with your partners (2 pages). (10%)
5. Provide a summary and conclusion (1/2-1 page) (5%)
6. References (20-30) in APA format (2-4 pages) (10%)
7. Your writing must meet the standards expected of students in a doctoral program. The paper should be a high-quality and proofread/edited document that complies with the expectations for publication. The paper must be organized per APA 6 style (10%).

This is a scholarly paper, so your ideas must be supported by the literature. Your references must be cited throughout the paper per APA 6 style. This paper will provide a springboard for your Capstone Project.

Student Presentations on Assignment 4: The student presentations on Weeks 14 and 15 (assigned by the instructor) must include the following content:

An individual in-class presentation that will be in class and should be approximately 10 minutes in length. This is not a Ted-type talk; rather, it is more like an executive summary that you would present at a professional meeting. Each presentation must include the following content:

a. An introduction to the problem that includes current data.
b. A brief description of two current attempts to address this intractable problem.
c. Suggestion for a prototype to resolve the selected “wicked problem.”
d. Identification of potential collaborators.
e. Engagement in a Q & A session of 5 minutes, depending on time available, with other students.
f. Students can use PowerPoint, but it is not required.

Collegial Contributions (10% of Course Grade)

Students will be expected to engage in collegial contributions by providing answers to questions embedded in the asynchronous sessions and by asking questions and providing commentary during the synchronous sessions. Students are especially encouraged to read and evaluate other students work.

Class grades will be based on the following:

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<tr>
<th>4-point scale</th>
<th>100-point scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.85 – 4.00</td>
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<td>3.60 – 3.84</td>
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<td>2.90 – 3.24</td>
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<td>2.60 – 2.89</td>
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<td>2.25 – 2.59</td>
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<td>1.90 – 2.24</td>
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VII. RECOMMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Required Textbooks:


**Recommended Textbooks:**


Smith, R. (2007) *The 7 levels of change: Different thinking for different results (Third edition).* Reading: Tapestry Press.


**On Reserve**

All additional required readings that are not in the above-required texts are available online through electronic reserve (ARES). DSW 704 VAC readings will be posted under instructor Dr. Harry Hunter. Readings not posted on ARES can be located at the websites identified in the course outline. The textbooks have also been placed on reserve at Leavey Library.

**Brief Course Overview**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Innovation and change: Addressing shifts, Grand Challenges, and intractable problems</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Managing and creating planned change in light of tectonic shifts</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Theories of change</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Thinking critically about social innovation</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>The process of social innovation</td>
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<td>Unit</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Leveraging social innovation</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The Three Traditional Domains</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Team presentations</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Team presentations cont’d, Consolidation and continuity in turbulent times</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Culture of collaboration and mutual responsibility</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Culture of conflict</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Diversity between generations</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Student Presentations and Interactive Class Feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Student Presentations and Interactive Class Feedback</td>
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**STUDY DAYS / NO CLASSES**

**FINALS WEEK**
Course Overview

Course Schedule—Detailed Description

Unit 1: Innovation and change: Addressing shifts, Grand Challenges, and intractable problems

Topics:
- Intractable, “wicked” social problems
- Recognizing and responding to the societal shifts and/or the Grand Challenges for Social Work.
- Re-imagining solutions

Required Readings:


12 Challenges
- Ensure healthy development for all youth
- Close the health gap
- Stop family violence
- Advance long and productive lives
- Eradicate social isolation
- End homelessness
- Create social responses to a changing environment
- Harness technology for social good
- Promote smart decarceration
- Reduce extreme economic inequality
- Build financial capability for all
- Achieve equal opportunity and justice
Unit 2: Managing and Creating Planned Change in Light of Tectonic Shifts

Topics
- Overview of concepts: Change, creativity, and innovation
- Interdisciplinary perspectives: Innovations and shifts that are changing the world
- Impact of said changes on current and future social work practice
- Exemplars: Apple computers; CNN; Starbucks, Substance abuse.

Required Reading:

Recommended Readings

Unit 3: Theories of change

Topics
- Review of systems theory
- Review of conflict theories
- Emerging theory: Disruptive innovation theory
- “Black Swan” events

Required Readings

Unit 4: Thinking critically about social innovation

Topics
- Certainty, uncertainty, ambiguity and the iterative change process
- Creative thinking methods (e.g. “Six Thinking Hats”)
- Inductive and deductive approaches
- Comparing vertical thinking to lateral thinking

Required Readings

**Unit 5  The process of social innovation**

**Topics**
- From inception to impact
- Sustainability vs. disruption
- Framing/reframing
- Imagining solutions
- Design Thinking
- Creating Prototypes

**Required readings**

**Unit 6  Leveraging social innovation**

**Topics**
- Traditional social change models: Community organizing and community development
- Civic and social entrepreneurship.
- Social media and innovation-forecasting
- Data driven and consumer-driven change

**Required readings**

**Recommended Reading**
Unit 7: The Three Traditional Domains

The three traditional domains for addressing US societal needs

Topics
- Public
- Private, non-profit
- Private, for-profit
- Hybrid organizations as the wave of the future?

Required readings

Unit 8: Team presentations

Topics
- Researching emerging societal forces
- Building linkages to interdisciplinary perspectives (using scholarly literature and practical experiences)
- Leading class discussions

Required readings
TBA

Unit 9 Team presentations cont’d, Consolidation and continuity in turbulent times

Topics
- Creating new perspectives and solutions to “wicked problems”
- Sustaining and building on “what works”
- Unexpected change and unintended consequences

Required readings
Stirman, S.W., Kimberly, J., Cook, N., Calloway, A., Castro, F., Charns, M. (2012). The
sustainability of new programs and innovations: a review of the empirical literature and recommendations for future research. *Implementation Science, 7*(17), 1-19.

**Recommended reading**

**Unit 10 Culture of collaboration and mutual responsibility**

**Topics**

- Creating a culture in which each employee is a partner for change
- Collaborating for best interest of the social service agency is a challenge for all managers.
- Forming a culture of inter-structural collaboration: partnerships
- Avoiding cliques and niches
- Enhancing organization commitments

**Required readings**

**Unit 11 Culture of conflict**

**Topics**

- Recognizing different world views
- Egos and expertise
- Conflict vs. “group think”
- Creative tension vs. destructive work culture

**Required readings**
Unit 12 Diversity

Topics
- White supremacy and male patriarchy
- Impact of societal racism and sexism on innovation
- Intersectionality
- Practical Steps for Creating an Inclusive Workplace

Required readings


Recommended readings
Unit 13 Diversity between generations

Topics
- Generational awareness in the work place
- Boomers, Gen-X, and Millennials

Required readings


Recommended Readings


Unit 14 (Weeks 14-15) Putting it all together – Student presentations

University Policies and Guidelines
VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY

At the doctoral level, attendance and interaction around ideas are essential. Students are expected to notify the instructor by telephone or email of any anticipated absence.

University of Southern California policy permits students to be excused from class, without penalty, for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers that scheduled final examinations which might conflict with students’ observance of a holy day. Students must make arrangements in advance to complete class work that will be missed or to reschedule an examination due to observance of holy days.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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/

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/
Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students
IX. **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 by the instructor and reported on the official "Incomplete Completion Form."

X. **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.

XI. **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.

XII. **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 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.

XIII. 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 your Faculty Advisor or Dr. Marvin Southard, Chair of DSW Program at msouthar@usc.edu for further guidance.

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.