



USC | School of Social Work

Social Work 614

Social Work Practice in School Settings

3 Units

Instructor: Dr Marlene Ochetti
E-Mail: mlhollis@usc.edu
Telephone: 909 815 0955
Office and Hours: TBD
Friday, 8:00 am-10:50 am
MRF 229

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES

None

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Based on ecosystems perspectives, this course examines policies, theories and principles of social work practice in school settings.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an orientation to social work practice in schools. Students will become familiar with traditional and changing roles and practices of social workers in schools, as well as with larger systemic trends, such as education reform and the movement toward school-linked services. The course introduces school-wide and individual prevention and intervention methods with children and youth at risk for school failure and other adverse outcomes due to behavioral and mental health problems. The course is designed to facilitate student skills in critically analyzing educational programs and policies at all levels. Social work programs demonstrated effective in various educational settings will be analyzed, and assessments for change will be formulated to enhance educational achievement and well-being. The following are topical themes of the course: (1) Education laws and policies across the United States and their impact on schools, students, and families; (2) Organization, culture, and environment of schools at the elementary, secondary, technical, and vocational levels; (3) The effects of trauma and toxic stress (from poverty, child abuse, family and community violence, and social discrimination) on learning and behavior in children and youth; (4) The right to education of oppressed and special populations, with critical attention to disabilities, poverty, race, culture, and language; (5) Social work roles and function in schools, with strong emphasis throughout the course on the social worker as an agent of change in the school organization and systems beyond the local school.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate mastery in the following ways:

Objective #	Objectives
1	Explain contemporary social, economic, and demographic dynamics in education that influence the developmental and academic needs of children and youth at various learning levels.

Objective #	Objectives
2	Describe processes of education policy formulation, particularly those related to problems experienced by vulnerable populations, and be able to apply this understanding to at least one major policy in contemporary education.
3	Explain elements in the ecology and social systems of students of diverse cultures and economic circumstances and explain how these impact their education experience and general well-being.
4	Apply various roles and functions of social workers in educational settings, such as advocacy on behalf of students and their families, assessment and treatment planning, leadership in enhancing school policies and programs, training and consultation with a variety of stakeholders, engaging families with the school.
5	Demonstrate best practices for working effectively with multiple stakeholder groups in the school, particularly students, teachers, administrators, and parents, as well as with community institutions such as juvenile courts, public child welfare, military installations, health and mental health services, and social service organizations.

IV. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Relationship of the Course to Across-Curricular Themes

Multiculturalism and Diversity. This course will examine recent demographic shifts across the United States that have increased the cultural and racial diversity of students and families. A culturally focused developmental perspective will be explored, from infancy through secondary education, to the transition from school to the world of work. Of particular focus will be policies and services that impact children and youth living in poverty, in non-traditional families, in out-of-home placements, those with illness and disability, and GLBT individuals and families.

Social Justice and Social Change. Social workers in educational settings strive to maximize educational opportunities for individuals, groups, neighborhoods, and communities, and to promote progressive local, state, and national policy. Relevant legislation and policies that seek to meet these goals will be reviewed, as well as the social justice implications of public and non-public schools.

Primary and Secondary Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation. A three-tier prevention-intervention model, including Response to Intervention (RTI) and others, will be applied throughout the course. This model represents intervention with students, families, and the school organization on a continuum of intensity. The first tier includes primary prevention and psychoeducation for all students and families, as well as for the organization, culture, and environment of the school. The second and third tiers focus more intensely on intervention with children and youth who are especially vulnerable to detriments such as academic failure, suspension and expulsion, dropping out, STDs and pregnancy, or substance abuse. Individual traits and social factors that buffer children from these stressors and research on resilience will be examined.

Behavioral and Social Science Research. The role of the social worker as a consumer of research is emphasized. Relevant sources in the course include those in social work, and also the theories and empirical studies of interdisciplinary fields such as human behavior, public health, economics, and education. In addition, relevant theories and findings are studied with regard to service delivery, validation of interventions, and overall evaluation of practice in educational settings.

Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values

Professional social work ethics are reviewed in the context of educational settings. Issues that are examined critically include confidentiality and privacy, access to records and services, student access to services without parental consent, service delivery with regard to the age of the target group, parental permission regarding sex education, mandated reporting of child abuse and truancy, and expulsion and suspension as behavior management practices.

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

Social Work Core Competencies	SOWK 614	Course Objective
1 Professional Identity	*	4
2 Ethical Practice	*	4 & 5
3 Critical Thinking	*	4 & 5
4 Diversity in Practice	*	1, 2, & 3
5 Human Rights & Justice		
6 Research Based Practice		
7 Human Behavior		
8 Policy Practice	*	2
9 Practice Contexts	*	4
10 Engage, Assess, Intervene, Evaluate	*	1, 2, 4, & 5

* Highlighted in this course

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

Competencies/ Knowledge, Values, Skills	Student Learning Outcomes	Method of Assessment
<p>Professional Identity—Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Professional Identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serve as representatives of the profession, its mission, and its core values. ▪ Know the profession's history. ▪ Commit themselves to the profession's enhancement and to their own professional conduct and growth. 	<p>1. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.</p>	

<p>Critical Thinking—Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Critical Thinking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are knowledgeable about the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and reasoned discernment. Use critical thinking augmented by creativity and curiosity. Understand that critical thinking also requires the synthesis and communication of relevant information. 	<p>2. Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.</p>	
	<p>3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues.</p>	
<p>Diversity in Practice—Engage diversity and difference in practice.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Diversity in Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how diversity characterizes and shapes the human experience and is critical to the formation of identity. Recognize that the dimensions of diversity reflect intersectionality of multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. Appreciate that, as a consequence of difference, a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. 	<p>4. Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.</p>	
	<p>5. Recognize and communicate understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.</p>	
<p>Practice Contexts—Respond to contexts that shape practice.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Practice Contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are informed, resourceful, and proactive in responding to evolving organizational, community, and societal contexts at all levels of practice. Recognize that the context of practice is dynamic, and use knowledge and skill to respond proactively. 	<p>6. Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.</p>	
	<p>7. Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services.</p>	

<p>Engage, Assess, Intervene, Evaluate—Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.</p> <p>Social workers competent in the dynamic and interactive processes of Engagement, Assessment, Intervention, and Evaluation apply the following knowledge and skills to practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying, analyzing, and implementing evidence-based interventions designed to achieve client goals ▪ Using research and technological advances ▪ Evaluating program outcomes and practice effectiveness ▪ Developing, analyzing, advocating, and providing leadership for policies and services ▪ Promoting social and economic justice 	<p>8. Engagement:</p> <p>Substantively and affectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.</p> <p>Use empathy and other interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes.</p>	
	<p>9. Assessment:</p> <p>Collect, organize, and interpret client data.</p> <p>Assess client strengths and limitations.</p> <p>Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives.</p> <p>Select appropriate intervention strategies.</p>	

VI. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES, GRADING

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Assignment 1: Unit Exercises	Ongoing	30%
Assignment 2: <i>And Still We Rise</i> Response Paper	Unit 8	25%
Assignment 3:		
Part 1: Problem Assessment, Intervention Plan	Unit 11	20%
Part 2: Stakeholder Presentation	As Assigned Units 12-15	15%
Class Participation	Ongoing	10%

Each of the major assignments is described below.

Assignment 1: Unit Exercises *Due as assigned throughout semester.*

To further integrate readings, lectures, and media content into the learning experience of this course, you will complete 10 unit exercises throughout the semester. In the VAC class, these exercises are embedded in the asynchronous content, and you will write your responses in the space provided. In the campus-based class your instructor will post the exercise on Blackboard the week before it is due. Your responses should be critical and substantive and reflect your current knowledge and understanding of the subject.

The nature of this assignment and how you are expected to participate will be discussed more fully in class the first week, and you will receive periodic feedback from your instructor through the semester.

This assignment relates to student learning outcome 2, 4, 7, 9.

Assignment 2: Response Paper to the book *And Still We Rise* Due Unit 8

This book, written by Los Angeles journalist Miles Corwin, documents the struggles and successes of twelve public high school students and shows clearly that the barriers for students in previous decades are yet present for students in many American schools. The book is also a very personal account by the author. **You should have read the book by week 6. You will submit a four-page APA formatted response paper on the day of class Week 8.** In the paper you will (1) critically explain issues of personal *trauma and institutional barriers and limitations* that affect the students and the school in the book, and (2) explain roles and interventions that a social worker in this school could provide on behalf of these students and school staff. You will receive a guide for the assignment. You should expect to inform this paper with knowledge you have gained from your Human Behavior and Practice courses, as well as your school-based (or other) internship.

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 4 and 5.

Assignment 3: Problem Assessment, Intervention Plan, and Presentation

This two-part assignment gives you an opportunity to, first, critically explore actual problems that schools experience and to apply assessment and intervention skills in determining causes and recommending solutions, and second, to apply communication skills by presenting to various stakeholder groups for the purpose of engaging them in your intervention.

1. At the first class meeting of the semester, you will be assigned to groups of 2-3. This is your work group to complete this assignment.
2. The guide for this assignment is found below. It will also be discussed in further detail in class. In brief, the assignment involves (A) Selecting a problem that strongly impacts your schools, following the assignment guide to develop an assessment of the problem and an intervention plan to address the problem, and presenting this in an 8-10-page paper. (C) Explain the problem and the intervention you are planning, to three different stakeholder groups as if you are orienting or engaging them in the intervention. Each member of your group will present to a different group.

Due Unit 11

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 2, 6, 7, and 9.

ASSIGNMENT 3 GUIDE

Part 1 is 20% of semester grade. Part 2 is 15% of semester grade.

For this assignment, groups of three students will be formed week 1. Groups will have 10-15 minutes in class to discuss the assignment. Your target problem and presentation stakeholder groups should be identified by Week 3, when you will also be assigned a presentation date.

ASSIGNMENT PART 1

DUE WEEK 11

Your group will identify and assess a problem that affects students and staff in schools where you are placed or have recent experience, and design a multi-tier intervention plan to address the problem.

- (1) You will **define and critically explain the problem**; explain how it is affecting students, staff, and the school; explain what causes and continually contributes to the problem; explain resources and strengths in the school that can be utilized in addressing the problem.

(2) With the assessment to inform and guide your planning, **design a multi-tiered plan of intervention** that can be effective in reducing or eliminating the problem.

(3) **Write your problem statement, assessment, and intervention plan in a 10-12 page paper.** Use at least eight references to inform the paper and support your explanations, conclusions, and intervention decisions. Up to three of these sources can be websites of relevant, credible organizations or consulting/training groups. The remaining sources should be peer-reviewed journal articles or chapters in the course textbooks.

ASSIGNMENT PART 2

DUE AS ASSIGNED WEEKS 12-15

Your group will select three different stakeholder groups that you would need to inform and engage in order for your proposed intervention to be effective in the school. Each of you will present to one of these stakeholder audiences (teachers, parents, students of various ages, principal and administrative team, other school staff, the school board, community groups). Each presentation should be about 15 minutes in length..

This presentation is NOT a typical class presentation. A major part of your grade will be determined by how clearly your presentation is focused on your target audience, with language, concepts, and strategies that are appropriate to inform and engage them.

Communicating effectively to different stakeholders requires a number of skills:

- *Understanding the stakeholder group* and their particular concerns and interests.
- *Emphasizing aspects of the topic* that are relevant and “receivable” to the audience.
- *Mastering the topic* sufficiently to be able to present it in a variety of ways.
- *Using strategies and techniques* that engage the audience.

NOTE: You have the option of using slides during your presentation. However, consider whether slides are a good strategy for your audience. If so, consider what type of slides would be effective for your audience.

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 3, 4, 6, and 10.

Class Participation (10% of Course Grade)

The learning experience in this course depends on engagement of everyone in the class, and everyone is expected to participate fully. Those who avoid this responsibility will lose class participation points, and their grade in the course will be affected.

Be mindful of this if you are tempted to sit silently through class discussions or work on things unrelated to the class. For VAC students, this includes leaving your camera off or frozen during class.

Active participation in this class means that you read the required readings (VAC, also review the asynchronous content) before every class and reflect your familiarity with the material in discussions. You verbally contribute ideas, questions, and observations, and relate the material to your own experiences in the field.

If you are absent for a class you are still responsible for completing the readings (VAC, also the asynchronous) and any assignments for the class you miss, as well as being prepared for the next week’s class.

Holy Days: University policy permits students to be excused from class without penalty for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers scheduled final presentations that conflict with

student observance of a holy day. You must make arrangements in advance to complete class work, presentations, or any assignment that will be missed due to holy day observance.

Class grades will be based on the following:

Class Grades		Final Grade	
3.85 – 4	A	93 – 100	A
3.60 – 3.84	A-	90 – 92	A-
3.25 – 3.59	B+	87 – 89	B+
2.90 – 3.24	B	83 – 86	B
2.60 – 2.89	B-	80 – 82	B-
2.25 – 2.59	C+	77 – 79	C+
1.90 – 2.24	C	73 – 76	C
		70 – 72	C-

VII. REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Required Textbooks

Four textbooks are required for the course, plus *And Still We Rise* required for assignment 2. All should be available through the USC bookstore, Amazon.com, B&N.com, or similar websites. Please let your professor know *prior to the first class* if you are unable to locate any of the books.

Astor, R. A. and Benbenishty, R. (2017). *Mapping and monitoring bullying and violence: Building a safe school climate*. New York, NY, Oxford University Press.

Astor, R.A., Jacobson, L., Wrabel, S. L., Benbenishty, R., & Pineda, D. (2017). *Welcoming practices: Creating schools that support students and families in transition*. New York, NY, Oxford University Press.

Corwin, M. (2001). *And still we rise: The trials and triumphs of twelve gifted inner-city students*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.

Franklin, C., Harris, M., & Allen-Meares, P. (2013). *The school services sourcebook: A guide for school-based professionals*, 2nd edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Villarreal Sosa, L., Cox, T., & Alvarez, M. (2017). *School social work: National perspectives on practice in schools*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Required Readings on Reserve

Required readings that are not in the textbooks are available electronically in ARES under SOWK 614 Lead Instructor, Ron Astor.

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

Recommended Guidebook for APA Style Formatting

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.

Recommended Websites

American Council for School Social Work: acssw@acssw.org

NASW on School Social Work: www.naswdc.org/practice/school/default.asp

National Child Traumatic Stress Network: www.nctsn.org

National Center for Learning Disabilities: www.nclld.org

Response to Intervention Network: www.rtinetwork.org

School Social Worker Association of America: www.sswaa.org

Course Schedule—Detailed Description

Unit 1: Scope and Context of Social Work in Education

Topics

- Introduction to the class, discussion of class components, and assignment of projects
- Historical Development of Social Work in Education
- Primary Social Work Roles, Employment, and Employers
- Professional Standards and Governance
- State Licensing and Other Practice Requirements
- Professional Organizations

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 8, 9.

Required Readings

NASW Standards for School Social Work. www.naswdc.org/practice (in left column select School Social Work)

Astor and Benbenishty Texts:

Mapping and Monitoring Bullying and Violence: Building a Safe School Climate Introduction xi-xiii

Welcoming Practices Creating Schools that Support Students & Families in Transition, Introduction xi-xv

Unit 2: Education as an Institution

Topics

- Mission and Culture of Education
- Multiple Systems of Authority and Influence ■ Hierarchy of Structure
- Policies that Circumscribe Education
- Education Reform
- Local, State, Federal Funding Sources
- Allocation of Resources and Influence on Social and Health Programs and Services

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 8, 9

Required Readings

School Services Sourcebook, Chapter 64. Mapping a school's resources to improve their use in preventing and ameliorating problems

Mapping and Monitoring Bullying and Violence: Building a Safe School Climate Chapters 1,2,3,4, pp. 1-17.

Welcoming Practices: Creating Schools that Support Students and Families in Transition Chapters 1,2,3, pp. 1-20

ARES (Library Reserves): Valentine, J., & Prater, M. (2011). Instructional, transformational, and managerial leadership and student achievement: High school principals make a difference. *NASSP Bulletin*, 95(3), 5-30.

Unit 3: A National View of Social Work in Education**Topics**

- The national school social work practice model
- Legal parameters for practice
- The Common Core
- Ethical challenges for social workers in schools
- Evidence-based practice in schools

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 6, 8, 9

Required Readings

Sosa, Cox, Alvarez text, chapter 2 and chapter 8

Unit 4: School Mental Health**Topics**

- Defining “School Mental Health”
- Historical context
- Why mental health services in schools? ■ Crisis response and mental health
- Establishing MH services: Challenges and Barriers
- MH funding and resources
- Community provider networks

This Unit relates to course objectives 7, 8, 9, 10

Required Readings

Welcoming Practices:

Chapters 10, The Importance of Following Up

Chapter 11, Preparing for the Next Move

School Services Sourcebook:

Chapter 42 Developing School Wide and District Crisis Prevention/ Intervention Protocols for Natural Disasters

Chapter 43 Immediate School-Based Intervention Following Violent Crises

Chapter 44 Best Practice Grief Work with Students in the

Unit 5: School as an Organization and Workplace**Topics**

- The school as a host environment
- Professional diversity
- Cultural, racial, economic diversity
- Collaboration and collaborative models

Required Readings

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2,4,9

Unit 6: Multiple Stakeholders: Agendas, Authority, Power**Assignment 1, Stakeholder Response, due day of class by midnight.****Topics**

- Stakeholders in education and in schools
- School Board as reflection of the community
- Authority and priorities of school administrators
- Needs and priorities of teachers
- Role of the Pupil Support Team
- Communicating and working with stakeholders

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

Required Readings

Mapping and Monitoring Bullying and Violence: Building a Safe School Climate:

Chapter 5, Student Voice

Chapter 6, The Voices of Staff Members

Chapter 7, The Voices of Parents

Welcoming Practices: Creating Schools that Support Students & Families in Transition,

Chapter 3, The Voices of Students and Parents

Unit 7: Engaging Students, Families, and the Community**Topics**

- Students as clients: Issues of confidentiality and informed consent
- Student engagement with school
- Family engagement with the school
- School engagement with families
- Working with the Child Welfare System
- Working with the Juvenile Justice system
- A network of community service providers

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

Required Readings

ARES: Berryhill, M.B. & Vennum, A. (2015) Joining forces: Bringing parents and schools together. *Contemporary Family Therapy*, pp. 351-363.

Mapping and Monitoring Bullying and Violence: Building a Safe School Climate,

Chapter 8, Surveys

Chapter 9, Focus Groups

Chapter 10, Observations

Welcoming Practices: Creating Schools that Support Students and Families in Transition,

Chapters 4, Making Virtual Connections

Chapter 5, Connecting in Person

The School Services Sourcebook:

Chapter 29. Increasing School Attendance: Effective Strategies and Interventions

Chapter 49. Effective Strategies for Involving Parents in School

Chapter 56 Home Visiting: Essential Guidelines for Home Visits and Engaging with Families

Recommended Readings:

ARES: DeBell, M. (2008). Children living without their fathers: Population estimates and indicators of educational well-being. *Social Indicators Research*, 87: 427-443.

School Services Sourcebook:

Chapter 53. Intervening with Students & Families who Frequently Relocate or are Homeless

Chapter 51, Effective Intervention with Students from Single-Parent Families and Their Parents

Chapter 54, Children and Youth Impacted by Military Service: A School-Based Resilience-Building and Behavioral Health Perspective.

Chapter 67. Solution-Focused, Brief Therapy Interventions with Students at Risk for Dropout

Unit 8: Disparities in Access to Education**Assignment 2, *And Still We Rise* paper due on Unit 8 class day by midnight.****Topics**

- Poverty and access to education
- Economic, racial, and cultural diversity in schools
- Issues of racism and bias
- The School to Prison Pipeline
- Supporting vulnerable and marginalized students

This Unit relates to course objectives 2, 4, and 5.

Required Readings

Teasley, M.L. (2017). The dynamics of education reform and school choice. *Children & Schools* 39(3), 131-135.

ARES: Williams, R. B., Bryant-Mallory, D., Coleman, K., Gotel, D., & Hall, C. (2017). An evidence-based approach to reducing disproportionality in special education and discipline referrals. *Children & Schools* 39(4), 248-251.

Flugaur-Leavitt, C. (2017). *Helping Native American students succeed in school. Children & Schools*, 39(3), 187-189.

School Services Sourcebook:

- Chapter 55 Effectively working with Latino immigrant families in the schools
- Chapter 57 Working with Culturally/Racially Diverse Students to Improve Connection to School and Academic Performance
- Chapter 59 Engaging with Culturally & Racially Diverse Families
- Chapter 62 Working collaboratively with African American students, their families, cultural networks, and school environments
- Chapter 63 Working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning students.
- Chapter 58 Mental Health Interventions with Latino Students in Multi-Cultural School Environments: A Framework for Assessing Biases & Developing Cultural Competence

ARES: Department of Education Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Youth. pp. 3-17; 23-26; and 48-49.

ARES: Ruiz, M., Kabler, B., & Sugarman, M. (2015), Understanding the plight of immigrant and refugee students. *Communique*, 39(5).

Unit 9: School Culture and Climate: The School as Client**Topics**

- Variations in school culture and climate
- School engagement and academic achievement
- Traits of a welcoming school
- Benefits and outcomes of a welcoming school
- Changing the school environment

Required Readings

Mapping and Monitoring Bullying and Violence Text:

Chapter 11, Mapping

Chapter 12, Administrative Records

Chapter 13, Photos, Videos, and Other Technology

Welcoming Practices text:

Chapter 6, Welcoming Younger Students

Chapter 7, Welcoming Older Students

Chapter 8, Lessons from Business

Chapter 9, The Role of Staff and Community Partners

Recommended Readings

School Sourcebook:

Chapter 34 Evidence-Based Violence Prevention Programs and Best Implementation Practices

Chapter 37 Improving Classroom Conflict Management through Positive Behavior Interventions

This unit relates to course objectives 3 and 4

Unit 10: Child Trauma and the Trauma-Informed School**Topics**

- Social and emotional indicators of complex trauma
- The trauma-informed, trauma sensitive school
- Creating a trauma sensitive school
- Vulnerable student profiles
- Students at-risk for school dropout
- CBITS and other programs that work

This Unit relates to course objectives 3 and 4

Required Readings

ARES: Branblett, M.D. and Radel, L.F.(2014) Adverse family experiences among children in nonparental care, 2011-2012. *National Health Statistics Report*, 74.

ARES: *Creating and Advocating for Trauma Sensitive Schools*, Executive Summary & Chap. 1, pp. 5-25.

ARES: Frydman, J.S. and Mayor, C. (2017). Trauma and early adolescent development: Case examples from a trauma-informed public health middle school program. *Children & Schools*, 39(4), 238-247.

READ ONE of the following chapters from the *School Services Sourcebook*:

- Chapter 24. Identifying Child Abuse or Neglect: Strategies in a School Setting, E. O. Van Bergeijk
- Chapter 25. Helping Students Who Have Been Physically or Sexually Abused, K. Fallar
- Chapter 26. Helping Children in Foster Care & Other Residential Placements Succeed in School, D. Traube, M. McKay

Recommended Readings:

ARES: Day, A.G., Baroni, B., Comers, C., Shier, J., and Zammit, M. (2017). Trauma and triggers: Students perspectives on enhancing the classroom experiences at an alternative residential treatment-based school. *Children & Schools*, 39(4), 227-237.

ARES: Lester, P. et. al. (2010). The long war and parental combat deployment: Effects on military children and at-home spouses. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, (49)4.

Unit 11: Supporting Students with Disabilities and Learning Needs

Topics

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Special Education Law
- Legal mandates
- Categories and Services
- Referral and qualifying
- Learning disability, self-esteem, and behavior
- Functional Behavioral Assessment
- Roles of the school social worker

This Unit relates to course objectives 3 and 4.

Required Readings

Sosa, Cox, Alvarez text, *School Social Work: National Perspectives*

Chapter 7, Special Education

The IDEA law, National Individual with Disabilities Act website, www.ncid.org

ARES: Harrison, K. & Harrison, R. (2009). The school social worker's role in the tertiary support of functional assessment. *Children in Schools*, 31(2), 119-127.

The School Services Sourcebook:

pp. 237-250, Improving the self esteem and social skills of students with learning disabilities.

Unit 12: School-Wide Systems of Support

Assignment 3 Presentations as Assigned

Topics

- The multi-tier model of prevention-intervention
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

This Unit relates to course objectives 3 and 4

Required Readings:

Sosa, Cox, Alvarez Text, chapters 9, 10, 11, 12

SEL Reading: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/06/selecting-right-sel-program>

Recommended Readings:

School Services Sourcebook

Chapter 1 Implementing Evidence-based Practices within a Response to Intervention Framework

Chapter 3 Functional Behavioral Assessment in a three-tier prevention model

Unit 13: Supporting Students with Mental Health and Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Assignment 3 Presentations as Assigned.

Topics

- Student mental health needs in schools
- Frequent mental health disorders in children and youth
- Depression and suicide
- Bipolar disorder
- Neurodevelopmental disorders: ADHD and Autism
- Family and school support for students with mental health needs
- Mental health needs of military-related and immigrant students

This Unit relates to course objectives 3 and 4.

Required Readings

Read 3 of the following chapters of your choice in the School Services Sourcebook:

Chapter 41. School-Based, Adolescent Suicidality: Lethality Assessments and Crisis Intervention Protocols, A. A. Roberts

- Chapter 5. Psychopharmacological Treatment for Child and Adolescent Mental Disorders, Kia Bentley, K. S. Collins
- Chapter 14. Effective Intervention with Students with ADHD, M. Teasley
- Chapter 50. What parents and teachers should know: Effective treatments for youth with ADHD, S. Evans, J. Owens, C. Reinicke, R. Brown, and A. Grove
- Chapter 10. Effective Interventions for Adolescents with Depression
- Chapter 15. Effective Interventions for students with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome
- Chapter 12. Positive behavior supports for children with major mental illness: Working with teachers and parents

Unit 14: Managing Behavior and Supporting Student Health

Assignment 3 presentations as assigned.

Topics

- Frequent threats to health of children and youth
- School-based health services
- School policies for managing student behavior
- Bullying and other forms of aggression

This Unit relates to course objectives 2,3,4

Required Readings

ARES: Eliot, M., Cornell, D., Gregory, A., & Fan, X (2010). Supportive school climate and student willingness to seek help for bullying and threats of violence. *Journal of School Psychology*, pp. 533-553.

School Services Sourcebook:

- Chapter 20. Substance Abuse at Elementary Age: Effective Interventions
- Chapter 21. Screening Substance Use/Abuse of Middle and High School Students
- Chapter 22. Best Practices for Prevention of STDs and HIV in Schools
- Chapter 23. Effective Management of Obesity for School Children
- Chapter 32. Primary Prevention of Pregnancy: Effective School-Based Programs

Recommended Readings:

School Services Sourcebook:

- Chapter 33. Best School-Based Practices with Adolescent Parents
- Chapter 39. Effective Interventions with Dating Violence and Domestic Violence
- Chapter 40. Effective Intervention with Gangs and Gang Members

**Unit 15: Accountability: Evaluating and Reporting
School Social Work****Assignment 3 Presentations as Assigned****Topics**

- Continuous evaluation through monitoring and mapping
- Measurement and data management systems
- Grants, outside funding, and resources

This Unit relates to course objectives 4 and 5.

Required Readings*Mapping and Monitoring Text:*

Chapter 14, Analysis and Presentation

Chapter 15, Sharing the Monitoring Feedback

Chapter 16, Using Monitoring to Support and Improve Schools

School Services Sourcebook

Chapter 72 Understanding the New Environment of Public School Funding: How Student Support Services are Funded

Chapter 70 Using the School Success Profile to assess outcomes

Chapter 69 Constructing data management systems for tracking accountability

University Policies and Guidelines

VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

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

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

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

IX. STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Additionally, it should be noted that violations of academic integrity are not only violations of USC principles and policies, but also violations of the values of the social work profession.

X. STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. *Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible.* DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Students from all academic centers (including the Virtual Academic Center) may contact Ed Roth, Director of the DSP office at 213-740-0776 or ability@usc.edu.

XI. EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

Note: The following Emergency Response Information pertains to students on campus, but please note its importance should you be on campus for a temporary or extended period. When not on campus: Call the 911 listing in your local community for any emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 reduced 5 points per day.

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 (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.

XVI. COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint or concern about the course or the instructor, please discuss it first with the instructor. If discussing it with the instructor is not feasible or you do not achieve a satisfactory resolution, then contact either co-chair of the School Social Work Option, Prof. Steve Hydon or Dr. Marybeth Harris. If the issue is yet unresolved, you may contact your advisor for further guidance. If you are a VAC student, contact Dr. June Wiley, Director of the VAC, at (213) 821-0901 or june.wiley@usc.edu 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.
- ✓ Keep up with the assigned readings.
- ✓ 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 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!