Raritan Valley Community College

Course Outline

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: HMNS 102—Introduction to Social Work & Social Welfare

B. Date of Proposal: current course, new number Fall ‘06

C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences & Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 0

F. Prerequisites: None

G. Laboratory Fees: N/A

II. Catalog Description

The course will examine the profession of social work and the development and implementation of social welfare programs. The course will seek to identify the common trends, which tie together social workers although they practice in a wide variety of settings using multiple methodologies, and serve a highly varied clientele. In addition, material on important subjects such as racism, cultural pluralism, culture diversity, sexism, and the perception of the clientele will be discussed in a relation to the development of social welfare programs.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course is one of the two courses that provide an introduction to the field of social work and social welfare for students interested in a bachelor’s degree in social work. The Council on Social Work Education requires several core courses in all four-year BSW programs including an introductory course in social work during the freshman or sophomore years so that students have the foundation necessary to develop more specialized clinical skills and to begin internships in their junior and senior years. Students transferring to BSW programs would otherwise be unable to graduate within two years, as they would not have this prerequisite for advanced course work. This course is also one of two introductory courses in two-year Human Service degree programs, providing a professional foundation for employment in a wide variety of human services settings. Positioning this course as an introductory, discipline specific course, without a pre- or co-requisite affords students undecided about an area of
concentration an opportunity to explore this career option while gaining basic knowledge of social programs and the history of social welfare in the United States.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free elective
   • This course fulfills a requirement in the Human Service Degree programs.

B. Course transferability: This course is widely transferable as a Social Work major course equivalency for BSW programs in the area.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Evolution of Social Welfare in the United States
B. Emergence of the Social Work Profession
C. Social Work Practice Settings
D. Social Work Values & Ethics
E. Social Work Competencies
F. Social Work Practice with Specific Populations:
   1. Women
   2. Lesbian, Gay, Transgender & Bisexual People
   3. Children & Youth
   4. Older Adults
   5. People with Disabilities

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Educational Goals

Students will:
1. Examine the evolution of social work and social welfare in the United States and its influence on current social policies and the delivery of services (G.E. 3, 4, 6);
2. Develop a framework for assessing and intervening in situations effecting individuals and their social environment (G.E. 1, 5, 6);
3. Critically analyze case scenarios, plan intervention strategies, and anticipate potential difficulties in implementing said strategies (G.E. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6);
4. Communicate ideas and attitudes effectively, both verbally and in writing (G.E. 1, 2, 5);
5. Work in small groups to consider multiple perspectives of client situations and arrive at consensus regarding assessment and intervention strategies (G.E. 1, 2);
6. Examine the ethical issues associated with various client situations as well as the potential influence of one’s own value system (G.E. 5);
7. Identify specific roles and responsibilities that distinguish social work from other professions, and the unique roles that social workers play in a variety of settings (G.E. 4);
8. Use technology to research key figures, organizations, and positions in the field of social work (G.E. 3).

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:
1. Produce oral and written assessments of varying lengths demonstrating the ability to apply systems theory and eco-mapping techniques to specific case scenarios.
2. Present a brief oral history describing the significance of a key figure or organization in the evolution of social work.
3. Identify social inequalities and the influence of discrimination in the availability of various social services.
4. Identify unique concerns and intervention strategies relevant to specific populations and sub-groups.
5. Conduct informational interviews and prepare a coherent written summary of the educational background, career path, social work roles and responsibilities of professionals in the field.
6. Demonstrate social work competencies during in-class exercises role playing interactions between social worker and clients, developing written case materials and discussing the effects of race, ethnicity, and discrimination upon the deliver of social services with diverse populations.
7. Identify terminology, techniques, and historical facts demonstrating an understanding of social work and social welfare in the United States via written examination.

**VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning**

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning may include:
- lecture/discussion
- small-group work
- computer-assisted instruction
- guest speakers
- student oral presentations
- simulation/role playing
- student collaboration
- independent study

**VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments**

Assessment methods used may be:
- research papers
- essays
- oral presentations
- active group participation
- written examination
- written & verbal analysis of case scenarios
IX. Grade Determinants

In order to evaluate achievement of the goals and outcomes listed above, possible grade determinants may include:

- active participation in class discussions and role plays
- multiple choice examination of terminology and significant historical events in the evolution of social work
- oral history presentation
- preparation of a short research paper
- completion of 2 field interviews

X. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts that may be use:


NASW Code of Ethics. (Most recent edition).

XI. Resources

- Library research for oral presentation and brief written report
- Computer access for preparation of research paper and field interview summaries
- Utilization of guest speakers from various disciplines and community services

Revised 3/3/06