The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:  
Generalist Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups

Course Number:  
SWK 5103-102

Course Description:  
This course introduces the student to the generalist perspective and its application with individuals, families and treatment groups. Based upon the generalist intervention model, it builds upon evidence-based knowledge gained in concurrent foundation year courses. Skill development focuses on the use of self in the helping relationship supported by the values of culturally sensitive practice. The course is further supported by the concepts of person-in-environment, client strengths, and social and economic justice.

Catalogue Description:  
This is the first of two generalist social work practice courses. It explicates a generalist perspective that focuses on the knowledge, values, skills, and techniques appropriate for engagement, assessment, intervention and evaluation with individuals, families, & treatment groups.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:  
Dates: January 24-25, February 7-8, 21-22 & March 7-8, 2014  
Location: Zarrow Hall, room 115. 700 Elm Avenue, Norman OK.  
Hours: Friday 5:00p.m. – 9:00p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 26, 2013

Campus Map and Parking Information: A map of the campus can be found on the OU website at:  
http://www.ou.edu/map/. You will need to use the search to find “Zarrow Hall” as it is not labeled on the map. The entire campus is open for parking from Friday at 4:00 pm until Monday at 7:00 am. Students can park almost anywhere on campus including the parking garages, permits are not required and meters don’t have to be paid. OUPD will ticket illegal parking such as fire lanes, handicap areas and yellow curbs.

Site Director:  
Cathy Yeaman. Assistant: Kathie Nicoletti. Phone: 405-325-3333; Fax: 405-325-9148; email:  
apnorman@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor:  
Steven P. Wells, Ph.D. (Licensed Clinical Social Worker)  
Mailing Address:  
O.U. School of Social Work  
Zarrow Hall, Room 348  
Norman, OK  73019  
Telephone Number: 405-325-1064  
Fax Number: 405-325-4683  
E-mail Address:  
spwells@ou.edu

Professor availability: The professor encourages pre-course contact with students and invites them to email as a first choice, but to telephone if desired. In-person contact at the office can be made by appointment. At the beginning of the course, office hours for drop-in visits will be posted. On class days, the professor will schedule appointments before and after the class period, and other times by appointment.
Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.). (Text prices are available online.)


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Recommended, But Not Required, Text:

Saleebey, Dennis (2006). The strengths perspective in social work practice (4th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN 0205408176. Note to Students: Readings from this text will be made available on the Desire to Learn course site, but you may want to order it for your professional library.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

Given regular class attendance, participation in class activities, completion of assigned readings, and successful completion of course assignments, students will, at the conclusion of the course, have the ability to:

A. List and articulate societal and personal values relative to human differences as related to the professional value base for multi-level generalist practice;

B. Formulate a generalist intervention plan which reflects skills in client engagement, motivation, problem definition, assessment, intervention planning, appropriate selection of intervention procedures, and outcome evaluation;

C. Demonstrate intervention skills informed by culturally sensitive perspectives that are effective with diverse individuals, families, and treatment groups;

D. Describe families in dimensions of culture, socioeconomic status, member composition and developmental stage, and the implication of these for effective intervention; and,

E. Apply knowledge of group dynamics and structural variables, including cultural norms, values, and group composition, to social work practice with families and treatment groups.

Social Work Competencies and Practice Behaviors Assessed:

Upon successful completion of the course students will demonstrate novice ability in the following areas:

- EP 2.1.1 – Competency: Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly. Associated Behaviors:
  - Advocate for client access to the services of social work. (Assessed in Assignment 1).
  - Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development. (Assessed in Assignment 2).
  - Attend to professional roles and boundaries. (Assessed in Assignment 2).
• Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication. (Assessed in Assignment 2).

• EP 2.1.2 – Competency: Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. Associated Behavior:
  o Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice. (Assessed in Assignment 2).
  o Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles. (Assessed in Assignment 2)

• EP 2.1.3 – Competency: Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments. Associated Behaviors:
  o Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom. (Assessed in Assignments 1 & 2)
  o Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation. (Assessed in Assignment 1)
  o Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues. (Assessed in Assignment 2)

• EP 2.1.6 – Competency: Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research. Associated Behaviors:
  o Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry. (Assessed in Assignments 1 & 2)
  o Use research evidence to inform practice. (Assessed in Assignments 1 & 2)

• EP 2.1.7 – Competency: Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment. Associated Behaviors
  o Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, and evaluation. (Assessed in Assignment 2)
  o Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment. (Assessed in Assignment 2)

• EP 2.1.10(a) – Competency: Engagement. Associated Behaviors:
  o Substantively and affectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. (Assessed in Assignment 2)
  o Use empathy and other interpersonal skills. (Assessed in Assignment 2)
  o Develop a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes. (Assessed in Assignment 1).

• EP 2.1.10(b) – Competency: Assessment. Associated Behaviors:
  o Collect, organize, and interpret client data. (Assessed in Assignment 2)
  o Assess client strengths and limitations. (Assessed in Assignment 2)
  o Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives. (Assessed in Assignment 2)
  o Elect appropriate intervention strategies. (Assessed in Assignment 2)

• EP 2.1.10(c) – Competency: Intervention. Associated Behaviors:
  o Help clients resolve problems. (Assessed in Assignment 1 & 2)
  o Negotiate, mediate, and advocate for clients. (Assessed in Assignment 1)

• EP 2.1.10(d) – Competency: Evaluation. Associated Behaviors:
  o Initiate actions to achieve organizational goals. (Assessed in Assignment 2)
Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Methods of Evaluation
This course will include projects, research papers, reflection assignments, and case analysis papers to assess student learning.

Breakdown of Class Grading
(Items 1 and 2 are Common Assignments for all sections)
1. Evidenced-Based Practice Paper (30%)
2. Bio-Psycho-Social Assessment Assignment (30%)
3. Ethical Practice Scenarios (20%)
4. Task-Centered Case Assessment (20%)

Pre-Course Activities:
Note – A detailed course schedule will be posted at the D2L Course Page by November 15, 2013.

Course Activities:
Note – A detailed course schedule will be posted at the D2L Course Page by November 15, 2013.

Major Divisions of Course
A. Introduction to the Social Work Profession, including:
   a. History
   b. Fields of practice
   c. Social Work Values and Ethics
B. Evidence-Based Practice, including:
   a. Introduction to EBP
   b. EBP model and “triangle” of the levels of available evidence
C. Generalist Intervention Model, including:
   a. Engagement
   b. Assessment
   c. Planning
   d. Implementation
   e. Evaluation
   f. Termination
   g. Knowledge and skills for addressing needed change
D. Families
   a. Target for intervention
   b. Structure, roles, and communication
E. Treatment groups, including:
   a. Group process and roles
   b. Group treatment skills

Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Other Course Policies

Utilization of Course Management System:
All students are expected to become proficient in utilizing the D2L (http://learn.ou.edu) course management system. All course documents, additional content, assignments, and some examinations will
be accessed through this system, and most assignments will be submitted through the Dropbox feature. Also, assignments may involve the Discussion page of that system.

**Timely Submission of Work:**

Assignments are due on the date posted in the course outline. Late Assignments resulting from a personal/family illness or emergency may be accepted for full credit under the following conditions:

1. the student notifies the instructor of the difficulty before the beginning of the class period, or within twenty-four (24) of the end of the class period, in which the Activity/Examination was due;
2. written documentation of the inability to attend class may be required; if requested, it will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor; and,
3. the assignment/examination is completed within one week of the due date.
4. students may petition the instructor for exceptions to these criteria; again, acceptance is at the discretion of the instructor.

Late Assignments and Examinations not accepted for full credit under the criteria listed above will be accepted with a drop of one (1) letter grade if submitted within one week of the due date, and for half credit if submitted within one week of the due date. No credit will be given after two weeks.

**Quality of Product:**

All written work should be neat and orderly, and should accurately follow the instructions given for each particular assignment. Grades may be lowered for poor presentation, and for grammatical, typing, and spelling errors.

**Incomplete Policy:**

An incomplete grade for the course may be assigned only if the student has “satisfactorily completed a substantial portion of the required coursework for the semester” (Oklahoma State Regents Policy). Additionally, the instructor must advise the student (and the Office of Academic Records) what must be done to complete the course, and must set a time limit appropriate to the circumstances (OU General Catalog, Academic Standards, Grades). It is recommended that the student request the incomplete grade as soon as possible before the end of the semester, and that the student and instructor construct a written contract outlining what is needed to resolve the incomplete grade.
**POLICIES AND NOTICES**

**Attendance/Grade Policy**

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

**Academic Honesty**

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement;
- assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity.

**Accommodation Statement**

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

**Course Policies**

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

**Copyright**

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: [http://www.goou.ou.edu/](http://www.goou.ou.edu/)
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Steven P. Wells, Ph.D. (Licensed Clinical Social Worker)

Education

• 1972 Central State University (Oklahoma), B.A. (Education/Language Arts)
• 1985 University of Oklahoma, M.S.W.
• 2006 University of Oklahoma, Doctor of Philosophy, (College of Education, ILAC: Early Childhood Education Specialty)

Current Positions

• 1988 – 1997 Adjunct Assistant Professor – University of Oklahoma School of Social Work
• 1997 – 2013 Clinical Assistant Professor – University of Oklahoma School of Social Work; Undergraduate Program Coordinator
• 2013 – present Clinical Associate Professor – University of Oklahoma School of Social Work; Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

• Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Individuals and Families
• Generalist Practice I: Individuals, Families, and Groups
• Advanced Direct Practice with Populations at Risk
• Interviewing Skills for Generalist Practice

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

• Social Work Practice
• Human Behavior and the Social Environment
• Motivational Interviewing
• Child Welfare/Child Sexual Maltreatment
• LEND Core Faculty Member
• Foster Parents and Schools

Representative Publications and Presentations

• Oklahoma Department of Human Services – Children and Family Services Division
  o Parenting the Sexually Abused Child
  o Clinical Case Management Consultation Program
• Oklahoma Coalition on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Partners Conference
• Varied Allied Health Agencies

Major Professional Affiliations

• National Association of Social Workers – Oklahoma Chapter
• Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers – Licensed Clinical Social Worker (1988 to present).