Application for Certification of a Course as a General Education Course

CTE SOCIAL SCIENCES CATEGORY

Applicant: Violet Horvath, Human Services
Course Alpha and Number: SW 200
Course Title: The Field of Social Work

Instructions:
Explain how the learning taking place in this course (required course only) meets the hallmarks listed below for the Social Sciences General Education Category. Do one or both of the following:

- Identify specific course SLOs that align with each hallmark.
- Describe class assignments or activities in which students learn and/or demonstrate the hallmark objective. Assignments and/or activities cited should be sufficiently important in terms of both time spent on them and their impact on students' final grades in the course.

Try to address all of the hallmarks. The strength of some responses should counterbalance the weakness of others. See sections that should be addressed in response to each of the hallmarks.

Also attach a copy of the official course outline.

The Hallmarks:

The course...

1. helps students think critically about their own behavior in society and the larger global community.
   See attachment

2. promotes knowledge of multiple methodologies and theoretical approaches in understanding human behavior and societies.
   See attachment

3. helps students synthesize and apply social science concepts to understand human behavior and societies.
   See attachment

4. enables students to show how principles from social sciences can be used to make informed, reasoned, and ethical personal choices to form public policy.
   See attachment

Applicant's signature: [Signature]
Date: 6/14/12

Please submit this application to your division secretary.
Attachment to SW 200 Application for CTE Certification
Social Science Category

The Hallmarks:

1. The course helps students think critically about their own behavior in society and the larger global community.

The first assignment for this course is a reflection paper in which students are asked to examine their motivations for becoming a social worker. They also identify personal strengths and areas for improvement in terms of their thoughts and actions. Since not only do they affect their clients but also their clients affect them, it is important to understand their biases and areas/topics in which they may encounter issues (e.g., there are some students who do not believe in abortions and may have difficulty presenting them as an option when appropriate). It is critical that students understand the paradigms through which they view the world as these affect how they think and behave and how they perceive everything around them. This assignment occurs fairly early on in the course so that by the time fields of practice are studied (e.g., poverty, aging, child maltreatment), students have some personal awareness and that their thoughts, beliefs, values, and ethics will impact their behavior.

The final research paper represents a significant portion of the students’ grades. It involves objectively examining a topic of interest to the student, such as drug or alcohol abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, and so on. Students are required to conduct a literature review that identifies three recent peer reviewed articles, one State or Federal government web site, and three or more other sources of information, such as films, interviews, books, etc. Students present National and Hawaii statistics and then examine who is affected by the problem (including larger groups, not just individuals or families). They finish by discussing possible social work interventions at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels, and presenting a Hawaii resource that deals with the problem.

2. The course promotes knowledge of multiple methodologies and theoretical approaches in understanding human behavior and societies.

Social work paradigms and theories are presented, along with the understanding that social workers also utilize paradigms, theories, assessment tools and interventions from many other disciplines and professions, including medicine, education, business, sociology, psychology, nursing, and others. The focus is on not only treating existing problems and issues, but also on prevention. The systems and ecological perspectives that are central to social work emphasize the interconnectedness of systems, that everything is a system – human bodies, families, employers, governments, and nations, for example. The required peer-reviewed articles for the final research paper may be from journals in any discipline or profession, not just social work.
3. The course helps students synthesize and apply social science concepts to understand human behavior and societies.

Social science concepts and basic research terminology are presented throughout the course in the text and other required readings. In addition, current newspaper and other articles of interest are brought into the classroom as they appear. These have implications for Hawaii and/or the U.S. or other countries or the world. Students are asked to read and synthesize what is being said, and then to go to the next step and think critically about what is being said. For example, in a research article, as a group students identify the research question, sample size, who was sampled, what was the stated outcome, and then they try to come up with other plausible explanations for the results. They try and determine what impacts the information might have on individuals, families, groups, society, and so on.

4. The course enables students to show how principles from social sciences can be used to make informed, reasoned, and ethical personal choices to form public policy.

Macro level practice is often daunting to social work students. This course ensures that students also think about public policy and other forms of macro level practice, such as research. In the final research paper they must include at least one macro level intervention, which is often involves public policy.

Students are introduced to the Hawaii Legislature web site and are given instructions on how to search for and track bills. One of the ways in which they may earn extra credit is to testify at the Hawaii State Legislature in support of or against a bill, after which they must write a brief paper focusing on what they learned through the experience. They also learn that they must keep abreast of current research (whether or not they agree with the findings) so that they may make thorough, informed decisions and present their clients with all their options. Finally, as noted earlier, they must also keep in mind their personal views and biases and work to keep them from interfering with their practice, at whatever level they are intervening.
Course Outline

SW 200 The Field of Social Work  3 credits (3 lect. hrs/wk)

Catalog Course Description
Orientation to the profession of social work, the nature and scope of social work, historical development, values, and philosophy, methods of practice, and selected fields of practice.

1A. Course Objective
The objective of the course is to develop an informed perspective among students who may be considering social work as a career, or for those who wish to learn more about the multiple facets of a profession directed at helping individuals, groups, and communities.

1B. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Discuss the historical development of social work as a profession.
2. Identify and discuss social work values and the implications in relation to social work.
3. Describe the theoretical foundation of the social work profession.
4. Describe generic social work skills.
5. Describe the concept of generalist social work practice and the integration of micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice in that approach.
6. Describe basic social methods:
   a. direct practice with individual and families
   b. group work or group counseling
   c. community organization
7. Identify and describe at least two fields of social work practice and the services developed to rectify/reduce problems in those areas.
8. Identify and study a specific social problem in Hawaii and discuss social work intervention(s) to address the problem, and identify appropriate social work resources to deal with the problem.
9. Demonstrate a beginning understanding of one's personhood in relationship to the profession of social work.

2. Relationship to other courses, the program, and the College's philosophy and objectives

This course on the field of social work is a required course for the Human Services Program. It provides an orientation to the profession of social work, the nature and scope of social work, historical development, values, and philosophy, methods of practice, and selected fields of practice.

The Human Services Program prepared students for employment as paraprofessionals in the human services field and/or prepares them for transfer to a BSW program. Program is aligned to the College's philosophy and mission – to provide semiprofessional, technical and vocational education and training that prepares students for immediate employment and thus meets the State's need for a trained workforce.

Notation: SW 200 is articulated to the UHM School of Social Work and satisfies a knowledge base course requirement for admission into the BSW program. Articulation agreement and the HCC course outline in tandem with the UH SSW course outline are posted on the UHM Web site http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/app/aa/articulation/articulation.html

3. Course Content
Social Welfare: Its Business, History and Future
Social Work as a Profession and a Career
Generalist Social Work Practice
Poverty and Public Welfare
Emotional/Behavioral Problems and Counseling
Family Problems and Services to Families
Sexual Orientation and Services to GLBT Individuals
Social Work Services in the fields of Substance Abuse, Juvenile Delinquency, and Corrections,
Schools, Work Place, Aging, Health Care, Disabilities and Rehabilitation
Racism, Ethnocentrism and Strategies for Advancing Social and Economic Justice
Sexism and Efforts for Achieving Equality
Overpopulation, Misuse of the Environment, and Family Planning

4. **Required Text**

5. **Auxiliary Materials and Content:**
   Multi-media aids and guest speakers

6. **Methods of Instruction**
   Methods of instruction will include lectures, demonstrations, slides, videos, class discussion, small discussion groups, literature review, case studies, and interviews.

7. **Methods of Evaluation**
   Methods of evaluation include written assignments, projects, journal reviews, individual research paper, exploratory interviews, and exams.

8. **Resource Requirements and Justification**
   A. Changes: None. SW 200 is a required course for the Human Services Program.

   Will this proposal require changes in the following areas:

   Staff: No changes – either full-time faculty or lecturer will teach the course.

   Equipment: Present multi-media equipment in the program’s classroom currently meets the needs of the course.

   Other Resources: Multi-media aids can be purchased using departmental budgeted funds.