



**KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FAIRFIELD & HINCKLEY, MAINE**

Approval Date: 5/10/16

Rotation: Spring

Year: 2018

COURSE NUMBER: SWK201
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Social Work
CREDIT HOURS: 3
CLOCK HOURS: 45

PREREQUISITES: None
CO-REQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Wendy St. Pierre
VOICE MAIL: 453-3661
E-MAIL ADDRESS: wstpierre@kvcc.me.edu
OFFICE: Averill, Room 228
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TEXTS:

Segal, E.A., Gerdes, K.E., & Steiner, S. (2015). An Introduction to the Profession of Social Work: Becoming a Change Agent, 5th ed., Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

OTHER MATERIALS:

Other course materials made available within the online lessons.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of social work. It offers an overview of the settings in which social workers practice, the populations they encounter, the social problems they address and the interventions they utilize. Students will develop an understanding of the historical underpinnings of the social work profession and the social welfare system of the United States. The course will examine the knowledge, values, ethics and skills necessary for the effective practice of social work with diverse populations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the history and values that provide the foundation for social work practice.
2. Explore the history of the American social welfare system and the history of various oppressed populations as it relates to their relationship with the social welfare system.
3. Differentiate social work from other human service professions.
4. Explain social work's mandate and current role in working toward social and economic justice and civil rights.

5. Discuss oppression in its many forms and how it affects social work clients across the life span and in the practice of social work.
6. Describe how social workers intervene to solve problems with individuals, families, small groups, communities and organizations.
7. Define how social work values, code of ethics, and personal values affect the practice of social work.

The Table below represents the University of Maine at Orono (UMO) competencies for the Introduction to Social Work within their Baccalaureate of Social Work (BSW) Program. The KVCC SWK201 course is structured similar to their course to have full transfer into the UMO BSW program for KVCC graduates who want to transfer.

Competency	Practice Behavior	Course Objective	Assignments
1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior	1c.demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance; and oral, written and electronic communication	7	Class participation Field of practice paper
3. Advance Human Rights and Social and Economic Justice	3a. apply their understanding of social and economic justice to advocate for human rights;	4, 5	Class readings and discussions Field of practice paper
5. Engage in Policy Practice	5a. assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services;	4, 5, 6	Readings and class discussions Field of practice paper
	5b. critically analyze and promote policies that advance human rights and social and economic justice.	4,5,6,	Readings and class discussion

COURSE CONTENT:

- Lesson 1: Introduction: What is Social work? What is a Baccalaureate in Social Work Education?
- Lesson 2: Introduction to the Professional of Social Work and the Social Welfare System
- Lesson 3: The Social Welfare System
- Lesson 4: Poverty and Economic Disparity
- Lesson 5: Human Rights and Social and Economic Justice
- Lesson 6: Human Diversity and Human Rights
- Lesson 7: Generalist Social Work Practice
- Lesson 8: Child Welfare
- Lesson 9: Gerontology
- Lesson 10: Health Care Services
- Lesson 11: Mental Health Services
- Lesson 12: Substance Use
- Lesson 13: Violence, Victims and Criminal Justice
- Lesson 14: Crisis, Trauma and Disasters

COURSE ACTIVITIES:

Lesson Plans

The entire course is divided into “Lessons” that cover specific topics and learning objectives in the class. The

Lessons are listed in the Course Outline above. Each Lesson is there to supplement the classroom learning we are engaged in. The activities may include reading, exploring the web, researching, completing quizzes (multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions), and assignments (written work submitted as an attached document in a “drop box”). All the Lessons are located in the “Lesson” folder in Blackboard. Click on the link and review the contents.

Each Lesson consists of:

- A Lesson Plan that outlines the content and provides detailed instructions as to any assignments
- Direct links to any Discussions, Assignments, or Quizzes that go along with that Lesson.

Lesson Quizzes and Assignments

These quizzes and assignments will consist of questions and activities related to the readings, content provided online, through the class lectures, supplemental materials, information you gather from research, and/or information from other sources.

Within each Lesson outlined you will be provided with a lists of ALL the questions in the specific quiz and all of the instructions for the assignment. You should prepare your quiz answers and assignment products ahead of time and then enter these answers into the appropriate online quiz or deposit the product into the provided online drop box.

Quizzes and assignments must be completed by due dates indicated. You may be able to work ahead on some of these quizzes and assignments as well.

Extensions on the due dates for Quizzes and Assignments may be allowed with sufficient reason; however, I reserve the judgment to not grant an extension. If you anticipate needing extra time it is best to get in touch with me PRIOR to the due date.

Special Assignments

The following assignments are those that have been incorporated into this class to not only teach you course content, but to also enable you to demonstrate learning associated with the KVCC General Education Outcomes including the Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO) for all KVCC graduates.

- Field of Practice Final Paper – Critical Thinking ELO
- Interview Paper – Interpersonal Communication ELO

It is critical that you review the information I have provided for each of these assignments in Blackboard. While the assignments are not particularly complicated, they are certainly complex, requiring planning and time management to complete them by their due dates.

GRADING:

Grading for the course will be accomplished in the following manner (students must have grades in ALL aspects of the class in order to pass the class):

Attendance & Class Participation	25%
Lesson Quizzes/Assignments.....	50%
Special Assignments	25%
Final Grade.....	100%

GRADING SCALE:

Letter Grades are based on a final grade scale of 0 – 100 as described below:

95 – 100	A
90 – 94	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
Below 73	F

Please note that I will not be giving grades below a C. The rationale for this is that students who do not master more than 72% of the material in this class will most likely not be prepared to meet the expectations of future classes or programs that require this course. This simply means that you have not learned enough material to really say that you have “passed” the class.

Students who make arrangements for submitting work after the course is completed will be given a letter grade reflecting the work they HAVE done. I will not be submitting grades of “I” or “Incomplete”. When the student has completed the work that is missing I will then change the final grade accordingly. Considering the structure of this class I anticipate that I will be rarely making this type of accommodation and would only be made under extreme circumstances.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and to arrive promptly. The Faculty and Administration of KVCC believe that excessive, unexcused absenteeism or tardiness reflects directly upon the reliability of a student and can be an indicator of how the student will perform on the job after graduation. The design of programs at the College renders lost time virtually impossible to make up. For these reasons, I will be following the attendance policy the College has adopted:

- Full credit for attendance in a face-to-face class will be given when you arrive on time and are prepared to be in class. This is a pass/fail and "no excuse" policy. This means that students who are in class receive a "100" for attendance that day and students who are not in class receive a "0" for that day. There are no make ups and no excused absences. Absences will be reported to the college for each session that the student is absent. I will take attendance at the beginning of class and keep records. I will then document attendance in the My KV Student Information Portal. If a student is absent for 2 or more consecutive classes or never appeared in the class, then the student will be contacted either by myself or another staff member from KVCC.
- Attendance is considered a necessary and essential function of the role of "student" in school. Attendance in class affords the opportunity to:
 - Engage in classroom interaction between the instructors and student and among students.
 - Contribute input which constitutes a significant component of learning.
 - Participate in activities that are essential to the learning method.
 - Avoid a significant loss to the educational experience.
 - Comply with the course syllabus and description and classroom practices and policies regarding attendance.
- To this end, students are encouraged to arrange their schedules around their classes and to make best effort to attend every class session and/or participate in every online requirement for their classes. You

will be graded on attendance. If absent, it is the student's obligation to check with the instructor on the first day back for any work missed.

- *I do not incorporate any process of “make up” for specific aspects of this class that require your “presence” (in class activities). If you miss class or miss completing an online graded assignment, then you simply cannot make it up regardless of the reason why you missed them. It is not for me to judge the decision you made to not attend class or complete an assignment therefore I do not place myself as a judge in these circumstances: determining which “excuses” are valid or not.*
- *If you need accommodations for medical and disability-related conditions this needs to be verified through the Dean of Students (see below) but apply only to “non-essential” aspects of the course. Attending class, participating in the discussions, group activities and completion of assignments are considered essential aspects of the course and are not subject to accommodation.*
- If a person experiences a major illness requiring an absence of several weeks, he/she may be unable to complete their course(s). It is imperative that the student (or his/her designee) notify the instructor as soon as possible so an appropriate plan can be made regarding the course.

If a faculty member or a substitute is not present fifteen minutes after the scheduled beginning time, class will be cancelled. When a faculty member is not present, students should report this absence to the Academic Affairs Office, Enrollment Center, Frye Building.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The MHRT/C is a competency-based certification. The following competencies associated with this course have been deemed by the Maine Department of Mental Health Services as necessary to work in the field.

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/cfl/MHRT/2008%20Guidelines.pdf>

1. Knowledge of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
2. Understands benefit and entitlement programs
3. Understands interaction of co-occurring medical issues
4. Knowledgeable about changing treatment needs for adult stages of transition
5. Knowledge of community provider system
6. Knowledge of generic community resources including available natural supports

These outcomes are assessed utilizing a specific set of assignments standardized within the context of the course.

OTHER INFORMATION:

I want to support each student's success and communication is very important. Please feel free to talk with me before or after class if you have questions or concerns. I monitor my email frequently so that is also a good way to ask me questions or share any concerns. My email is wstpierre@kvcc.me.edu. I will also have office hours from 11:00 to 1:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Averill Room 228.

Please also review the Blackboard document titled “Course Expectations and Policies”. If you have times you feel like you need extra guidance, KVCC has many resources for you to access, almost all of which can be found in the Learning Commons (LC) on each campus. The Learning Commons includes the following services all in one location: library services, academic coaching, tutoring services, Writing Center, Tech Stop for technology help, JMG college specialist, Disability services, and more.

It's also a great spot to work in between classes or to meet with study groups. The Learning Commons is located in the Averill building at the Alford campus and in the Lunder building on the Fairfield campus. Check your email for information about services and hours!

LC staff includes: **Christy Johnson**, Director of Learning Commons – cjohnson2@kvcc.me.edu

Barbara Bartley, Librarian – bbartley@kvcc.me.edu

Jessica Rodrigue, JMG College & Career Transitions– jrodrigue@kvcc.me.edu

Stephen LaRochelle, Director of Library Services – slarochelle@kvcc.me.edu

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2016/2017)

Kennebec Valley Community College welcomes students with disabilities, and in accordance with state and federal laws, KVCC is committed to assisting students with disabilities to achieve their educational goals.

In order to receive reasonable accommodations for this course:

- Students must contact the Director of Learning Commons at 453.5084 or cjohnson2@kvcc.me.edu
- Students must provide current, appropriate documentation of their disability
- Students must make a timely request for accommodation to the Director of Learning Commons
- Accommodations will not be provided until the faculty member receives a letter requesting accommodations. This letter is created with the director of learning commons and is supported by the documentation of stated disability
- Requests for accommodation(s) must be renewed each semester for each course

To begin this process, please contact Christy Johnson, Director of Learning Commons at cjohnson2@kvcc.me.edu or 207.453.5084

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION (2017):

Kennebec Valley Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. KVCC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Students requesting classroom accommodation should be forwarded to the Director of the Learning Commons, Lunder Library, phone: 453-5084

Complaints about College decisions related to disability accommodations or discrimination must be forwarded to the Dean of Student Affairs, Enrollment Services Center, 92 Western Avenue, Fairfield, ME 04937, phone: 453-5822.