

**SW/SOC 378 – Problems in Family Interaction
Summer 2018**

Instructor: Alton Smart, MSW, Clinic Social worker Post graduate training in Family Therapy

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Text: **The Essentials of Family Therapy 11th Ed: Nichols, Michael P**
2017 Pearson Education, Inc: Allyn and Beacon

This course is designed to focus on the various problems families face, from a micro to macro perspective in today's environment. The course will exam various theories and types of treatment modalities used in working with families. The course will also exam families in the context of social class, cultural diversity, economic and environmental perspectives. The course will use an applied therapeutic format.

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CORE COMPETENCIES

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) identifies 10 core competencies (and corresponding measurable practice behaviors comprised of knowledge, values, and skills) that students must demonstrate and apply throughout their education and that social work programs must infuse into their curricula. This course was designed to meet these core competencies in relation to child welfare practice knowledge and skills. Students should familiarize themselves with these competencies.

1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct one accordingly. (2.1.1)
2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. (2.1.2)
3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments. (2.1.3)
4. Engage diversity and difference in practice. (2.1.4)
5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice. (2.1.5)
6. Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research. (2.1.6)
7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment. (2.1.7)
8. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services. (2.1.8)
9. Respond to contexts that shape practice. (2.1.9)
10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. (2.1.10)

Course objectives

The following CSWE course competencies are based on the 2008 EPAS Accreditation Standards for Social Work students. Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- 1.) Increase their understanding of the historical context within which family policies have evolved in the United States (2.1.1 - 2.1.2 – 2.1.8)
- 2.) Explain the role of the family in the lives of children, how these roles can break down and how they differ according to the influence of diversity.
 - a. Demonstrate an understanding of how such social issues as poverty, violence, drug abuse and homelessness impact children and their families.
 - b. Understanding families through social class and cultural diversity
 - c. 2.1.4
- 3.) Recognize the concepts of family theories and explain what each means to the treatment concepts in working with children and families.
- 4.) Give a brief overview of such services as day care, services in schools, counseling, court services, protective services, services to teen parents, foster care adoption, and residential services.
- 5.) Develop a base foundation of family practice intervention skills in the areas of assessing problems in family interaction, interviewing, and treatment planning, and intervention (mock family intervention - group process) (2.1.10)

Grading:

Grades will be based on **a total of 400 points.**

Group Presentation – **100 points (see D2L for criteria)**

Attendance – **100 points** (sheet will be passed out at each class)

Midterm – **100 points** (multiple choice, matching and true/false format)

Final – **100 points** (same as above) (as well as diagrams)

Summaries can be used in lieu exams. Summaries are to be submitted on D2L on a weekly basis. Summaries need to be submitted using Microsoft word processor. Other word processors software program doesn't always open up in D2L on my side when I open it up to read it. Summaries are based on **Content, depth and original thought** of class material; content means answering the question what was the content the lecture material, depth means going outside of lecture content (outside research). Original thought is based on your own experience or personal opinion of how it is applied or relevant to the writer. Each summary is worth 14 points. An outline of class material is considered part of the summary. If you do not submit an outline it is a 4 point deduction.

372-400 = A *** 360-371 = A- *** 348-359 = B+ *** 336-347 = B

SW-SOC 378 – Problems in Family Interaction
Tentative Course Outline

- Week 1 – Introduction to course
Group assignments
Introduction to Genograms
- Week 2 - Foundations of Family theory – systems theory, family therapy
Readings: Chapters 3 - 10
- Week - Continue with foundations of family theory
Readings: Chapters 3 -10
- Week - Circumplex perspective of working with families
Readings: In-class Handouts
- Week - AODA and the Family
Readings: In-class Handouts
- Week - Family and Domestic Violence in family interaction
Readings: In-Class Handouts
- Week - Divorce and the Family/
Readings: In-Class Handouts
- Week 2 Physical and sexual abuse in family dynamics

Communication styles in Family dynamics
Solution Focused Therapy
Readings: Historical/Cultural/Socio influences
Parenting styles of families – raising children
Readings:
- Week 4 - Environmental effects on family systems
Readings: video
Cross-cultural perspectives of family dynamics
Recent developments in Family Therapy (Chap.11)
- Week 4 **Final presentation in class**