

**Instructor:**  
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**Professional Pathways Seminar**  
**Autumn Quarter 2006**

Mailbox: Stillman Hall Third Floor  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Class Time: To Be Determined

**COURSE NUMBER:**

**COURSE TITLE:** Professional Pathways in the Field of Social Work

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Undergraduate

**CREDIT HOURS:** 1 credit, 1 hour of class per week

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** There is no required textbook. Resource and reference materials on Social Work are available and/or on reserve in Sullivant Library, 110 Sullivant Hall, 1813 N. High Street. Placed on reserve: Segal, E.A., Gerdes, K.E. & Steiner, S. (2004) Social Work: An Introduction to the Profession. CA: Thomson/Brooks Cole.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the challenges and opportunities in the diverse field of Social Work and demonstrates how the profession is distinct from other helping professions. A seminar format provides an environment where students can explore and design a career path of special interest and have the opportunity to draw on the experiences of practicing professionals. The course explores the preparation for, requirements of, and professional issues in the career path of interest; examples of professional issues include: 1) ethics in client-worker relationships 2) the role of technology in social work, 3) the incursion of managed care and human service corporations. Special attention is given to undergraduate degree planning and professional pathway preparation. Emphasis will be placed on professional development.

**COURSE GOALS and OUTCOMES**

This seminar is designed to introduce students to career and employment options in Social Work. It will provide students the opportunity to explore a professional career path of interest. As a result of participating in the seminar, students will be prepared to outline an educational and professional career plan suited for a Social Work career.

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

This course is intended to be taught in a seminar format and to involve significant student participation. Credentialed guest speakers will be invited to share information about their own professional career paths and provide tips on how to achieve personal career goals and means to integrate into the professional environment.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

Students are expected to fully participate in class discussions and presentations by expressing their concerns, ideas and beliefs and carefully listening to others. Students will have the opportunity to select reference or resources materials pertinent to the written assignments.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Percent of Grade</b>
<b>Class Attendance</b>	Students are expected to attend all class sessions.	Weekly	10%
<b>Class Participation</b>	Each student must actively participate in classroom discussions and out-of-class assignments.	Week 2 through Week 10	30%
<b>Report on a Social Work occupation &amp; the associated professional issues</b>	Students are expected to prepare and submit a 2 -3 page report, double-spaced; at least 2 sources (literature and/or interviews).	Mid Term	30%
<b>Outline of Career Path</b>	Students are expected to prepare and submit a 2 - 3 page outline a career path of interest (i.e., course planning, internships and volunteer service).	Last Day of Class	30%

**Report and Outline Format: Written papers must be typed, doubled-spaced, and contain a cover page and page numbers.**

**A minimum of 75% of the points will be required for a grade of “S”**

**CRITERIA FOR GRADING PAPERS**

The report and outline will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Appearance and clarity of presentation of the career topic - grammar, logic, organization of information.
- Thoroughness of the student’s approach to the topic.
- The paper is coherent and focuses on the selected topic.
- Accurate details and research data are provided along with appropriate references.
- Overgeneralizations are avoided.
- Appropriate bibliography is cited or references used appropriately to emphasis points. References are not used to form each sentence or paragraph.
- Original thought is used throughout the paper.
- The paper is formatted correctly as required (headings, page numbers, cover page, etc.).

**COLLEGE INCOMPLETE POLICY:**

An Incomplete ("I") course grade will be considered only in relation to emergency and/or hardship situations. A request for such a grade option must be discussed with and agreed to by the instructor prior to final examination week. A date for completion of the incomplete work will be established with the student. University policies governing the circumstances under which "I" grades are given and deadlines for completion will be followed.

Incomplete work must be completed by the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) week of the quarter following the quarter in which the "I" is received, unless an "I" with an alternate grade of "E" is assigned in a course which is a prerequisite to a course the student must take or needed the next quarter. Under these circumstances, the "I" must be eliminated and all requirements completed by the second week of the next quarter.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Students are responsible to follow University rules (3335-31-02-b) in all academic work. These rules can be found in the program handbooks and the University handbook. This includes, but is not limited to: following course rules; no use of unauthorized information or assistance; no plagiarizing; no falsification, fabrication or dishonesty in reporting research; and no alteration of grades or University forms. Faculty is strictly bound to report suspected cases of Academic Misconduct.

**AVAILABILITY OF THE INSTRUCTOR:**

The instructor will be available at the campus classroom location before and after the scheduled class time for brief student-instructor conferences as needed. Students needing to meet with the instructor for a longer conference time should arrange a specific time in advance with the instructor. The instructor is also accessible by telephone and can be reached in Columbus at (614) 351-2021. If the instructor is not immediately available, students should leave their name, phone number, and message on the voice mail, and the instructor will return your call as soon as possible. The instructor can also be reached via by e-mail at **[sgharris@fccc.co.franklin.oh.us](mailto:sgharris@fccc.co.franklin.oh.us)**.

**METHOD OF COURSE EVALUATION BY STUDENTS:**

Evaluation of courses and instructors by students constitutes an important aspect of the Professional Pathways program quality review process. Student Evaluation of Instruction/Student Evaluation of Teaching will be distributed at the end of the quarter as the primary means of obtaining student feedback on relevant class experience for this course. On an ongoing basis, students are encouraged to share with the instructor concerns, ideas and questions about the course, its content and assignments.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

**Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 299-2-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.**

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

The course outline is a guide for seminar discussions, speaker presentations, and due dates for course assignments. Lecture topics listed for one week may not be completed on the date indicated and may be carried over to the following week.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Review of Course Syllabus &amp; Introduction to Social Work As a Profession</b>  <b>"What is Social Work, Its Mission, &amp; Need for Social Workers?"</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Professionalism &amp; the Professional Image</b>  <b>Professional Standards: NASW Code of Ethics</b> <b>Professional Social Work Practice (LSW/LISW)</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Social Worker's Knowledge, Values &amp; Skills</b>  <b>Characteristics of Today's Social Workers</b> <b>Career Options (Fields of Practice in Public &amp; Private Settings)</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Children, Families &amp; the Schools</b>  <b>Child Abuse &amp; Prevention Treatment (Mandatory Investigations)</b> <b>Social Work in the Schools</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Physical &amp; Mental Health and Illness</b>  <b>Community Mental Health Centers</b> <b>Medical/Clinical Social Work</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Additional Fields of Social Work Practice - Report <u>Paper Due</u></b>  <b>Geriatric Social Work (The Elderly)</b> <b>Corrections/Criminal Justice</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Working With Diverse Populations: Culturally Responsive Practice</b>  <b>People of Color (African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans)</b> <b>Somali Communities</b> <b>Sexual Orientation Issues</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Working Vulnerable Populations: Discrimination and Oppression</b>  <b>Client/Victim Advocacy</b> <b>The Poor &amp; The Homeless</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Secondary &amp; Graduate Educational Planning &amp; Job Opportunities</b>

**Benefits & Salary Expectations  
BSW, MSW & PhD Programs**

**Week 10**

**Success & Satisfaction on the Job - Paper Due on Career Path Plan**

**Avoiding Social Worker Burnout (Employee Assistance Programs)  
Future of Social Work (Global Views & Technology)**