

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for PCN 50

FIELDWORK SEMINAR: SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN SERVICES

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

PCN 50 — FIELDWORK SEMINAR: SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN SERVICES — 2.00 units

This course offers the student a supervised field experience in a community organization, agency, or institution, allowing the student to gain knowledge of the social services career field and learn new skills which can be applied in the fieldwork setting. Weekly class meetings provide the academic element to this experiential course offering and reinforcing the application of concepts gained in the prerequisite and corequisite course. This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to develop skills that would facilitate gaining employment in the human services field.

2.00 Units Lecture

Prerequisite

PCN 5 - Introduction to Social Work and Human Services
with a minimum grade of C

Corequisite

PCN 50L - Fieldwork/Practicum: Social Work and Human Services

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Counseling

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Expected Outside of Class Hours:	72.00
Total Hours:	108.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering the course a student should be able to:

A. PCN5

1. Explain the current service delivery system environment in which social work and human service clients' needs are addressed.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking in envisioning ways of collaborating, negotiating, and advocating in working with and within social welfare and human service agencies and institutions.
3. Explain the services provided by a local social welfare agency (ideally associated with a visit to or volunteer experience).
4. Identify and be able to uphold the legal, ethical, and professional practice responsibilities of working with social work and human service organizations with attention to cultural humility and oppressed groups.

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Identify and characterize the major components of social work and human services practice
- B. Apply a basic Code of Ethics (e.g., NASW or NOHS) to field work experience
- C. Reflect upon the application of ethical and professional standards to use of self within specific agency settings.
- D. Discuss fundamental legal guidelines, privacy and information management related to the standards of professional practice.
- E. Explain the purpose and skills of cultural engagement and humility
- F. Demonstrate personal self-awareness, non-judgmental assessment and support capability, and readiness for professional development including feedback from supervision

V. CONTENT:

- A. The developmental journey of becoming a social worker or human services practitioner and the nature of social work and human services practice as a helping profession.

- B. Codes of Ethics (e.g., NASW or NOHS) and social justice principles
- C. Legal context of social work practice/human services, and the role of supervision in the professional development journey
- D. Resources and services that clients need and depend upon
- E. Examination of the needs, interests, resources, values and opportunities of people who vary in terms of race, nationality, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, gender, age, abilities, or economic status.
- F. Exploring the progressive nature and skills of generalist practice.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- B. **Demonstration** -
- C. **Student Presentations** -
- D. **Written exercises and case studies** -
- E. **Discussion** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. A weekly journal of Fieldwork service
 - 1. Weekly journal entries shall record the responses to, and reflections on, the student's experiences at the field site.
 - 2. The journal is designed to offer you an opportunity to reflect on your experiences at your volunteer placement. All journal material will be held confidential.
 - 3. Each entry should be typed and 1-2 pages long.
 - 4. In each journal entry, you should write about thoughts and feelings related to the following areas:
 - a. Understanding yourself and your clients – value and cultural difference
 - b. Ethical dilemma(s) and decision making steps you took
 - c. Addressing self-disclosure and other boundary issues
 - d. Working in and with teams – working under supervisor
 - e. Other professional issues (e.g., self-care)
 - 5. In all areas, you need to provide a brief description about the situation. Besides the above listed topics, the journal entry also may include reflection on meaningful experiences and how these experiences have affected attitudes about at risk populations, and/or knowledge of the agency (function, mission, and delivery system).
- B. Reflection Paper is a vehicle to assist you through the process of closure - the end of the academic semester and the service learning practicum at your respective agencies. Several questions are posed for you to consider concerning your professional growth and development working directly with clients and within the agency system.
 - 1. Briefly describe your agency; mission and goals, structure/organization, programs and staffing, service delivery, and funding sources. (No more than one page)
 - 2. Discuss your observations and impressions about how systems (individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities) impact on your ability to help your clients. Provide examples from your experiences this semester to illustrate. Also, discuss any changes you would make in order to improve service delivery to better meet the needs of clients. (No more than two pages)
 - 3. Discuss the overall impact your volunteer experience with vulnerable populations, how you exercised empathy and use of self, and how that impact your professional development. Special focus should be on attitudinal changes you might have experienced. (No more than two pages)
 - 4. The paper must be typewritten, double-spaced, no less than 5 pages in length. The due date is the last seminar class.
- C. Oral presentation of your reflection paper:
 - 1. This is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to communicate verbally by presenting the overall volunteer experience in classroom. The content of the presentation will be based on your "Reflection paper" about various topics such as adhering to the NASW Code of Ethics, dealing effectively with change and/or challenging situations, and taking an active role in one's professional development.
 - 2. Your presentation will be during one of the last three class meetings. A total of 15 minutes will be allotted. Prepare any visual aids for your presentation (PowerPoint presentation is preferred).

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 - 1. Papers
 - 2. Oral Presentation
 - 3. Class Participation
 - 4. Home Work
- B. **Frequency**
 - 1. Weekly discussions and written reflection papers
 - 2. Oral Presentation on an assigned topic
 - 3. Weekly written exercises on assigned material
 - 4. Class Participation - daily attendance and participation

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Grober, Linda. *Days in the Lives of Social Workers*. 4 ed., White Hat Communications, 2011.
- 2. Courmoyer, Barry. *The Social Work Skills Workbook*. 8 ed., Cengage, 2017.
- 3. Kiser, Pamela. *The Human Services Internship: Getting the Most from Your Experience*. 4 ed., Cengage, 2016.
- 4. Fox, Raymond. *Elements of the Helping Process*. 3 ed., Routledge, 2013.
- 5. NASW Code of Ethics
- 6. NOHS Code of Ethics

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: