

**Indiana University  
School of Social Work**

Instructor: Dr. Arnold Barnes  
ES 4113  
Phone (317) 274-6734

Fall, 1997  
Section: R557, Room ES 2103

**S643 Social Work Practice III: Individuals (3 credits)**

**Rationale and Description**

MSW level social workers in interpersonal practice serve various professional functions in a variety of practice settings. They may serve as counselors or therapists, case managers, advocates, educators, case workers, crisis workers, or information and referral specialists, to name just a few. The Social Work Practice III: Individuals Course (S643) provides MSW students concentrating in interpersonal practice with opportunities to develop and refine the knowledge, values and ethics, skills, and judgement necessary for competent analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of various theories and aspects of interpersonal social work practice. A central focus of this course is an analysis of several theories of practice with individuals. This course will enable students to develop a framework for evaluation of practice theories; to become familiar with a limited range of practice theories; and to consider strategies for the development and validation of practice theories.

This course, in conjunction with field practicum, also provides students with advanced practice knowledge and skills for work with and on behalf of individuals across a variety of social work settings and fields of practice. Students will examine how assessment and treatment principles derived from social work practice theories are used in work with individuals of diverse characteristics with a wide range of biopsychosocial problems or conditions. Students will also examine the research base for prevention and treatment of selected biopsychosocial problems (e.g. substance abuse or addiction, mental illness, physical illness, violent behavior). Consideration will also be given to social, psychological, legal, and ethical factors that influence social work practice with individuals. This course is designed to provide, in concert with the practicum, the advanced level of knowledge and skill required to provide ethical, and competent practice in social work with individuals.

**Objectives**

Through satisfactory completion of the learning experiences offered in this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

1. Application of social work values and ethics, including understanding of and respect for human diversity, for advanced interpersonal social work practice with individuals within the context of their environments.
2. Understanding and application of strategies and skills for the promotion of social and

economic justice, for advanced interpersonal social work practice with individuals within the context of their environments.

3. Critical thinking skills, including ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate relevant theoretical frameworks for advanced interpersonal social work practice with individuals within the context of their environments.
4. Understanding of the differential use of communication skills as an advanced interpersonal social work practitioner with a variety of client populations, colleagues, and members of the community.
5. Evaluation and application of findings from relevant research studies to advance interpersonal social work practice with individuals within the context of their environments.
6. Formulation of plans for evaluating advanced interpersonal practice for social work with individuals within the context of their environments.
7. Application of knowledge and skills of advanced interpersonal practice for social work with individuals within the context of their environments.
8. Understanding and application of strategies and skills for addressing the needs of people of color, women, lesbian and gay people and other populations at risk as well as those groups distinguished by age, ethnicity, culture, class, and physical or mental ability, for social work practice with individuals within the context of their environments.
9. Understanding of the professional use of self in the context of advanced interpersonal social work practice with individuals.
10. Understanding of the use of supervision and consultation in the context of advanced interpersonal social work practice with individuals.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

The final course grade will be based on the total points accumulated.

Mid-term Quiz	50 points	A = 270 - 300 points
Comparative Practice		B = 240 - 269 points
Theory Paper	100 points	C = 210 - 239 points
Case Presentation	30 points	
Application of		
Theory Paper	100 points	
Class Participation	<u>20 points</u>	
Total	300 points	

## Required Texts

1. Mattaini, M. A. (1997). Clinical Practice with Individuals. Washington, DC: National Association of Social Workers Press.
2. Walborn, F. S. (1996). Process Variables: Four Common Elements of Counseling and Psychotherapy. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks Cole.

## Recommended Texts

1. Corsini, R. J. and Wedding, D. (1994). Current Psychotherapies (5th Ed.). Itasca, IL: F. E. Peacock.
2. Granvold, D. K. (1994). Cognitive and Behavioral Treatment: Methods and Applications. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks Cole.

## Assignments

1. Mid-Term Quiz
2. Comparative Practice Theory Paper  
This paper will focus on comparison and evaluation of two social work practice theories.
3. Application of Theory Paper  
This paper will include analysis of theory and research which support prevention and or treatment approaches for a selected problem or disorder.
4. Case Presentation  
Students will briefly discuss their experiences in using practice theories with child, adult, and older adult clients with a range of psychosocial problems.

## Content Outline

Session #1 Aug. 25	Overview of course, Introductions, Orientation to course.
September 1	Labor Day Holiday <u>Assignments:</u> None
Session #2 Sept. 8	<b>Overview of Social Work Practice Theories.</b> <u>Assignments:</u>

Current Psychotherapies. Chapter 1.

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Introduction (pp. ix - xv).

Process Variables. Chapters 1 and 2.

Encyclopedia of Social Work. Social Work Practice: Theoretical Base - Francis J. Turner (pp. 2258 - 2265).

Techniques and Guidelines for Social Work Practice. Chapter 6. Practice Frameworks for Social Work (pp. 85-122)

Session #3  
Sept. 15

Analysis of Selective Social Work Practice Theories: Behavior Theory.

Assignments:

Current Psychotherapies - Chapter 7

Clinical Practice with Individuals - Chapter 1

Process Variables - Chapter 3

Cognitive and Behavioral Treatment - Chapter

Session #4  
Sept. 23

Analysis of Selective Social Work Practice Theories: Cognitive Theory

Assignments:

The Power to Care. Chapters 5 and 6.

Session #5  
Sept. 29

Analysis of Selective Social Work Practice Theories: Task-Centered Model/  
Problem Solving Model

Assignments:

Encyclopedia of Social Work. Brief Task-centered Practice, Laura Epstein (pp. 313-323).

Process Variables - Chapter 5.

Social Work Treatment. Chapter 21 - Problem-solving Theory and Social Work Treatment (pp. 503-521).

Session #6  
Oct. 6

Analyses of selective social work practice theories: Ethnic-sensitive Model..

Assignments:

The Power to Care - Chapter 1 - Overwhelmed clients: Poor, powerless, and

economically entrapped. (pp. 1-28).

Encyclopedia of Social Work - Ethnic-sensitive Practice- Schlesinger & Devore (pp. 902-908).

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Chapter 3.

Process Variables. Chapter 6.

Session #7      **Interventions with Children and Adolescents**  
Oct. 13

Assignments:

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Chapter e.

Process Variables. Chapter 7.

Cognitive and Behavioral Treatment. Chapter 3.

Session #8      **Review.**  
Oct. 20

Session #9      **Interventions with Adults.**  
Oct. 27

Assignments:

Clinical Practice with Individuals. - Chapter 5.

Process Variables - Chapter 8.

Session #10     **Interventions with Adults**  
Nov. 3

Assignments:

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Chapter 6.

Process Variables. Chapter 9

Session #11     **Problem-Focused Intervention.**  
Nov. 10

Assignments:

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Chapter 7

Process Variables. Chapter 10.

Session #12     **Problem-Focused Intervention**  
Nov. 17

Assignments:

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Chapter 8

Process Variables. Chapter 11

**Session #13 Problem-Focused Intervention**  
Nov. 24

Assignments:

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Chapter 9  
Process Variables. Chapter 12

**Session #14 Problem-Focused Intervention**  
Dec. 1.

Assignments:

Clinical Practice with Individuals. Chapter 10.

**Session #15 Conclusions**  
Dec. 8

Assignments:

Current Psychotherapies - Chapter 14.  
Process Variables - Chapter 13.

**Course Policies**

**Instructor's Responsibilities**

1. Facilitate an environment conducive for the adult learner.
2. Design weekly lectures.
3. Read and provide feedback on written material submitted.

**Student's Responsibilities**

1. Attend and actively participate in class sessions.
2. Respect your fellow students by being open and attentive to their ideas and opinions. Share your learnings, thoughts, and values with the class.
3. Complete readings as assigned.
4. Complete the final examination.
5. Complete a Comparative Practice Theory Paper and an Application of Theory Paper.

**Policies**

1. Students should have read assigned materials in the order specified by the instructor and should be ready to participate knowledgeably and constructively in class activities.
2. Students are expected to be present when class begins.
3. Academic dishonesty (including cheating on exams and plagiarism in papers) is not consistent

with ethical conduct in social work practice and is unacceptable in social work classes. In cases of academic dishonesty, university guidelines will be followed. **Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing (offering the work of someone else as one's own) will fail the course.** Failure of a required social work course will result in automatic dismissal from the social work program. A student's right to appeal such dismissal is outlined in materials distributed at student orientation meetings. To avoid plagiarism, credit sources whenever you use someone else's language or ideas. Such crediting must be detailed and specific. Normally, simply including a work in your list of references is insufficient. Rather, you must specifically acknowledge a source sentence by sentence, as necessary. See the APA Manual.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

#### **Grading criteria for papers:**

Effective practice of social work requires good writing skills to communicate information accurately and concisely to others involved in helping client systems. For this reason the Comparative Practice Theory Paper and the Application of Theory Paper will be evaluated both for the content and ideas presented and for the clarity of the presentations. The grade for the papers will be based on the following criteria:

- I. Presentation and Appearance
  - A. Neatness
  - B. Correct grammar (noun-verb agreement, sentence structure, proper and consistent verb tense, etc.)
  - C. Spelling
  - D. Punctuation
  - E. Correct usage of American Psychological Association style
- II. Organization
  - A. Structure and format of the paper
  - B. Logical sequencing and continuity of ideas
  - C. Clarity of expression
  - D. Conciseness
- III. Content
  - A. Completeness of each part of the paper (i.e., requirements 1 thru 6).
  - B. Selection of references
  - C. Use of references within the body of the paper
  - D. Specificity of discussion

The papers should be typed double-spaced and include a reference list.

**Bibliography**Fall, 1997  
S643**Social Work Practice III: Individuals  
Selective Bibliography**

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