

Humboldt State University  
Department of Social Work

# Social Work Field Experience Seminar

## SW 456

Instructor: Shaunna McCovey  
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**Spring Term, 2004**  
**Tuesdays, 5:00pm-6:50pm**  
Harry Griffith Hall 226 (Shaunna)  
Harry Griffith Hall 217 (Ronnie)

Instructor: Ronnie Swartz  
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826-4562  
ronnieswartz@humboldt.edu

Office Hours:  
Tue. and Thu., 11:30am-1:30pm

Office Hours:  
Tuesdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm

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**Course Description:** The weekly seminar is where students, together with faculty, process experiences in the field in relationship to social work concepts. Designed to integrate theory with practice, to gain information about community resources, to monitor student progress in the agency, and to process the experiences in the field on practical, conceptual, and ethical levels.

**Course Objectives:**

During the semester, students will be expected to:

1. Support the other students in fulfilling the field instruction learning objectives through the sharing of experiences and the processing of those experiences in a cooperative peer group environment.
2. Actively contribute to an environment where they can relate affective knowledge of their field experiences with cognitive knowledge of the classroom utilizing dialogue, discussion, role play, and student and faculty presentations.
3. Systematically review and evaluate the application of their use of social work skills in applying the general method.
4. Create a setting where they feel safe in examining the development of their personal abilities, skills, and knowledge in the conscious use of self as a social work professional.
5. Clarify and concretize social work values, the NASW Code of Ethics and ethical dilemmas as they emerge in working with clients, peers, agencies and the community.
6. Be able to describe the culture and norms of the agency and how these become reflected in practice.
7. Demonstrate an increasing sense of awareness of self as a professional social worker as evidenced in presentation of material, feedback to peers and use of input from peers, faculty, Agency Instructor and agency staff.
8. Critically reflect over the dynamics of their relationships with clients, peers, and professionals as they are influenced by age, race, ethnicity, class, gender, culture, lifestyle, sexual preference and capability with the goal of building affirming relationships.
9. Strengthen their understanding of oppression and enhance their knowledge of an commitment to working for social justice.

**Readings**

There may be readings assigned occasionally to support your relationship to your placement, the people with whom you work, the way in which you use supervision, and the way in which you consider your own practice.

**Grades and Assignments**

Your grade for the course will be based on class participation and a weekly Journal of Reflections.

Come to class every week and use the class as a place to wonder aloud, ask for suggestions, share your achievements, voice your struggles, and explore your development as a social worker. *You will not receive credit for the course if you miss more than 3 classes.* **50% of your grade.**

You will keep a *Journal of Reflections* into which you will write weekly entries based on your field placement experiences. **50% of your grade.**

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

96 – 100	=	A	71-75	=	C+
91 – 95	=	A-	66-70	=	C
86 – 90	=	B+	61-65	=	C-
81 – 85	=	B	56-60	=	D+
76 – 80	=	B-	≤ 55	=	No credit

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## **Specific Topics We Will Discuss Over The Year**

How is your agency/program funded? What kind of effect does this have on the day-to-day operations of your agency?

What sorts of paperwork do you encounter? Why is that paperwork in place?

What are staff meetings, or whatever they are called, like? Do they even happen?

How does your agency/program fit into the larger social service system?

How does your agency attempt to increase social justice?

How do people in your agency think about or practice confidentiality?

How do people in your agency think about or practice the notion of boundaries?

How do people in your agency think about or practice personal/professional separation?

How do people in your agency think about or practice self-disclosure?

How do people in your agency think about or practice taking/giving gifts?

What are some of the values that come into play in and around your placement?

How do you make connections with other providers?

Given the make-up of the agency's staff, how does it seem to meet the needs of different ethnic families and communities? Are there any conscious efforts to increase relationships with diverse communities?

How does your agency see supervision as important? What do you feel or think makes supervision a beneficial process?

How might you have been made to question your better judgement as it relates to social work?

## **Schedule of Classes**

January 20 - Meet as a whole class in Harry Griffith Hall 226

January 27

February 3

February 10

February 17

February 24

March 2

March 9 - Meet as a whole class in Harry Griffith Hall 226

[March 16 - NO CLASS: Spring Break]

March 23

March 30

April 6

April 13

April 20

April 27

May 4 - Meet as a whole class in Harry Griffith Hall 226

[May 7 - Final Evaluations due]