SOCW 555 ADVANCED POLICY ANALYSIS AND PRACTICE: HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH

(Course Room and Times and Instructor Contact Information)

I. CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course applies a systematic analytical framework for a critical and in-depth analysis of federal, state and local policies that shape programs affecting health and mental health in rural settings. Examines how policy impacts practice with diverse populations. Prerequisite: completion of foundation or transition courses. Restricted to Master of Social Work students or consent of the School.

II. COURSE OUTLINE
This course examines the economic, political, social and environmental contexts of health and mental health policies. Issues in planning, organizing, financing, administration and the delivery of health and mental health services are examined. Individual laws/policies relevant to health and mental health practice are selected and compared/contrasted with those of another country. Special emphasis is given to the differential impact of the national and international health/mental health policy on rural, low-income, women, minority and oppressed groups. In addition to issues of diversity, the course seeks to focus the student’s attention on other central concerns for social workers: ethics and the problems of shrinking resources with expanded demand.

III. PLACE OF COURSE IN THE PROGRAM
This is the advanced policy course in the professional foundation curriculum.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course, the student will:

Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
Demonstrate mastery in the following competencies:

1. Apply a social policy analysis framework for analyzing the formulation, adoption, and implementation of a current social welfare policy, including the historical context, to (concentration area);

2. Critically evaluate the impact of social welfare policy on groups at risk (in concentration area) (e.g. especially diverse populations based on race, ethnicity, poverty, gender, sexual orientation, age, and rural location);

3. Critically evaluate the impact of social work values and ethics in the formulation, adoption, and implementation, and evaluation of social welfare policy (to concentration area);

4. Demonstrate an understanding of the interplay of the economic, ideological, political, and socioeconomic forces affecting the social welfare system in the US using coherent conceptual policy analysis frameworks (to concentration area);

5. Demonstrate an understanding of policies relevant to (concentration area) at local, state, and federal levels;

6. Demonstrate skills necessary to influence (concentration area) policies;

7. Demonstrate leadership skills necessary to overcome those barriers which inhibit the empowerment of client groups within (concentration area)

V. REQUIRED TEXTS

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

VII. GRADING

(Include grade scale, rubric, points for assignments, bonus, supplemental assignments, and attendance policy and how attendance is factored into final grade).
SIUC policy regarding In completes: “An INC grade is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. An INC must be changed to a completed grade will be set at one year from the close of the term in which the course was taken. Should the student fail to complete the course within one semester, the incomplete may be converted to a grade of F and such grade will be computed in the student's grade point average.”

VIII. COURSE EVALUATION

At the end of the semester, students will use the SIUC Instructor Course Evaluation (ICE) to evaluate the course and the instructor. Student mastery of the competencies listed in the Course Objectives section will be evaluated as part of the ongoing program assessment for the School of Social Work.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE

(Instructors provide a weekly list of topics, readings, assignments, and tests)

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Update references to within 5 years for most materials)