SOWK 7XX – Enhancing Human Well-being: Embodying Social Work Ethics and Values

Instructor: Monique B. Mitchell, PhD, CT
Meeting: TBD
Time: TBD
Location: TBD
E-mail: monique.mitchell@sc.edu
Phone: 803-777-***
Office Hours: By appointment

I. INTRODUCTION

“The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.” (National Association of Social Workers, 1999). Social workers have professional responsibilities to enhance life and the capacity of people by embodying the core values of service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. This course, centered on the enhancement of life, is designed to enhance students’ understanding of “being” human and the difference between “doing” (i.e., applying social work techniques) and “being” (i.e., embodying ethics and values) in social work. The topics covered in the course, informed by the works of Viktor Frankl and other influential social change agents, include the will to meaning, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, purpose and inspiration, transcendence and service, suffering, social justice, human potential, life transitions, and the search for ultimate meaning. By journeying into human BEING, students will explore the defiant power of the human spirit and their unique contribution to enhancing social work and humanity.

II. COURSE STRUCTURE AND READINGS

The class format requires students to read materials ahead of time and to reflect on social work ethics and values throughout the course. Students will become familiar with diverse individuals who used their human potential to support social change and social justice. An overview of information will be discussed the first hour of class, and the remaining time will be spent discussing the importance of human value, dignity, and relationships, especially while working with people and communities who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. Students will also evaluate the impact of embracing social work values on students’ past and present experiences, attitudes, and behaviors. To meet course objectives, the delivery of SOWK 762 is accomplished through a combination of experiential learning activities, in-class collaborative work groups, and lectures designed to help meet the needs of all learners and learning styles.

Week 1
Chechak, D. (2015). Social work as a value-based profession: Value conflicts and


**Week 2**


**Week 3**


**Week 4**


**Week 5**


**Week 6**

In class assignment. No assigned readings

**Week 7**


Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Weeks 12 and 13
Individual Presentations. No Assigned Readings.

### III. Course Evaluation

- Assignments: 60%
- Individual Presentation: 25%
- Participation through Contribution: 15%