

BARBADOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF GENERAL/CONTINUING EDUCATION
YEAR I: SEMESTER II

COURSE CODE:	SOWK110
COURSE TITLE:	CASE MANAGEMENT WITH INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES
DURATION:	45 HOURS
PREREQUISITE:	SOWK101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK
CONTACT HOURS:	3 HOURS PER WEEK
CREDITS:	3 CREDITS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course introduces social work students to direct practice with individuals and families as client systems. It is particularly concerned with extending the student's ability to make a complete psychosocial assessment upon which a feasible plan of intervention can be based, and by which the outcome of case intervention can be evaluated. A pluralistic approach will be taken to the understanding of the individual within the context of the family, societal alliances, and the broader societal setting. The course will also examine the West Indian family as a societal system.

Course content will include methods of intervention, which can be used to enable family members to develop, mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, and to function effectively in the family and community. Issues relating to the worker-client relationship and to values and ethical questions will be explored. The organisational context and the social service network within which social casework is practised in Barbados and the Region will be considered. Students will also be introduced to a range of theoretical frameworks relevant to casework intervention with individuals and families.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course seeks to assist students to:

1. Develop a psychosocial assessment of an individual and a family.
2. Interpret and respond appropriately to individual's behaviour within the context of the family, societal alliances, and the broader social setting.

3. Relate to the West Indian family as a societal system.
4. Evaluate and distinguish among methods of intervention used in working with individuals and families.
5. Apply appropriate intervention strategies.
6. Distinguish between the peculiar characteristics of working with the family as a system or unit and treating individual family members.
7. Relate the applicability of the major theoretical approaches used in working with individuals and families.
8. Describe the goals and strategies of individual and family treatment.

COURSE CONTENT:

UNIT 1 – BASIC CONCEPTS IN CASEWORK INTERVENTION

Topics

1. Concept of casework intervention
2. The goals of casework
3. The phases of casework problem-solving process
4. Methods of casework intervention

UNIT 2 – INTERVENING WITH INDIVIDUALS

Topics

1. The actualisation of the various phases of the problem-solving process with individual clients including:
 - Preengagement
 - Engagement
 - Assessment
 - Intervention
 - Evaluation
 - Termination
2. The engagement process with involuntary clients
3. Developing a comprehensive psychosocial assessment of an individual client

UNIT 3: - FAMILY ASSESSMENT

Topics

1. Dimensions of a family assessment
2. Unique features of Caribbean families
3. Examining the family life cycle
4. Developing a comprehensive family assessment
5. Discuss and distinguish among the degree of applicability the following theoretical approaches to informing the family assessment process:
 - Psychodynamic approach
 - Ecosystems approach
 - Structural approach
 - Family of origin approach
6. Define the concept of a genogram
7. Discuss the usefulness of genograms in family assessment
8. Utilize genograms in family assessment, based on selected case examples
9. Conduct a genogram interview

UNIT 4: - FAMILY TREATMENT

Topics

1. Basic strategies and goals of family treatment

2. Identifying family suitability for treatment
3. Conducting a family interview
4. Applying family treatment

UNIT 5: - ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTION

Topics

1. The importance of environmental intervention in casework
2. Strategies to effect environmental change

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

This course will be conducted in seminar style and will provide students with various modalities for learning: lectures, group work, guest lectures, role-play and student presentations.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

All students will be evaluated based on the following:

Course Work	40%
Final Examination	60%

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Plagiarism is presenting another person's work as your own. This is a form of cheating and hence it is clearly against social work ethics and those of the Barbados Community College. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of some one else without acknowledgment, including the submission of another student's work as one's own. Plagiarism frequently involves a failure to acknowledge in the references or footnotes the quotation of paragraphs, sentences, or even a few phrases written or spoken by someone else. The use of research or completed papers or projects prepared by someone else including another student is plagiarism. Failure to indicate the extent and nature of one's reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. Evidence of plagiarism in an assignment will result in a grade of **F** in the assignment and you can face the risk of failing the course. Please see the Student Handbook for a full description of the College's policy on academic honesty.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Compton, B; & Galaway. B (1999). *Social work processes* (6th ed.). New York: Brookes/Cole.

Janzen, C, & Harris O (1997). *-Family treatment in social work practice*. Itasca, IL: FE Peacock.

Payne, M. (1997). *Modern social work theory* (2nd ed.). London: Macmillan.