Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration and Human Services Department

Course Prefix and Number: HUMS 495

Course Title: Senior Seminar

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Required as a culminating experience prior to graduation. Capstone course integrating prior learning while exploring current research, contemporary issues, and practice theories in Human Services. Grade of C or better is required. Writing intensive. Emphasis is on creating expertise within an area of interest pertinent to the career and academic goals of the student. Students enrolled in this class are required to take the major field test for Human Services. Prerequisites: Human Services major, senior standing, and at least 24 hours in the major. Offered Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Human Services major, senior standing, and at least 24 hours in the major.

Text(s): Textbooks listed are not necessarily the textbooks used in the course. Textbook(s) chosen should include theory and technique appropriate for baccalaureate level practice.

Most recent editions of the following:


Course Objectives:

- To identify individual academic and career goals and construct a plan to meet them.
- To identify an area of preferred practice within Human Services and demonstrate an understanding of current issues, developments, and research in that area.
- To explain and integrate major Human Services models, perspectives, and theories into an identified area of practice.
- To describe current research and policy developments for an identified area of practice.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Gather, assess, and communicate (though presentations and papers) information about current events, issues, and developments within the field of Human Services.
- Plan and lead discussions on professional topics.
Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Create a resume and a written plan for academic and career goals.
- Survey jobs in the Human Services field at the local, state, and national level.
- Create a concept map for a Human Services practice model, perspective or theory.

Note: This class will emphasize writing in the APA format and students are expected to improve their research and writing skills.

- Licensure, certification, and other credentials for the Human Services professional.
- Planning for continuing and life-long education
- Job seeking skills
- Graduate school options
- Construction and reality in Human Services theory
- Applying theory to practice
- Concept maps
- Models, theories, and perspectives for Human Services practice:
  - Memetics
  - Contact theory
  - Chaos theory
  - Systems theory
  - Psychodynamic perspective
  - Strengths perspective
  - Ecological perspective
  - Crisis intervention and task-centered models
  - Cognitive-behavioral theories
  - Social psychology and social construction
  - Humanism and existentialism
  - Social and community development
  - Critical perspectives
  - Feminist perspectives
  - Social exchange theory
  - Social network theory
  - Modern and postmodern thought
  - Cybernetics
  - Anti-discrimination and cultural and ethnic sensitivity

A primary purpose of the culminating experience is to assess learning outcomes in the major. It demonstrates the following set of characteristics:

- The experience occurs after the completion of appropriate foundational skills, electives, and requirements.
- Assessment instruments used in the experience measure student achievement of the stated learning objectives for the major.
- Departmental faculty use the information given by assessment to improve teaching and learning in the major.
During this course the Academic Profile, short form, will be administered. This 40-minute standardized test measures learning in general education courses. The results of the tests are used by faculty to improve the general education curriculum at the College.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Michael R. Perkins

Name ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

Date: April 21, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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