

University of Washington  
School of Social Work  
Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, Ph.D.

SocW 514D  
Thursday, 1:30-4:20  
Room 230

## SOCIAL WORK 514

### EMPOWERMENT PRACTICE WITHIN LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL and TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores social work practice issues within lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in the health and human services. All social workers, in all fields of practice, serve clients who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Emphasis in the course is placed on the cultural and social context within such practice occurs as well as the diversity and heterogeneity within these communities. This course will emphasize a multigenerational empowerment practice approach for assessment and intervention. Concepts fundamental to this approach are diversity, resiliency, and a multigenerational family- and community-focused perspective. This framework is consistent with the social change and social justice mission of the MSW curriculum. Students will acquire practice skills for affirming and effective social work practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender clients.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Articulate personal, cultural and societal attitudes affecting social work practice within diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.
- ◆ Understand and define the components of affirmative social work practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender clients.
- ◆ Understand the complexity and reciprocity of multicultural, multigenerational dynamics across different populations, substantive areas and families within GLBT communities.
- ◆ Develop the ability to bring a multigenerational, multicultural lens to their assessment of the strengths and challenges facing GLBT individuals, families and communities.
- ◆ Recognize how both strengths and challenges – physically, socially, and emotionally - may be transmitted across multiple generations as well as the intragenerational influences on GLBT health and well-being.

- ◆ Demonstrate appropriate assessment and intervention skills necessary for working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and their families, within a multicultural and multigenerational framework.
- ◆ Articulate major ethical issues relevant to developing and maintaining helping relationships within these communities.
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to advocate for the needs of lesbian, gay male, bisexual and transgender clients in the health and human services and the larger community.

#### INSTRUCTOR’S OFFICE HOURS

Office: School of Social Work, Room 202  
 Phone: 543-5722  
 Office Hours: Friday, 12:30-1:20 and by appointment.

#### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924 (V/TTY). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for this class.

#### REQUIRED TEXT

The text for this class is a set of required readings that are available to purchase at Ram’s Copy Center. Additional readings will be assigned as needed.

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be three assignments for this class. Specific instructions and grading criteria will be discussed in class.

Assignment	Due Date	Number of Points
Written Assignment #1	May 1	30
Final Paper	June 6	50
Class Participation		20

No incompletes will be given except in the case of an emergency (as defined by University policy). Academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) will result in a failing grade.

#### COURSE EVALUATION:

Student feedback will be collected (anonymously) at midterm and at the last class session. At the end of the quarter, forms provided by the Educational Assessment Center will be used for the evaluation.

**GRADES:**

Your course grade will be based on the number of points you accumulate from the assignments. Attendance in class is required unless an emergency occurs.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### **Week 1**

Topics  
Introductions  
Context/Definitions  
Practice Perspectives

### **Week 2**

Multiple identities  
Affirming practice with GLBT individuals, families and communities

Required readings:

- Herek, G. M. (2000). The psychology of sexual prejudice. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 9(1), 19-22.
- Greene, B. (2000). Beyond heterosexism and across the cultural divide. In B. Green and G. L. Croom (Eds.), *Education, research and practice in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered psychology* (pp. 1-45). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Mallon, G. P. (1999). Knowledge for practice with transgendered persons. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 10(3/4), 1-18.
- Fox, R. C. (2000). Bisexuality in perspective. In B. Green & G. L. Croom (Eds.) *Education, research and practice in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered psychology* (pp. 161-207). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Tierney, W. G., & Dilley, P. (1998). Constructing knowledge: Educational research and gay and lesbian studies. In W. F. Pinnar (Ed.) *Queer theory in education* (pp. 49-71). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Conley, T. D., Calhoun, C., Evett, S. R., & Devine, P. G. (2001). Mistakes that heterosexual people make when trying to appear non-prejudiced: The view from LGB people. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 42(2), 21-43.

### **Week 3**

Assessment Approaches  
Empowerment and Multigenerational Perspectives  
Assessment Tools  
    The Genogram/Family Congruence Model/Oral Histories

Required readings:

- Mallon, G. P. (1998). Knowledge for practice with gay and lesbian persons. In G. P. Mallon (Ed.), *Foundations of social work practice with lesbian and gay persons* (pp. 1-31). New York, Harrington Press.
- Kimmel, D. (2000). Including sexual orientation in life span developmental psychology. In B. Green & G. L. Croom (Eds.) *Education, research and practice in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered psychology* (pp. 59-73). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Power, M., & Maluccio, A. N. (1999). Intergenerational approaches to helping families at risk. *Generations*, 22(4), 37-42.
- Madsen, W. C. (1999). What we see is what we get. In *Collaborative therapy with multi-stressed families*, (pp. 45-84). New York: Guilford Press

Select one of the following:

- Milewski-Hertlein, K. A. (2001). The use of a socially constructed genogram in clinical practice. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 29, 23-38.
- McCaslin, R. (1993). An intergenerational family congruence model. In P. Cowan and D. Field (Eds.), *Family, self and society: Toward a new agenda for family research* (pp. 395-316).. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Bornat, J. (2001). Reminiscence and oral history: Parallel universes or shared endeavor? *Ageing and Society*, 21, 219-241.

#### **Week 4**

##### Identity Development/Coming Out

Required readings:

- Gonsiorek, J. C. (1995). The coming out process. In A. R. D'Augelli & C. J. Patterson (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities over the lifespan: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 31-47). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Walters, K. L. (1998). Negotiating conflicts in allegiances among lesbians and gays of color: Reconciling divided selves and communities. In G. P. Mallon (Ed.), *Foundations of social work practice with lesbian and gay persons* (pp. 47-75) Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press..
- Hancock, K. A. (2000). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual lives: Basic issues in psychotherapy training and practice. In B. Green & G. L. Croom (Eds.) *Education, research and practice in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered psychology* (pp. 91-130). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Gagne, P., Tewksbury, R., & McGaughey, D. (1997). Coming out and crossing over: Identity formation and proclamation in a transgender community. *Gender & Society*, 11, 478-508.
- Kitzinger, C. (1995). Social constructionism: Implications for lesbian and gay psychology. In A. R. D'Augelli & C. J. Patterson (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities over the lifespan: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 136-161). New York: Oxford University Press.

## **Week 5**

### Late Adulthood

#### Required readings:

- Kimmel, D. C. (2002). Aging and sexual orientation. In B. Jones & M. J. Hill (Eds.) *Mental health issues in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities* (pp. 17-36). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.
- Donovan, T. (2001). Being transgender and older: A first person account. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, 13*(4), 19-22.
- Clunis, M., Fredriksen-Goldsen, K.I., Freeman, P., Nystrom, N. (In press). *Looking back, Looking forward: The lives of lesbian elders*. Identity, Chapter 2. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press.
- Herd, G. H., Beeler, J., & Rawls, T. W. (1997). Life course diversity among older lesbians and gay men: A study in Chicago. *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity, 2*, 231-246.
- Baron, A. & Cramer, D. W. (2000). Potential counseling concerns of aging lesbian, gay, and bisexual clients. In R. M. Perez & K. A. Debord (Eds.), *Handbook of counseling & psychotherapy with lesbian, gay & bisexual clients* (pp. 207-223). Washington, D.C.: APA.

## **Week 6**

### Middle adulthood

#### Couples

#### Children

#### Required readings:

- Oswald, R. F. (2002). Resilience within the family networks of lesbians and gay men: Intentionality and redefinition. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 64*(2), 374-383.
- Kurdek, L. A. (1995). Lesbian and gay couples. In A. R. D'Augelli & C. J. Patterson (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities over the lifespan: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 243-261). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Parks, C. A. (1998). Lesbian parenthood: A review of the literature. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 68*, 376-389.
- Fredriksen, K. I. (1999). Family caregiving among lesbians and gay men. *Social Work, 44*(2), 142-155.

## **Week 7**

### GLBT children and youth

#### Required readings:

- Sanders, G. L., & Kroll, I. T. (2000). Generating stories of resilience: Helping gay and lesbian youth and their families. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 26*(4), 433-442.
- Cooper, K. (1999). Practice with transgendered youth and their families. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services, 10*(3-4), 111-129.
- Kulkin, H. S., Chauvin, E. A., & Percle, G. A. (2000). Suicide among gay and lesbian adolescents and young adults: A review of the literature. *Journal of Homosexuality, 40*(1), 1-29.
- Parks, C. W. (2001). African-American same-gender-loving youths and families in urban schools. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services, 13*(3), 41-56.
- Fontaine, J. H. (1997). The sound of silence: Public school response to the needs of gay and lesbian youth. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, 7*(4), 101-109.

## **Week 8**

GLBT health issues and disability across the life course

Required readings:

- Atkins, D., & Marston, C. (1999). Creating accessible queer community: Intersections and fractures with disability praxis. *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity, 4*, 3-21.
- Brottman, S., Ryan, B., Jalbert, Y., & Rowe, B. (2002). Reclaiming space-regaining health: The health care experiences of Two-Spirit people in Canada. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services, 14*(1), 67-87.
- Bockting, W. O., Rosser, B. R., & Scheltema, K. (1999). Transgender HIV prevention: Implementation and evaluation of a workshop. *Health Education Research, 14*, 177-183.
- Ettelbrick, P. L. (1996). Legal issues in health care for lesbians and gay men. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, 5*(1), 93-109.

And select one of the following:

- Allen, L. B., Glick, A. D., Beach, R. K., & Naylor, K. E. (1998). Adolescent health care experience of gay, lesbian, and bisexual young adults. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 23*, 212-220.
- Axtell, S. (1999). Disability and chronic illness identity: Interviews with lesbians and bisexual women and their partners. *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity, 4*, 53-72.
- Lipton, B. (1997). Responding to non-HIV invisible chronic illness within the gay male community. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services, 7*(1), 93-98.
- Paul, J. P., Hays, R. B., & Coates, T. J. (1995). The impact of the HIV epidemic on U.S. gay male communities. In A. R. D'Augelli & C. J. Patterson (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities over the lifespan: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 347-397). New York: Oxford University Press.

Singer, M., & Marxuach-Rodriguez, L. (1996). Applying anthropology to the prevention of AIDS: The Latino Gay Men's Health Project. *Human Organization*, 55(2). 141-148.

## **Week 9**

Ethical and controversial issues

Required readings:

- Hess, P. M., & Hess, H. J. (1998). Values and ethnics in social work practice with lesbian and gay persons. In G. P. Mallon (Ed.), *Foundations of social work practice with lesbians and gay persons* (pp. 31-46). New York: Harrington Park Press.
- Haldeman, D. C. (2000). Therapeutic responses to sexual orientation. In B. Green & G. L. Croom (Eds.) *Education, research and practice in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered psychology* (pp. 244-262). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Tarver, D. E. (2002). Transgender mental health: The intersection of race, sexual orientation, and gender identity. In B. E. Jones, & M. J. Hill (Eds.) *Mental health issues in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Review of psychiatry*, vol. 21 no 4. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.
- Fisher, R. D., Derison, D., Polley, C. F., Cadman, J., & Johnston, D. (1994). Religiousness, religious orientation, and attitudes towards gays and lesbians. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 24, 614-630.
- Hodge, D. R. (2002). Does social work oppress evangelical Christians? A "new class" analysis of society and social work. *Social Work*, 47(4), 401-414.

## **Week 10**

Community development

Course wrap-up and evaluation

Required readings:

- Garnets, L. D., & D'Augelli, A. R. (1994). Empowering lesbian and gay communities: A call for collaboration with community psychology. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 22, 447-470.
- Green, D. P., Glaser, J., & Rich, A. (1998). From lynching to gay bashing: The elusive connection between economic conditions and hate crime. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 75(1), 82-92.
- Hunter, J., & Mallon, G. P. (1998). Social work practice with gay men and lesbians within communities. In G. P. Mallon (Ed.), *Foundations of social work practice with lesbians and gay persons* (pp. 229-248). New York: Harrington Park Press.