



**CCSW6360 Introduction to Social Work**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Church Ministry Division**  
**Fall 2023, Tuesday, 6:00-8:50 p.m., NOLA2U Flex**

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**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Course Description**

The student is introduced to the field of social work and to its underlying philosophy and processes. The major divisions of social work – casework, group work, community organization, and administration and research – will be discussed. The challenge to the churches and their responsibility in the community are an integral part of the course.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of social work to the process of serving churches and community agencies through social work ministries.
2. Value social work methods.
3. Be able to utilize social work skills in the local church and community.

**Course Teaching Methodology**

This course will be taught utilizing lectures, small group discussions, case studies, videos, and guest speakers.

**Textbooks**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

- Farley, O. W., Smith, L. L., & Boyle, S. W. (2012). *Introduction to social work* (12th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Garland, D. S. R. (2015). *Why I am a social worker: 25 Christians tell their life stories*. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.
- National Association of Social Workers. (2017). Code of ethics (rev.ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (Available online at [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org))

**Additional Required Reading**

Articles and book chapters as listed on the Course Schedule in the syllabus

## Course Requirements

The following requirements pertain to all students taking the class, regardless of format unless otherwise noted. In addition, **NOLA2U Flex** students should note the additional policies related to attendance and class participation.

### Value Integration Paper (15 points)

Please include the following: a personal reflection of the social work values found in the NASW Code of Ethics; an analysis of the Biblical interpretation of these values; two examples of how these values are represented or discussed in the Bible.

The paper should be a minimum of 3 pages. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman type. The paper should be submitted on Canvas. [See the grading rubric attached to the syllabus for more information.]

### Helping Paper (15 points)

Topic: "My Philosophy and Theology of Helping"

Include the following in your paper: your personal/professional views about helping; your attitudes toward helping; your Biblical/theological basis for helping; your personal and professional experiences of helping; your role models for helping; your recommendations for strengthening your future helping relationships.

The paper should be a minimum of 4 pages. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman type. The paper should be submitted on Canvas. [See the grading rubric attached to the syllabus for more information.]

### Book Discussion (15 points)

The discussions will focus on readings from the Garland textbook. Each student should follow the guidelines pertaining to their class format.

**Classroom:** Students will participate in 7 group discussions in class. Group discussions will last 45-50 minutes. Each student will be responsible for leading a group session. Students should choose questions from the end of each assigned chapter to discuss in the group. Students also may add their own questions. Grades for class discussion will be based upon attendance, participation, and facilitation. Missing more than one group session for an unexcused reason will lower a student's score by one letter grade.

**NOLA2U Flex:** Students will complete 7 discussion guides related to the assigned readings. The questions for each discussion guide will be taken from the assigned chapters. Students should type their answers to each discussion guide and submit their answers on Canvas on the assigned day of the reading. Submission of the completed discussion guide will count as attendance. If less than 6 discussion guides are submitted, the student's score will be lowered by a letter grade.

### Practice Area Paper (20 points)

Each student will select a social work practice area to research. The paper should include the following information: a. Description of the field of social work practice; b. History or development of the practice area; c. Role of the social worker in the practice area; d. Clients served in the practice area; e. Primary methods of intervention used in the practice area; f. Current issues/concerns within the practice area; g. Future of social work in the practice area.

The body of the paper should be 6-8 pages. Students should have at least 10 sources,

excluding textbooks, for the paper. [See the grading rubric for this assignment attached to the syllabus.]

### Exams

Students will complete midterm and final exams on the assigned dates. All exams will be given through Canvas. Each exam will be available for a 24-hour period of time as designated on the course schedule. All exams must be taken within the designated time frame.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

### **If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:**

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through **[assignment by professor]** after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Assignment	Percentage of Grade	Due Date
Value Integration Paper	15%	August 29
Helping Paper	15%	September 19
Group Discussion	15%	As assigned
Midterm Exam	15%	October 10
Practice Area Paper	20%	November 14
Final Exam	20%	December 5, 6-8 p.m.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) [Canvas.NOBTS.edu](http://Canvas.NOBTS.edu).
3. [Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu](mailto:Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Bluejeans & NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## **Course Policies**

### Policy on Late Papers/Assignments

All work is due at the beginning of the class on the assigned day. Late assignments will be reduced by 10 points. Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted.

### Style Guides for Assignments

Social work students should use the APA style guide for all assignments. Non-social work students may use Turabian or APA.

### Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

### Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.

Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions. Students are expected to dialogue with guest speakers who come to class. In order to enhance classroom participation, the professor prefers that students not use laptops or other technological devices in class on the days when guest speakers are present.

### Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students

in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

#### Emergency Plan

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu). Also, students should use Canvas to follow any announcements that may be posted. Students should ensure their current email address is updated on Canvas.

#### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

#### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

#### **Course Schedule**

Unit	Topics	Assignments
Unit 1/Unit 2 August 15	Introduction Overview of Social Work Biblical Basis Social Work Resources	Farley, Chapters 1 & 3
Unit 2/Unit 3 August 22	Social Work Historical Basis Discussion Group #1	“Knowing and Being Ourselves,” Chapter 2 of <i>The Art of Helping Others: Being Around, Being There, Being Wise</i> [NOBTS Library e-book in ebrary]; Garland, Chapters 1 & 26; Farley, Chapter 2
Unit 4 August 29	Values and Ethics	NASW <i>Code of Ethics</i> <b>Social Work Values Integration Paper</b>
Unit 4 September 5	Values and Ethics Discussion Group #2	NASW <i>Code of Ethics</i> Garland, Chapters 1-4
Unit 5 September 12	Generalist Social Work Practice Strengths Perspective	Langer, C. L., & Lietz, C. (2014). <i>Applying Theory to Generalist Social Work Practice</i> . [NOBTS Library e-book in ebrary], Chapters 1-3
Unit 6 September 19	Social Work Practice with Individuals Discussion Group #3	Farley, Chapters 4-5, 9 Garland, Chapters 5-6 <b>Helping Paper</b>
Unit 7 September 26	Social Work Practice with Families Discussion Group #4	Farley, Chapter 13 Garland, Chapters 7-11

October 2-6	Fall Break	
Units 8 October 10	Social Work Practice with Groups <b>Midterm Exam</b> (available on Canvas from 9:30 a.m. 10/10 – 9:30 a.m. 10/11)	Farley, Chapters 6, 11
Unit 9 October 17	Social Work Practice with Organizations Discussion Group #5	“Assessment of Organizations,” Chapter 5 of <i>Social Work Practice with Groups, Communities, and Organizations: Evidence-Based Assessments and Interventions</i> [NOBTS Library e-book] Garland, Chapters 12-15
Unit 10 October 24	Social Work Practice with Communities	Farley, Chapter 7 “Assessment of Communities,” Chapter 4 of <i>Social Work Practice with Groups, Communities, and Organizations: Evidence-Based Assessments and Interventions</i> [NOBTS Library e-book]
Unit 11 October 31	Administration and Research Discussion Group #6	Farley, Chapter 8 Garland, Chapters 16-19
Unit 12 November 7	Spirituality and Social Work Practice	Hodge, D. R. (2011). “Using spiritual interventions in practice: Developing some guidelines from evidence-based practice.” <i>Social Work</i> 56 (2), 149-158. [EBSCOhost]
Unit 13 November 14	Social Work Practice Areas Discussion Group #7	Farley, Chapters 10, 16, 17 Garland, Chapters 20-25 <b>Practice Area Paper</b>
November 20-24	Thanksgiving Break	
Unit 14 November 28	The Future of Social Work Review	Farley, Chapters 21, 22
December 5-6	<b>Final Exam</b> (available on Canvas, 12/05, 11 a.m. – 12/06, 11 a.m.). <b>Exam is due 12/06, 11 a.m.</b>	

## Selected Bibliography

### Articles

Garland, D. R. (2002). “Who is your family?” Membership composition of American Protestant families. *Social Work and Christianity*, 29(3), 183-223.

Hodge, D. R. (2001). “Spiritual assessment: A review of major qualitative methods and a new framework for assessing spirituality.” *Social Work*, 46 (3), 203-214.

Strom-Gottfried, K. (2000). “Ensuring ethical practice. An examination of NASW code violations, 1986-1997.” *Social Work* 45(3), 251-261.

Taylor, K. G., & Wolfer, T. A. (1999). "Social work as a vocation: Balancing ministry and profession." *Social Work and Christianity* 26 (2), 112-126.

### Books

Barker, R. L. (2013). *The social work dictionary* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Corey, M. S., & Corey, G. (2007). *Becoming a helper* (5th ed). Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.

Cox, K., & Steiner, S. (2013) *Self-care in social work: A guide for practitioners, supervisors, and administrators*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Dulmus, C. N., Glisson, C., and Sowers, K. M. (2012). *Social work practice with groups, communities, and organizations: Evidence-based assessments and interventions*. Somerset, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Dumez, E. W., (Ed.). (2003) *Celebrating social work: Faces and voices of the formative years*. Alexandria, VA: Council on Social Work Education.

Grobman, L. M. (2019). *Days in the lives of social workers: 62 professionals tell "real-life" stories from social work practice* (5th ed.). Harrisburg, PA: The New Social Worker Press.

Houston-Vega, M. K., Nuehning, E. M., & Daguio, E. R. (1997). *Prudent practice: A guide for managing malpractice risk*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Hugen, B., & Scales, T. L. (Eds.). (2002). *Christianity and social work: Readings on the integration of Christian faith and social work practice*. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Keith-Lucas, A. (1994). *Giving and taking help* (Rev. ed.) St. Davids, PA: The North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Langer, C. L., & Lietz, C. (2014). *Applying theory to generalist social work practice*. Retrieved from <http://www.ebrary.com>.

LeCroy, C. W. (2002). *The call to social work: Life stories*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Miley, K. K., O'Melia, M. W., & DuBois, B. L. (2012). *Generalist social work practice: An empowering approach* (7th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Reamer, F. G. (2003). *Social work malpractice and liability: Strategies for prevention*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Reamer, F. G. (2018). *Social work values and ethics* (5th ed.). New York: Columbia University Press.

Ressler, L. E. (Ed.). (1994). *Hearts strangely warmed: Reflections on Biblical passages relevant to social work*. St. Davids, PA: National Association of Christian Social Workers.

- Saleebey, D. (Ed.). (2012). *The strengths perspective in social work practice* (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson.
- Shebib, B. (2003). *Choices: Counseling skills for social workers and other professionals*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon,.
- Sidell, N. L. (2011). *Social work documentation: A guide for strengthening your case recording*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.
- Smith, H., & Smith, M. K. (2008). *The art of helping others: Being around, being there, being wise*. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Trattner, W. I. (1994). *From poor law to welfare state: A history of social welfare in America* (5th ed.). New York: The Free Press.
- Zastrow, C. H. (2007). *The practice of social work: Application of generalist and advanced Content* (8th ed.). Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.



### Grading Rubric for Values Integration Paper

Criteria	Point Range
Explore the values of the NASW Code of Ethics, provide personal interpretation and reflection on values	0 to 30
Analyze the Biblical interpretation of social work values	0 to 30
Provide two examples of social work values represented or discussed in the Bible	0 to 30
Grammar, punctuation, spelling, format	0 to 10

In order to receive an A for the assignment, the following criteria must be met:

1. Complies fully with the assignment (proficient in all areas).
2. Paper begins, flows, and ends effectively.
3. Paper is virtually free of errors in grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling, format, and style issues.
4. Paper is well-organized, paragraphs are well-structured, and headings are used appropriately.

### Grading Rubric for Helping Paper

Criteria	Point Range
Explore his/her views about helping, attitudes toward helping, and Biblical/theological basis for helping	0 to 30
Assess personal and professional experiences of helping, including mentors for helping, education, and resources for helping	0 to 30
Make recommendations for strengthening future helping relationships	0 to 30
Grammar, punctuation, spelling, format	0 to 10

In order to receive an A for the assignment, the following criteria must be met:

5. Complies fully with the assignment (proficient in all areas).
6. Paper begins, flows, and ends effectively.
7. Paper is virtually free of errors in grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling, format, and style issues.
8. Paper is well-organized, paragraphs are well-structured, and headings are used appropriately.

### Grading Rubric for Paper on Practice Area

Criteria	Point Range
I. Organization Introduction; Main points are clear; Paper logically structured; Transitions between sections smooth	0 to 13
II. Content Well researched; All required content areas addressed	0 to 55
III. Conclusion Summary of key points; Clear and concise	0 to 5
IV. Bibliography Compiled bibliography with twelve resources (excluding textbooks); Sources are documented according to style guide.	0 to 12
V. Grammar and Style Grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling, format, and style	0 to 15