

Course Title: Theories and Models in Social Work

Course Code: DVST-821

Credit Hours: 3-0

Pre-requisite Courses: None.

Course Description:

1. 'Social Work' is a professional and academic discipline interested in improving the welfare of the most vulnerable populations through 'person-in-environment' based research, policy, training, counseling, and interventions. As a field of study, social work rests upon two central pillars: social work theories, or general explanations for social behavior that are supported by evidence collected using the scientific method, and social work practice models, which provide social workers proven methods for implementing social work theories in a variety of contexts. This course provides activism-oriented students with a comprehensive introduction to the theories and models underpinning the modern practice of social work. Students will develop a conceptual understanding of social work's relevance to development practice, within an anti-oppressive and ethical model. The content is both theoretical and practical, and emphasizes the integration of the two through illustrative examples and case studies.

2. Course Objectives:

- a. To introduce students to foundational theories and models within social work, as relevant to development practice.
- b. To create and foster productive linkages between social science, social work theory, and social work practice.
- c. To instill an appreciation for 'person-in-environment' based policy and practice, and the ethical considerations and cultural sensitivity necessary to implement this.

Course Outcomes:

3. At the end of this course, students should be able to
 - a. demonstrate strong conceptual knowledge of social work and its role in development practice;
 - b. understand and appreciate the importance of social interactions and cultural sensitivity when working with vulnerable populations;

- c. confidently use social research skills, such as interviewing and observation, in order to investigate the applicability of social work theories and propose and/or mobilize related interventions or development programs.

Course Contents:

4. This course will cover selected foundation theories and models that guide social work practice. These include, but are not limited to, psychosocial theory, problem-solving and crisis intervention, systems-ecological theory, cognitive-behavioral theory, and feminist theory. Emphasis is placed on student self-awareness, development of professional identity, cultural sensitivity and competence, practice with diverse populations, and integration of social work values and ethics into development practice as a whole.

5. **Lab work:** Experiential learning and application of social work practice models will be integrated into regular lectures.

6. Textbooks or Reference Books:

Heinonen, T., and Spearman, L. (2010). *Social Work Practice: Problem Solving and Beyond (3rd Edition.)*. Scarborough, ON: Nelson Education.

Ivey, A.E., Ivey, M.B., & Zalaquett, C.P. (2010). *Intentional Interviewing and Counseling: Facilitating Client Development in a Multicultural Society (Seventh Edition.)*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

Johnson, L.C. and Yanca, S. J. (2009) *Social Work Practice: A Generalist Approach (10th Edition)*. London, UK: Pearson.

Payne, M. (2009) *Modern Social Work Theory (Fourth Edition)*. Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books.