**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**

**Social Sciences Division**

**SOC 238 – Methods and Techniques of Working with the Elderly**

**Course Outline**

**Course Number & Name:**  SOC 238 Methods and Techniques of Working with the Elderly

**Credit Hours:**  3.0 **Contact Hours:**  3.0 **Lecture:** 3.0 **Lab:**  N/A **Other:**  N/A

**Prerequisites**:  Grade of “C" or better in SOC 101 or PSY 101

**Co-requisites:** None **Concurrent Courses:** None

**Course Outline Revision Date:**  Fall 2010

**Course Description**: This course examines concepts and intervention strategies that are applied in various settings which provide programs and services to the elderly. Students will learn to apply appropriate intervention to social, emotional, and health-related problems of older adults.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the process of aging, ageism, and demographics of the elderly;

2.    identify special needs of the aged;

3. explain the health care system and the delivery of service to the elderly;

4. describe ethnic diversity among the elderly;

5. discuss intervention strategies of the elderly service care providers; and

6. describe the eligibility requirements for social insurance programs and public assistance programs for the elderly.

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)**: Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the process of aging, ageism, and demographics of the elderly:

1.1 *discuss physiological, social, and psychological functions of the aging process*;

1.2 *explain society's views on ageism in the United States*; and

1.3 *describe the demographics of the aging*

2. Identify special needs of the aged:

2.1 *discuss the need for health services*;

2.2 *discuss the need for social support services*; and

2.3 *explain the need for social services*

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)** (continued):

3. Explain the health care system and the delivery of service to the elderly:

3.1 *discuss various institutions (e.g., hospitals, hospice, nursing homes, home health care services, etc) that provide care to the elderly;* and

3.2 *analyze the health care system in regards to its care of the elderly and treatment of various elderly minority groups*

4. Describe ethnic diversity among the elderly:

4.1 *discuss the various ethnic groups among the elderly*; and

4.2 *describe the uniqueness of each ethnic group and their problems or issues*

5. Discuss intervention strategies of the elderly service care providers:

5.1 *discuss the mental health providers’ intervention strategies with the aged*; and

5.2 *discuss other resources relevant to the well-being of the elderly*

6. Describe the eligibility requirements for social insurance programs and public assistance programs for the elderly:

6.1 *describe the elders’ eligibility for social insurance programs (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, etc.);* and

6.2 *describe the elders’ eligibility for social insurance programs (e.g., Medicaid, SSI, food stamps, etc.)*

**Methods of Instruction**: Instruction will consist of lectures, videos/CDs, guest lecturers, group projects, field trips, class discussions, and oral presentations.

**Outcomes Assessment:** Exam questions are blueprinted to course objectives. Checklist rubrics are used to evaluate theme papers for the presence of course objectives. Data collected will be analyzed to provide direction for the improvement of instruction, viability of class assignments, relevancy of assigned literature, and evaluation of instructional time spent on specific topics.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Maintain regular attendance and take part in class discussions.

2. Complete assigned homework and theme papers on time.

3. Take all exams as scheduled.

4. Read the textbook sections and handouts as assigned.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

**% of**

**Grading Components final course grade**

* **Attendance and Class Participation** **15%**

Attendance points will be computed based on the ratio of the number of days attending the course during a regular semester (i.e., 28 contact days). A similar procedure will be used to determine participation points.

* **Theme Paper**   **25%**

Theme papers are 3 – 5 pages typed in which students may write on diversity, a movie, an article in a scholarly journal or another article related to course material.

* **Examinations** **60%**

The number of examinations and dates will be specified by the instructor. Exams will provide evidence of the extent to which students have mastered and synthesize course material and have met course objectives.

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

* plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
* cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
* interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
* fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time for all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Course Content Outline:** based on the text **Gerentology for Health Professionals (A Practical Guide)**, by Florence Safford and George I Krell; published by NASW Press, 1997.

**Units Topics**

1The Aging Process: Demographics of older persons and specific elderly ethnic groups

2 Health Care Institutions: Treatment of elderly at hospitals, hospice, nursing homes, home health care, etc.

3 Social Service Delivery System: Social service providers deliver case management for the aged

4 Special Needs of the Elderly: Health needs, social supports, and mental health needs

5 Entitlement Programs: Eligibility for services in public assistance, social insurance programs, and/or other programs for the elderly

6 Intervention Strategies: Special problem solving strategies for elderly clients with problem situations, health needs, mental health issues, social needs, and spiritual needs

### Note: In SOC 238, the instructor must cover the 6 units listed above minimally in any reasonable order throughout the duration of the semester/term. Also, the instructor may include additional areas based on his/her expertise and/or interest.