

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition

FRHD*3250 PRACTICUM I: CHILD , YOUTH AND FAMILY - YOUTH
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2014

Course Instructor: Dr. Andrea Breen abreen@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistant: Christine Scott cscott01@uoguelph.ca

Course Description: In this course, students participate in a supervised practicum arranged in a local school setting. Students will work under the supervision of a faculty member and a school supervisor, have the opportunity to work directly with young people while examining the role of the professional: teacher, special education resource teacher or child and youth counselor. The course provides an important opportunity for students to integrate academic knowledge and practical experience and to develop and extend professional skills. Emphasis is placed on the student's development as a reflective learner through practicum experiences, developing and fulfilling learning and performance assignments, and constructive feedback.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester students will:

1. Demonstrate skills in establishing and fulfilling learning and performance contracts in a professional setting.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the school in the lives of children and youth.
3. Plan, implement and evaluate education/intervention and/or support strategies as directed by the field supervisor that match the developmental level of the individual and small groups of youth.
4. Demonstrate the ability to use information obtained from observations or recorded information about or from youth.
5. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with individuals and small groups of children/youth that reflect an understanding of differing individual abilities and needs.
6. Demonstrate skills in reflective practice focusing on the relationship between theoretical and applied knowledge and on personal interactions and self-knowledge.

Student responsibilities: During the placement and the seminars students will:

1. Develop, in collaboration with the field supervisor, a practicum plan consisting of hours of attendance, on-going responsibilities, weekly planning requirements, and any special projects to be undertaken.
2. Attend practicum for 12 hours a week having regular interaction with the placement supervisor to monitor and amend activities as needed
3. Perform in a manner considered appropriate by the placement supervisor and follow school policies, procedures and regulations.
4. Plan, implement and evaluate activities for individual and/or small groups of youth.
5. Attend seminars to discuss and reflect on issues of theory and practice related to placement activities
6. Complete course requirements including attendance at placement and seminars, field notes, reflective writing, and other assignments
7. Meet with field supervisor at mid-term and end of term for a mid-semester and final evaluations.

COURSE FORMAT

A. *Direct experience with youth* – 12 hours per week.

Each student is expected to participate fully in the activities of the program.

B. *Seminar/Tutorial* – Up to 3 hours per week

Students will spend time during seminar critically reflecting on their experiences as learners and as members of the school community. Time will be spent considering the topics which relate to practical work with youth, such as issues dealing with establishing and maintaining relationships, effective and respectful communication, program planning and implementation, observations and record keeping, time management, self-evaluation, and working as a member of a professional team. Students will discuss with the course instructor events/issues that have occurred in the placement over the course of the week. Discussing strategies for interventions and problem-solving around issues will be the focus of this time.

C. *Large class meetings* -Up to 3 hours per week

We will be meeting as a larger class group at times over the course of the semester. These meetings will replace the weekly seminar. Specific dates to be announced.

Course Readings and Resources:

- Course website: CourseLink
- Practicum Manual
- **Recommended texts:**
Skills for Human Services Practice: Working with Individuals, Groups, and Communities
Authors: Agi O'Hara, Zita Weber and Kathy Levine.

Evaluation:

A. Field Placement – 50%

Based on performance of student responsibilities as well as on the midterm and final evaluations.

The course instructor will be visiting each student at his/her field placement site over the course of the semester. The purpose of these site visits is: (1) for the instructor to observe the student at work in the field placement and (2) to meet with the student and his/her field placement supervisor to discuss the students' experience and to assess his/her progress and goals. It is the students' responsibility to schedule this meeting. Further information on scheduling will be provided in seminar.

B. Learning Activities – 50%

- i) Administrative Requirements –3%
 - a. Student profile
 - b. Personal goal statement
 - c. Work/Education Placement Agreement
 - d. Practicum Orientation Checklist
 - e. Evaluation meetings with the instructor
- ii) Participation in small group discussions in class - 10%
- iii) Participation in online discussions (7 %)
- iv) Field notes & reflective writing – 15%
- v) Narrative assignment – 15%

Proposed Class Schedule (Please note this is subject to change!):

Date	Activity	Forms/Assignments Due
Jan. 10	Large Class Meeting and breakout in small seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work/Education Agreement • Online Practicum Preparation Survey should be completed by Sunday January 12th (see CourseLink for survey)
Jan. 17	Small Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Profile and Practicum Plan • Reflection Assignment #1: Due in Dropbox by Sunday January 19 at 11:59 pm
Jan. 24	Large Class Meeting and breakout in smaller seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practicum Orientation checklist (due in class) • Personal Goal statement (due in class) • Midterm meeting should be scheduled by January 24th!
Jan. 31	Online Seminars	Response to readings
Feb. 7	Small Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection Assignment #2: Due in Dropbox by Sunday February 9 at 11:59 pm
Feb. 14	Online Seminars	Response to readings Mid-term Evaluations from Field Placement Supervisors due
February 21	Winter Break	
March 7	Small Seminars	
March 14	Small Seminars	Reflection Assignment #3: Due in Dropbox by March 16th at 11:59 pm
March 21	Online Seminars	
March 28	Small Seminars	Narrative Presentations
April 4	Small Seminars	Narrative Presentations Written Components of Narrative Assignment Due in Dropbox by Sunday April 6th at 11:59 pm Final evaluations due

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Please note that the instructor will respond to emails within 24 on weekdays. In general I will not be checking email on weekends.

Personal Disclosure

Learning is enhanced by exploring the interface between personal/professional experience and academic study (theory, and research). Students are encouraged to explore this interface and should

only reveal as little or as much information as s/he is comfortable sharing with faculty, and fellow students. *The evaluation of student performance is not dependant upon student disclosure of private personal information.*

In order to create a safe learning environment, students are required to show tolerance for the viewpoints of others. Any abuse, attacks, acts of ridicule, profane language, harassment, etc., online or in the classroom, will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: It is the student's responsibility to ensure that assignments are completed according to the instructions provided by the Instructor. Failure to do so may result in the assignment being rejected or docked marks. Students are also responsible to ensure that they meet University standards for Academic Integrity. Please refer to the following web site on Academic Integrity.

<http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/>

WHEN YOU CANNOT MEET COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

When you find yourself unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor **in writing**, with name and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required of course components representing 10% of the course grade.

Meeting Deadlines: It is the student's responsibility to meet all deadlines. Extensions may be granted for exceptional reasons deemed acceptable by the professor if requested and granted **at least one calendar day** before the due date. A deduction of 3 % of the total mark for the assignment for late submission on the due date, and 1% for each additional day, including weekends, will be applied.

Extension requests will not be granted beyond one week, except in compelling circumstances. Assignments without an authorized extension will not be accepted more than seven days after the due date