

Union University School of Social Work

Summer Electives & Master Class Series 2010

Social Work Interventions in Traumatic Loss (3 cr. hrs.)



Nita Mehr, MSSW, LCSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University

Online Course
Required conference attendance



Theresa Blakley, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University

Course Description: This course will overview and specify selected social work interventions with individuals, families, and groups of persons who have experienced the loss of a loved one from sudden, violent death. Traumatic loss, complicated grief, separation anxiety, chronic sorrow, and the meaning-making process within each will be examined under the template of unnatural death. Students will learn the foundations of trauma-informed practice that underscores a safety, seeks reduction in symptom distress, and focuses on enhancing resilience in persons suffering violent loss.

Restorative Retelling, an empirically-supported treatment model for those suffering traumatic loss from sudden, violent death, will be specifically explored through the media of workshop, readings, on-line discussions, and research. Students will be expected to attend a three-day conference at the Olford Center on the Union University Germantown Campus, in Memphis on June 20-12, 2010. The featured speaker will be Dr. Ted Rynearson, the author and developer of the Restorative Retelling model. Cost of the conference is included in tuition. Overnight expenses are additional. After the conference, the remainder of the course will be offered online.

Addictions Counseling (3 cr. hrs.)



Nita Mehr, MSSW, LCSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University

June 7 – July 2, 2010
Monday, 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Course Description: This course provides an intensive understanding of the etiology, progress and counseling strategies for addictive disorders. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring a comprehensive definition of addiction behaviors, a review of the impact of Addiction on the individual and family, 12-step meetings, understanding legal and ethical issues unique to the field of substance abuse, treatment and interventions, and addressing the needs of special populations in regard to treatment for addictive behaviors.

Grant Writing and Grant Management (3 cr. hrs.)

Kim Parker, LMSW
Pathways, Inc.

June 3 – July 22, 2010
Thursdays, 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Course Description: This course is designed to prepare the MSW student with the necessary resources to successfully submit competitive proposals and state and federal grant applications for funding considerations. In the public and not-for-profit sector, grant awards have a vital part in expanding necessary services to clients. The needs of oppressed groups or communities are discussed in this course. The course covers the basics of proposals; purpose statements, background and justification, personnel, timelines, methods, budget, evaluation process, and how to effectively manage grants once they are funded. Human relation skills and knowledge including team development and conflict management will be emphasized with a focus on social and economic justice and diversity. Students will gain knowledge of best practice guidelines and the pros and cons of community partnerships as they relate to funding.

Human Resource Management for Social Workers



Lynda Gilbert, MSSW, J.D., LCSW
Adjunct Instructor
Union University

June 4 – July 22, 2010
Tuesday, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Course Description: Social Workers in supervisory and leadership roles are responsible for staffing functions, including hiring, firing, and maintaining staff in changing environments. This course prepares social workers to understand and manage human resource issues, including health and insurance benefits, compensation, discrimination, harassment, retirement plans, and leaves.



Todd Stanfield, Ph.D., LCSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University

Online course

Course Description: This course focuses on spirituality and religion as necessary components of assessment, planning, treatment, and evaluation in culturally competent social work practice. The course will examine: both helpful and dysfunctional effects of religion and spiritual practices on clients; influences of a diverse range of religious traditions and spiritual practices; use of spiritual assessment in planning individual interventions; the influence of the social worker's own personal religion and spirituality on their practice; the use of spiritual and religious resources to build worker resiliency and prevent compassion fatigue and burnout.