

The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities (with The Interactive Skills of Helping CD-ROM, Engaging and Working with the Hard-to-Reach Client CD-ROM, and InfoTrac) 5th Edition | Lawrence Shulman | ISBN 0534514138 | © 2006

## **AREAS OF INVESTIGATION: LINES OF INQUIRY AND READINGS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE (First Class - Date)**

An overview of the course content, readings, and assignments will be provided. Students will have an opportunity to identify practice problems and issues that they have already encountered or anticipate experiencing in their field placement. The connections between these practice problems and issues and the areas of investigation for the course will be identified.

### **AREA 1: THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK: AN INTERACTIONAL PERSPECTIVE (Dates:        )**

#### **Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The development of social work practice theory
2. The client–system interaction
3. Underlying assumptions in the interactional model
4. The role of the social work profession
5. Social work skill and the working relationship
6. The integration of personal and professional selves
7. Oppression psychology and social work practice
8. Resilience theory
9. Alternative social work perspectives

#### **Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Introduction

Chapter 1: An Interactional Approach to Helping

#### **Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 2: THE PRELIMINARY PHASE OF WORK (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The phases of work in practice
2. Communications in practice
3. The preliminary phase: Tuning in to self and to the client
4. Responding directly to indirect cues
5. The impact of diversity

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 2: The Preliminary Phase of Work

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 3: BEGINNINGS AND THE CONTRACTING SKILLS (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The dynamics of new relationships
2. Contracting in first sessions
3. Contracting over time
4. Contracting with resistant clients
5. Culturally diverse practice
6. Models for assessment in the beginning phase
7. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 3: Beginnings and the Contracting Skills

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 4: SKILLS IN THE WORK PHASE (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. A model of the work phase interview
2. Specific skills in the work phase
3. Confronting the illusion of work
4. The impact of diversity
5. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 4: Skills in the Work Phase

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 5: ENDINGS AND TRANSITIONS (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The dynamics and skills of endings
2. The skills of transition
3. Some variations on the endings themes
4. The impact of diversity
5. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 5: Endings and Transitions

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 6: FAMILY PRACTICE IN THE SOCIAL WORK CONTEXT (Dates: )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. Social work with families
2. Selected concepts from family therapy
3. The two-client concept and the worker's role
4. The impact of diversity
5. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 6: Family Practice in the Social Work Context

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 7: PROBLEM-CENTERED FAMILY PRACTICE (Dates: )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. Impact of mandate of the setting
2. Impact of client problems
3. The impact of diversity
4. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 7: Problem-Centered Family Practice

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

## **AREA 8: THE GROUP AS A MUTUAL-AID SYSTEM: GROUP FORMATION**

**(Dates: )**

### **Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The dynamics of mutual aid
2. Obstacles to mutual aid
3. The function of the group leader
4. The fear-of-groups syndrome
5. Work with the staff system
6. Group composition, timing, and structure
7. Work with prospective members
8. Co-leadership in groups
9. The impact of diversity
10. Empirical evidence

### **Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed*

Chapter 8: The Group as a Mutual-Aid System

Chapter 9: Group Formation

### **Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 9: THE BEGINNING PHASE IN THE GROUP (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The dynamics of first group sessions
2. Re-contracting
3. The impact of diversity
4. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 10: The Beginning Phase in the Group

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 10: THE WORK PHASE IN THE GROUP (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. Sessional contracting in the group
2. The work phase in a group session
3. Sessional endings and transitions
4. The concept of role in a dynamic system
5. The scapegoat in the group
6. The deviant member in the group
7. The internal leader
8. The gatekeeper - the defensive member
9. The impact of diversity
10. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 11: The Work Phase in the Group

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 11: THE “TWO CLIENTS” CONCEPT AND WORKING WITH THE GROUP AS THE SECOND CLIENT (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The group as an organism
2. Developmental tasks - the use of group theory
3. Helping the group negotiate the environment
4. The impact of gender on group development
5. Variant elements in group practice: open-ended groups; single-session groups; activities in groups; substance abuse-related group work practice
6. The impact of diversity
7. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 12: Working with the Individual and the Group

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 12: ENDINGS AND TRANSITIONS WITH GROUPS (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. Dynamics of endings and transitions
2. Skills of the ending phase
3. Skills of the transition phase
4. The impact of diversity
5. Empirical evidence
6. Variant elements in work with groups

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 13: Endings and Transitions with Groups

Chapter 14: Variations in Group Practice

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 13: HELPING CLIENTS TO NEGOTIATE THE SYSTEM (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The individual–system interaction
2. Mediating the individual–system interaction
3. Confrontation, social pressure, and advocacy
4. Professional impact and inter-staff relationships
5. The impact of diversity
6. Empirical evidence

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 15: Professional Impact and Helping Clients Negotiate the System

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 14: SOCIAL WORK IN THE COMMUNITY (Dates:    )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. The neighborhood as community
2. The role of the social worker in community organization practice
3. Advocacy and social change
4. Working with the milieu as community
5. Working in a rural community
6. The use of the internet

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 16: Social Work in the Community

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**AREA 15: AGENCY CULTURE, LEGISLATION, AND ETHICS IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE (Dates: )**

**Lines of Inquiry:**

1. Values and ethics in practice
2. The historical context of social work practice
3. Ethical problems and dilemmas
4. Ethical guidelines for practice with families and groups
5. The impact of managed care
6. Legislation and the courts
7. Evaluation of practice

**Related Readings:**

**Text:** *The Skills of Helping Individuals, Families, Groups, and Communities, 5th ed.*

Chapter 17: The Impact of Agency, Ethics, Legislation, and Evaluation

**Additional Related Readings:**

(To be added by the instructor)

**SUMMARY OF CLASS WORK AND EVALUATION (Date: )**

1. Summary of important ideas in the course
2. Identification of areas for future work
3. Evaluation of course, readings, the class group, and the instructor