SCWK 3739 - Social Work Methods with Communities and Organizations

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 04, CRN 41616,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Karla Wyant

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Karla Wyant, MSSA, LISW-S

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Master's in Social Work, (M.S.S.A.), Case Western Reserve University 2001

Bachelor's in Social Work, Youngstown State University 1998

Instructor Office Location: Cushwa Hall 3377

Instructor Office Phone: 30-941-1598

Course Description

3739. Social Work Methods with Communities and Organizations. This course presents an in-depth analysis of problem-solving strategies and skills in working with organizations and communities. Theory and research relating to practice will be examined. Social Work purpose, functions, and values are addressed from the systems perspective. Prereq.: Social Work Majors Only. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required			

Kirst-Ashman and Hull, L. (2018). Generalist Practice with Organizations and Communities. (7th Ed.) Cengage Learning.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Wed	8/26		Introduction to Course; Syllabus Review; Navigating MS Teams	Download and save Syllabus and Course Schedule
Wed	9/2	READ: Chapter 1 on Introduction to Macro Practice	Introduction to Macro Practice	Download and save slide deck
Wed	9/9	READ: Chapter 2 on Stress and Time Management --- READ: Chapter 13 on Using Supervision	Stress, Time Management, Procrastination & Assertiveness --- Using Supervision	Download and save slide deck

Wed	9/16		Macro Practice with Organizations and Communities	Download and save slide deck
Wed	9/23	READ: Chaper 3 on Using Micro Skills with Organizations --- READ: Chapter 4 on Group Skills for Organizational and Community Change	Connecting Micro and Mezzo Skills to Macro Practice	DUE: Discussion Board #1 --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	9/30	READ: Chapter 5 on Understanding Organizations	Understanding Organizations	DUE: Quiz #1 --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	10/7	READ: Chapter 6 on Implementing Macro Interventions	Implementing Macro Interventions and Agency Policy, Projects, and Programs	DUE: Discussion Board #2 --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	10/14	READ: Chapter 7 on Decision Making for Change	Decision Making for Change	DUE: Quiz #2 --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	10/21	READ: Chapter 8 on Understanding Neighborhoods and Communities	Understanding Communities and Neighborhoods	DUE: Agency / Organization GIM Paper --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	10/28	READ: Chapter 9 on Macro Practice in Communities	Macro Practice in Communities and Neighborhoods	DUE: Quiz #3 --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	11/4	READ: Chapter 11 on Advocacy and Social Action in Macro Practice	Advocacy and Social Action in Macro Practice	DUE: Discussion Board #3 --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	11/11	NO CLASS- Veteran's Day- YSU Closed		DUE: Discussion Board #4
Wed	11/18	READ: Chapter 14 on Developing and Managing Agency Resources	Developing and Managing Agency Resources	DUE: Quiz #4 --- Download and save slide deck
Wed	11/25	NO CLASS- Thanksgiving Break- YSU Closed		
Wed	12/2	READ: Chapter 12 on Ethics in Macro Practice --- READ: Chapter 10 on Evaluating Macro Practice	Ethics in Macro Practice --- Evaluating Macro Practice --- Intersectionality, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Macro Practice --- Review of Study Guide	DUE: Neighborhood / Community GIM Paper --- Download and save Final Exam Study Guide and slide deck
Wed	12/9		Complete Final Exam	DUE: Final Exam (by 11:59pm)

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.

Written Assignment Guidelines

Written Assignment Guidelines

As social workers we need to possess good oral and written communication skills. Papers and other written material therefore are expected to be well written: with good grammar, sentence construction, spelling, clarity, and organization of ideas and paragraphs. Therefore, ***spelling and grammar check features within MS Word or Google Docs should ALWAYS be utilized and corrections made prior to submitting your work.***

Points will be deducted for spelling, grammar, and APA errors. Students who struggle with professional writing are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the writing center for assistance.

APA Formatting

All written assignments must be structured according to the 7th edition (2020) of the American Psychological Association's (APA) guidelines. For this course, this includes:

- The title of the paper in bold font at the top of page 2 above your first paragraph
- In-text references as needed
- A "References" page written per 7th ed. APA guidelines at the end of the paper (as needed)
- Use 1" margins
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font
- Be double-spaced
- Include a cover page including:
- Page numbers in the top right corner, starting on the cover page
- The title of your paper centered and in bold font, 3-4 lines below the top of the page
- One space
- Your name (first name, middle initial, last name)
- Name of the course
- Instructors' name and title
- Assignment due date

Sources must be credited when a student uses any opinion, idea, data, and/or words, including paraphrasing and direct quotation that is from someone else. The source should be referenced with an APA in-text citation within the paper as well as on the final, separate "**Reference**" page. Sources should be from the last five years or at least from the mid-2010s, except for seminal works (e.g., Freud, Erikson, Darwin). *Wikipedia Will Not Be Accepted as a Reliable Source.*

For additional information and guidance with using APA formatting throughout your paper and your references, go to: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html

Purchasing the *APA Guidelines: Quickstudy Laminated Reference Guide* 7th ed. to assist you with APA formatting is also highly recommended and can be purchased through online stores such as Amazon.com.

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty

Students in this class are expected to abide by the University's academic honesty/plagiarism policy (see the University Bulletin or the Student Code). "Plagiarism is using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to the other person. When you use someone else's words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by revealing the source in a citation. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else, or just use their ideas, you still must give the author credit in a note." You must cite sources from the Internet, or any other form of electronic media used in your work. This instructor reserves the right to upload (or ask you to upload) your papers to Blackboard, Turnitin, or another program that analyzes student work for plagiarism. Any paper suspected of plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the class, and a referral to the University for further disciplinary action.

Instructions for Submitting Assignments

- All assignments should be submitted via Microsoft Teams within our "**Communities and Organization Fall *2026"*** Teams page under the corresponding assignment
- All assignments should be created and submitted in either Microsoft Word or Google Docs (for papers) or by using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Slides (for presentations). **NOTE: *.PDF files will not be accepted***
- When saving your assignments to submit them, save your document with your name and the name of the assignment included (eg. *NameCourseContent Paper1.doc*)
- All graded assignments will be graded and returned via MS Teams with feedback in the comments, on the paper, and/or on an attached grading rubric

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