

## *Graduate Program in Community Social Psychology*

*47.631 Practicum I ~ Fall 2009*

*Monday nights*

*Full Class ~ 6:00-8:40pm*

*Section 1 ~ 5:00-7:00pm*

*Section 2 ~ 7:15-9:15pm*

**Instructor:** Meg A. Bond, Ph.D.

**Primary Office:** Mahoney # B2

**Office Hrs:** Monday 4:30-6:00 pm  
Thursday 5:45-7:00 pm  
or by appointment

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### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Practicum is a capstone experience within the University of Massachusetts Lowell Master's Program in Community Social Psychology. The primary purpose of the Practicum is two-fold: 1) to allow students to apply, integrate, and evaluate the information and skills they have acquired in their masters-level academic course work; and 2) to gain new understandings and competencies as community social psychologists while contributing to a field setting. It is a unique opportunity for learning in the field while making a contribution to the social welfare of our community.

### **GOALS:**

The Practicum is designed to assist students in developing the necessary skills for future work as a change agent. Over the course of the year, students will:

- 1) learn to analyze social problems & design appropriate interventions
- 2) develop skills for carrying out systems interventions
- 3) develop a deeper understanding of ethical and professional standards for work in the community
- 4) expand their understanding of how to work with people and groups of class and ethnic backgrounds different from their own
- 5) build upon current skills and areas of strength
- 6) increase awareness of and address areas for improvement

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Students are expected to read assigned articles that will be distributed in class and/or placed on reserve in the grad office. Also useful:

Brown, M. (2006). *Building Powerful Community Organizations: A Personal Guide To Creating Groups That Can Solve Problems and Change the World*. Arlington, MA: Long Haul Press.

Nelson, G., & Prilleltensky, I. (Eds.) (2005). *Community psychology: In pursuit of liberation and well-being*. London: MacMillan.

## EXPECTATIONS

As members of the seminar, students are expected to fulfill three types of interrelated expectations. One set of expectations relates to the actual fieldwork. A second set of expectations relates directly to the seminar class. A third set involves the completion of written assignments.

### Fieldwork:

1. Devote 10-12 hours per week to supervised fieldwork in a community setting for a total of 150 hours for the semester (from September 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup>)
2. Meet for 1 hour each week with on-site supervisor
3. Develop a Learning Contract with a practicum supervisor that outlines specific learning goals for the full year
4. Substantially meet the goals and objectives in the learning contract

### For the seminar:

5. Attend weekly practicum seminars (please note that attendance at all classes is required. If you have a compelling reason for missing a class, please notify me as far in advance as possible)
6. Read all articles and handouts provide in class
7. Sign up to facilitate a discussion on an assigned "Common Concern"
8. Hand out an outline and recommended readings that support your facilitated discussion

### Written Assignments include:

9. Weekly progress reports
10. Self assessment survey (done in class)
11. Practicum site proposal form
12. Learning contract
13. Timeline of practicum activities
14. Mid-year evaluations from you and supervisor (two separate documents)
15. Mid-year progress portfolio

*Grading in the practicum course is on a Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory (pass-fail) basis. In order to pass, students must fulfill all of the above expectations. Some assignments will be marked:*

- √ + = very well done, keep up the good work
- √ = ok, but could add more depth and detail
- 0 = not graduate-level work, improvement needed

The Learning Contract approval process is as follows:

- Step 1: Submit initial Site Proposal form for Meg's approval (available on line; submit by email prior to the start of the semester)
- Step 2: Work with supervisor to draft learning contract (based on your learning goals)
- Step 3: Revise learning contract based on Meg's feedback
- Step 4: Meg will circulate revised Learning Contract to other faculty for feedback
- Step 5: Revise based on this additional feedback & submit revision for Meg's review
- Step 6: If all's well, you will get formal approval and you & your supervisor can sign.  
If all's not well, you keep revising until it meets grad program criteria.

Many of the course expectations are described in depth on the practicum web site:

**[http://www.uml.edu/college/arts\\_sciences/psychology/Graduate/Practicum.html](http://www.uml.edu/college/arts_sciences/psychology/Graduate/Practicum.html)**.

One course requirement deserves some additional explanation here:

#### Mid year Progress Portfolio:

Your Mid-year Progress Portfolio will be a portfolio of your work to date. It will include a memo that summarizes your work over the semester; a paper that discusses how your work has reflected and built upon community psychology principles; an annotated bibliography; and samples of your work.

- ◆ The memo is a clear summary of what you have done during the semester. This can be in outline form. (2-3 pages)
- ◆ In the paper, reflect on your experiences and learning (e.g., skills, roles, professional issues, and/or personal insights). Make connections to broader systems principles and the theories of community psychology. Cite literature to support your approach. (5-7 pages, typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins).
- ◆ The annotated bibliography should include at least 10 references.
- ◆ Attachments can include products or work samples.
- ◆ If you expect your project goals, learning goals, or time frame to be different from your approved Learning Contract, describe the changes and their rationale. Include a revised learning contact that will guide your Spring Practicum work.

#### **CALENDAR OF CLASSES ~ important note about times**

The calendar of class topics and assignments is on the following page. It is important to note that some weeks we will meet as a full class from 6:00-8:40pm. The nights with this schedule are labeled "FULL CLASS."

There will also be weeks when we will separate into two classes. Section 1 will meet from 5:00-7:00pm, and Section 2 will meet from 7:15-9:15pm. The nights with this schedule are labeled "SMALL GRPS."

### CALENDAR FOR PRACTICUM - Fall 2009

WEEK OF	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS – Due in class
Sept 7	Labor Day holiday - no class	Begin practicum hours Work on Learning Contract with supervisor
Sept 14 FULL CLASS	Overview & Orientation to Course Outline Learning Contracts (in class)	Self Assessment Form (done in class) Beginning draft of Learning Contract <i>Weekly progress report</i>
Sept 21 FULL CLASS	Entry Issues: Getting to know your context Next step with Learning Contracts Generate common concerns	Full draft of Learning Contract <i>Weekly progress report</i>
Sept 28 SMALL GRPS	Supervisor Orientation Meetings	Revised Learning Contract Draft Timeline <i>Weekly progress report</i>
Oct 5 SMALL GRPS	Small Group Discussions	Second revision of Learning Contract <i>Weekly progress report</i>
Oct 12	University closed – no class	<i>Weekly progress report</i>
Oct 19 FULL CLASS	Supervision & how to make the most of it	<i>Weekly progress report</i>
Oct 26 FULL CLASS	Common Concerns	<i>Weekly progress report</i>
Nov 2 FULL CLASS	Common Concerns	<i>Weekly progress report</i>
Nov 9 SMALL GRPS	Small Group Discussions	Handouts from CC groups <i>Weekly progress report</i>
Nov 16 SMALL GRPS	Small Group Discussions	Handouts from CC group <i>Weekly progress report</i>
Nov 23 FULL CLASS	Common Concerns	Handouts from CC group <i>Weekly progress report</i>
Nov 30 FULL CLASS	Common Concerns	<i>Weekly progress report</i>
Dec 7 SMALL GRPS	Small Group Discussions	<i>Weekly progress report</i>
Dec 14 FULL CLASS	Reflections & Anticipation	Mid-year progress portfolio due Fri 12/18 Mid-year evaluation due Fri 12/18 <i>Weekly progress report</i>