

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: HMS 100

Credits: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Human Services

Course Description: Introduces human service agencies, roles, and careers. Presents a historical perspective of the field as it relates to human services today. Additional topics include values clarification and needs of target populations. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: To expose students to the broad range of functions and services of the human services delivery system and profession. The various roles and functions of the human service professional, within the broad spectrum of human service agencies and organizations, will be examined. The course will focus on helping students understand the requisite knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be effective “change agents.” Current and emerging social problems and issues on a national and global level and the interventions and “best practices” for how these problems’ issues are addressed will be explored. The course will place heavy emphasis on the need for students to understand and appreciate diversity, cultural competence, professional values and standards, ethical practice, and the relevance and impact of these on the professional development of a human service practitioner. Students engage in self-awareness through classroom exercises and role plays and discuss the relationship and significance of personal awareness to effective practice as a human service professional.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Discuss the skills and roles of a human service professional;
- b. Identify the various human services agencies and jobs in the service delivery system and the services they provide;
- c. Discuss the history of human services and the mental health movement, in particular, as it relates to the human service professional;
- d. Identify the attitudes, characteristics, and professional values of a human service professional;
- e. Identify the structure and policies of human service agencies and how they impact service delivery;
- f. Explain the change process and demonstrate how to facilitate change in a client system;
- g. Articulate a knowledge of various theories of human development and its application to clients;
- h. Cite basic case management techniques and examine how case management is used in agency settings;
- i. Articulate an understanding of basic counseling and interviewing skills;
- j. Explain the various intervention methods used by human service professionals;
- k. Discuss the trends, issues, and changes in human services in the U. S. and globally; and
- l. Articulate an understanding and appreciation for diversity as it relates to practice in the human services field.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: May 1, 2012