Metropolitan State University

SOC 309 : Homelessness: Critical Issues for Policy and Practice

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: WRIT 131 Writing I or equivalent, or have instructor's permission.

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course explores the experiences of homelessness and the public policies that affect them. The problems of homelessness are viewed from sociological and historical perspectives, as well as from a more experiential angle. The course emphasizes assessing the needs of people experiencing homelessness and students serving as their advocates. Particular attention is devoted to race, gender, class, and age. Service learning is an integral part of this course. Students are expected to give forty-five hours of service to people experiencing homelessness.

B. Course Effective Dates: 08/01/1998 - 09/05/1999 09/06/1999 - 12/15/2012 12/16/2012 - 08/15/2017 08/16/2017 - 08/18/2019 08/19/2019 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Ability to apply knowledge to the social problems confronting a diverse homeless population at an upper division college level.
2. Develops the higher order thinking skills necessary to analyze, interpret, and evaluate public policies and practices as they impact homelessness.
3. Knows and understands the issues, history and concepts of homelessness at an upper division college level.
4. Understands approaches to meeting basic needs and recognizes policies required to reduce homelessness.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies

None

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
4. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
2. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
4. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

G. Special Information
Community Engagement