WS 310-4: ST – Women's Issues in Social Work

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Office hours: Tues. 3 – 5 pm and by appointment

Social work is a 'caring' profession that has evolved in specific ways over the last one hundred and fifty years. Students will discuss this history from the standpoint of women and their role in professionalizing the daily work of caring and compassion. This course will also explore the wide range of professional sites and practices that encompass what we have come to know as the contemporary field of social work, and it will explore how an application of anti-racist and feminist thought might be relevant to student's future daily practice of social work.

Topics to be covered: a definition of the practice of social work; the role of a social worker in social work practice; the feminization of poverty, family issues, and child welfare; case studies related to private practice, agency and community work, and participating in senior levels of administration as a social worker; and, future directions in the field of social work.

Required readings:
A Custom Courseware Package will be available from the university bookstore.
Each week students will be required to read two or three selected readings organized to introduce an historical, theoretical and practical knowledge base of social work.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Participation - each student receives a grade for being prepared for thoughtful class discussion. 15%
Midterm exam - (in class) 30%
Paper - (15 - 20 pages -the topic will be self-selected on an issue relevant to social work.) 40%
Presentation – each student will present fifteen minutes on a self-selected topic which can be related to their paper. 15%

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.