



## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

**1. Book Review.** *Days in the Lives of Social Workers* contains fifty-four first-person accounts of experiences in social work practice. Reading it should give you a sense of the rich variety of settings in which social workers practice, and the tremendous range of activities they undertake. I want you to read this book for two reasons: first, as an introduction to the scope and variety of the profession; second as a series of examples of writing about experience. Once you have read the book, please write a brief, well organized essay that identifies and discusses at least three common themes that occur in multiple entries. In addition, please answer the following questions 1) What did you learn from this book that may help you in your placement? In your career plans or application for graduate school? 2) Do you recommend this book and if so, to whom?. Your review should be brief, no more than five double spaced typed pages, shorter if possible. Your review is due on Monday, September 24. Together with occasional homework sheets, it accounts for 20 % of your final grade.

**2. Term Paper.** Your term paper is due at our last class, Monday, December 10, 2007. It should report, analyze, and reflect upon the entire experience of the placement. It should contain explicit references to the assigned reading and to the book you selected for independent reading. These should be documented in either MLA or ASA style. It is the primary basis for your final grade (60%) and is intended to be a major part of your learning experience. It must contain, at a minimum, the following :

**A. The agency and its clients.** Write a brief description of your agency and the clients it serves. Describe the agency's purposes, its style, its activities, and its accomplishments. Distinguish between manifest and latent functions. Pay attention to informal as well as formal structure. Describe its history, mission and environment.

**B. Your helping process.** Describe and analyze your efforts to assist your clients. What do you do, and why? Use Middleman and Wood, the book you selected for review, and any additional reading to analyze and evaluate your work. Include at least one example of an instance in which you consciously tried to apply what you had read in Middleman and Wood. How has the reading affected your work? What other influences have guided you? How can your work be improved? This is the heart of your term paper. USE YOUR JOURNAL and BE SPECIFIC.

**C. Your Growth and Change.** Review your own growth and change over the course of the semester. How has this experience changed you—your assessment of your interests and capabilities, your expectations, your career plans? You have invested a great deal of time and energy in your placement. What have you gotten out of it? What have you learned? There are not specific reading assignments for this section, but integrate the assigned and independent reading as appropriate and USE YOUR JOURNAL.

“Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.”—Hunter College Senate statement on Academic Integrity. For a useful guide to avoiding plagiarism developed at Purdue University, see the following web site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

**Grading: Class participation, 20%; Book review and homework 20%; Term Paper, 60%**