

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Spring 2020</b>
DVST 306	Basic Skills and Practice for Working with Individuals who are Vulnerable and Homeless	Prerequisite: PS 121 or SO 121
		Credits: 3

Spring two-week MODULE (half days)

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Days:</b>	May 19-29 (T-S/M-F)	<b>Instructor:</b>	Alma Fourie, PhD, M. Comm	<b>First day of classes:</b>	May 19, 2020
<b>Time:</b>	9-12:30pm	<b>Email:</b>	afourie@ambrose.edu	<b>Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:</b>	End of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day
<b>Room:</b>	Online	<b>Phone:</b>	403 827 3226	<b>Last day to request revised exam:</b>	n/a
<b>Lab/ Tutorial:</b>	NA	<b>Office:</b>	NA	<b>Last day to withdraw from course:</b>	End of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week
	NA	<b>Office Hours:</b>	NA	<b>Last day to apply for coursework extension:</b>	One month before final due date
<b>Final Exam:</b>	NA			<b>Last day of classes:</b>	May 29, 2020

### Course Description

This course will focus on basic skills and practice when working with individuals who are vulnerable and/or experiencing homelessness. It will explore the challenges faced by individuals who are vulnerable and homeless, such as lack of education and job skills, poor mental and physical health, and addictions. It will also address the importance of case management, its components, and effectiveness. The course is meant to prepare students interested in working with at-risk persons in this population to provide competent and client-centered help.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

- Develop a better understanding of the experience of individuals who have faced homelessness.
- Help students understand the multiple systems involved in the provision of services to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Develop a better understanding of Adverse Childhood Experience Study and what it means to be trauma informed
- Develop a better understanding of use of self in engagement of clients in the helping relationship.
- Learn about case management.
- Learn about Housing First philosophy as an approach to providing housing to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Learn about cultural competence with diverse people.

- Learn about legal and ethical challenges faced by vulnerable individuals, service providers and service agencies.

## Textbooks

Working with Homeless and Vulnerable People, J. Waegemakers Schiff, 2015

## Course Schedule

Will cover information as presented in the textbook from Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Requirements:

### Class attendance and participation (20%)

Students are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time to class. Attendance is required because students' understanding, and integration of the material occurs during class sessions. It is also expected of students to participate in class presentations as well as individual and group experiential activities.

### Two Papers (40% each for total of 80%)

#### Choose any two of the topics below:

- A. Critical evaluation of Housing First as Philosophy

OR

- B. The implications of Covid-19 pandemic on Mental Health Challenges and Treatment Options for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

OR

- C. Based on research, propose your thoughts on affordable housing models for families experiencing homelessness.

OR

- D. Adverse Childhood Experience Study (ACE Study) and the implications for service delivery to individuals experiencing homelessness: a trauma informed perspective.

#### Guidelines for writing this paper:

- Length 8 to 10 pages (double spaced), excluding title page and references.
- The format for the paper should follow the guidelines of the new Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association.
- In completing this paper, you will use research literature to help contextualize and support your discussion. You must use a minimum of ten (10) different references in your paper. Your references should be current, within the last 10 years.
- Papers can be emailed to [afourie@ambrose.edu](mailto:afourie@ambrose.edu)
- *Due date: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2020*

**Submission of assignments:**

All assignments should be submitted via moodle on due date as indicated.

**Examinations**

There is no final examination. Grading is based on class attendance and participation, as well as successful completion of both assignments.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required because students' understanding, and integration of the material occurs during online class sessions. It is also expected of students to participate in class discussions as well as individual and group experiential activities.

**Grade Summary:**

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

*If you will be using percentages, please provide a scale which indicates how percentages in your class will be translated to letter grades. These equivalencies are at the discretion of the instructor, but MUST be stated in the syllabus. You can just cut and paste your scale into this space (removing what is here).*

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

**Other:**

n/a

## Ambrose University Academic Policies:

### Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

### Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and/or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

### Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in

class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

### Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

### Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

### Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

### Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

### **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

#### On Campus:

- Counselling Services: [ambrose.edu/counselling](http://ambrose.edu/counselling)
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at [ambrose.edu/wellness](http://ambrose.edu/wellness).
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See [ambrose.edu/crisissupport](http://ambrose.edu/crisissupport) for a list of staff members.

#### Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

### **Sexual Violence Support**

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – [ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness](http://ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness).

#### Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

**Note:** Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.