JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT ~ SOC 03

• The journal assignments are designed to provide a forum within which you can have some experience with, and, gain knowledge from experiences that you might not encounter in your daily life. This will help to expand and broaden concepts and issues you are studying in class and through reading. Hopefully this will result in a broadening of your perspective on social problems in urban society.

• You must complete two (2) journal assignments. Below is a menu from which you can choose. You may choose Item 12 in the list in order to create your own topic for a maximum of one of the two entries.

• If you elect the student-created option you must discuss your proposed entry(s) with the professor prior to doing the work. You must write a single paragraph description of your proposed entry(s) and obtain the professor’s signature. When the entry(s) is turned in please attach the approval sheet. Student-created entries must conform to the general goal of the assignment, which means demonstrated connection to the course and social issues.

• Occasionally, students will be asked to make informal five (5) minute presentations based on one of the journal assignments they have completed as part of classroom participation requirements. These presentations may occur at any point during the course after the first set of entries has been submitted.

• Journal entries must be double spaced, 12 point font, approximately 3 pages in length, and submitted in the appropriate assignment designation within SacCT.

• After describing (or summarizing) and critiquing your experience, you should discuss how the entry affected your perspective regarding the social issue related to the experience.

• Be sure to write your assignment by including an introduction, body of the discussion, and conclusion.

• Below is a menu of twelve (12) approved entry items from which you may choose.

ITEM 1: ATTEND A MEETING OF A COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.

Identify the association and give a bit of background on this organization. Summarize the issues of concern, how the group functions, what roles the community, individuals, and/or policy makers could and/or do perform and what you could or should contribute.
ITEM 2: EXPLORE THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE ELDERLY IN THE COMMUNITY YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN AND THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SENIORS.

Summarize your findings. What are the various ways in which "aging" is defined by available services and resources? What are ways in which seniors are actively contributing to society?

ITEM 3: VISIT TO A LOCAL SERVICE AGENCY.

Identify the mission of the agency as well as the roles of service utilized within that setting or program. What social issue does the agency seek to address? Summarize your visit and observations including how the experience has impacted you. Would you want to work for that agency? Why or why not? OR How could you collaborate with this agency in order to impact the social issue at hand?

ITEM 4: ATTEND A SELF-HELP OR SUPPORT GROUP MEETING.

Identify what issue this group addresses. Why does the group meet? Summarize your experience and observations. Do you think this group is helpful to its participants? Would you refer a client to the group? Why or why not? Be sure that you attend an "open" meeting and not a "closed" one.

ITEM 5: VOLUNTEER TO WORK FOR A DAY, OR EVENING IN A SOUP KITCHEN, FOOD PANTRY, OR SHELTER.

What common needs do the clients present? Summarize your experience. Summarize the issues of concern, how the group functions, what roles the community, individuals, and/or policy makers could and/or do perform and what you could or should contribute.

ITEM 6: IDENTIFY A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Investigate and discover its access points for clients and/or families. What are the roles and responsibilities of workers who work there? Analyze your findings and summarize. Include your reactions.

ITEM 7: IDENTIFY A LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROJECT AND EXPLORE HOW OTHER PROFESSIONALS COULD BE INVOLVED.

Drug and alcohol prevention and teen pregnancy programs can be considered for this topic as well as other educational projects. Summarize your findings.

ITEM 8: REQUEST A COPY OF CURRENT PENDING SOCIAL LEGISLATION FROM YOUR LEGISLATOR.

Review and critique the bill indicating your analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. Specify and implications for ministry in the urban setting.

ITEM 9: GO TO A PUBLIC WELFARE OFFICE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S INVOLVED IN APPLYING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. (FOR ANY SERVICES OR CONTACT BEYOND COMPLETING AN APPLICATION, IT MIGHT
PROVE BENEFICIAL TO MAKE OTHERS AWARE OF YOUR ROLE AS A STUDENT AFTER HAVING COMPLETED THE PROCESS.)

Obtain and complete the application forms related to public welfare services. What did you learn from the experience? Did you have any difficulties in obtaining the information or in completing the form? Did any of your perceptions of public welfare change?

**ITEM 10:** CONSIDER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AND FOLLOW IT THROUGH THE MEDIA (I.E., TELEVISION, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES) FOR ONE MONTH.

A. Aids  
B. Abortion  
C. Death Penalty  
D. Gang Violence  
E. Child Welfare Services

Summarize the social policy and practice issues from the media information you obtain. Include a critique of the media presentation on the topic.

**ITEM 11:** UNDERSTANDING MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY IN SOCIETY.

Interview members of a single parent and a two-parent family. Summarize and discuss the difficulties encountered by the two. How are their problems similar? How are they different?

**ITEM 12:** CREATE A TOPIC OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING AND DEVELOP AN ENTRY BASED ON THIS TOPIC.