Social work methodology II – Participation and evaluation in social work practice (LM-87) - Academic Year 2011/2012

Course Year: 2nd Master in Innovation in Forschung und Praxis der Sozialen Arbeit
Semester: 1st (26.09.2011 – 21.01.2012)
Exam Code 53014 (Social work methodology II – Participation and evaluation in social work practice)

Scientific Area: SPS/07
Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Walter Lorenz

Module: No
Lecturer other module: /

Credit Points: 4
Total Lecture Hours: 30
Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring: 20

Attendance: According to the regulations
Teaching Language: English
Propaedeutic Course: none

Course Description:
The methodological expertise of social workers, while being based on scientific evidence, is only acceptable when it respects the dignity of the person to whom it refers. The engagement with that person is therefore both an ethical and a practical issue in the identification of appropriate methods, and a focus on the nature of this participative process is essential in social work methodology. At the same time this also requires special attention to evaluation and the criteria for evaluation of one's interventions which need to be built around the same principles of a critical, interactive engagement with the users of social services.

Educational Objectives:
Participants will widen their methodological repertoire of methods of intervention and evaluation in the light of the above principles. In particular, they will learn to incorporate an ongoing process of research into their practice with different client groups and in different situations.

Teaching Methods:
Given the nature of the subject area the emphasis in teaching methods will be on participative interaction. Students will be asked to apply the proposed methodological principles and suggestions to concrete situations of their own past and present practice and explore the value of participative forms of intervention critically and continuously.

Teaching Format:
interactive Seminar based largely on presentations by students

Assessment:
Evaluation of written case presentation and verbal discussion

Required Readings:
Deborah K. Padgett (2009), Qualitative methods in social work research, Los Angeles : Sage, 2008

Supplementary Readings:
Jan Fook (2006), Social work - critical theory and practice, London [etc.] : Sage.
Mary Nash, Robyn Munford and Kieran O'Donoghue (2009). Social work theories in action London [etc.] : Kingsley Publ.
Trevithick, Pamela Social work skills - a practice handbook Maidenhead : Open University Press,