STUDENT COMMENTS FROM SURVEYS:

2017-2018 TEACHING COMMENTS
SOCU420 Social Deviance
Catherine was an amazing instructor. I feel that our in-class discussions were a perfect balance of being student led and instructor guided. Given the course material, this was a great framework to learn and grow in.

The instructor was fine. The length of the class papers were too long, especially the final paper. Makes students more concern about the quantity rather than the quality of the paper.

Dr. Pearlman was instrumental in teaching the subject matter and keeping the students engaged. She provided valuable insight, where the text fell short, and has a tremendous amount of life experience that assisted with the learning process. The assigned text book was the least valuable aspect of the class. It’s references were dated, and at times read as more of an op ed, instead of a factual text.

From Email:

Timothy Halvarson <thalvars@mail.brandman.edu>
Wed 12/6/2017, 12:37 PM
Pearlm, Catherine

Dr. Pearlman,

Due to an unforeseen change in my work schedule, I will not be attending the last scheduled meeting of our deviance class on Monday, 12/11. I will instead, be at work during the evening hours when the class is to be held. As you have previously directed, I will participate in the week eight discussion board and post a response to the prompt by Thursday, 12/14. Thank you for facilitating the class and maintaining an engaging teaching style. The various videos that you chose to show, along with your personal stories, helped to supplement the material from our dated text book.

Tim Halvarson

Aaron Campbell <acampbe9@mail.brandman.edu>
Thu 11/9/2017, 2:16 PM
Pearlm, Catherine

Thank you for the immediate feedback! I'll get right on it!
Ma'am,

Thank you for working with me last session. You really brought my stress levels down. Hope all is well and hope you and your family had a great holiday.

Tim Ward

Good morning Professor,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you again for a great class last term on Deviance. I also wanted to thank you for the encouragement and support during a very difficult time in my life.

I am in the process of applying for my practicum in the Fall and need to obtain 2 recommendation letters. I was wondering if this is something you would be willing to consider to do for me? If you wouldn't mind letting me know, I would truly appreciate it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Shannon Bradley

SOWK493 Practicum I
The professor is knowledgeable and understanding. If there is any questions or concerns she answers them in a timely manner. She goes above and beyond to assure that her students are doing well in her class and reaches out to make sure she knows the progress of her students. I appreciate my professor. I would definitely recommend her to other students and to my friends who are looking into getting into the same field work as I am.

Provided thoughtful and positive, encouraging feedback. Was realistic in her expectations of internship workload and course workload.

Professor Pearlman was very knowledgeable of what is expected of us as interns, and she gave us a few tips. In her feedback, she did a good job at relating what we posted with encounters she has had. Overall, she has done a great job in helping us throughout our internship.

Great professor. Appreciated the guidance during my field work practicum.
This is my second class with Professor Pearlman and she has been my instructor yet. She does not mind helping or listening. She works well with her students and provides feedback as needed.

Student email:

Teresa Morris <tmorris3@mail.brandman.edu>  
Thu, 12/21/2017, 1:24 PM  
Pearlman, Catherine  

Hi Catherine,

I wanted to thank you again for your kindness and teaching methods during the session. Will you be the instructor for 494?

Have a wonderful holiday!

Teri

SOWK494 II
The professor was mindful of out practicum and school work. She provided an outline of what we should be working on weekly to finish our final paper.

The instructor is caring, fair, and engaging. I would highly recommend her.

SOWK 495 Practicum III
Good instructor.

Professor Pearlman gave me very informative and useful feedback. Her constructive criticism helped me grow as a student and intern. Throughout our three terms together, she was very helpful and easy to contact.

The professor was approachable and checked in personally. I really appreciated that.

Thank You!

2016-2017 STUDENT COMMENTS

440086|Absolutely. Dr. Pearlman is an awesome professor. This is the second time I have been in one of her classes. It would be great if she were teaching all three practicum courses.
452890|Teacher is very professional; gives GREAT feedback and good learning material
451926|This instructor provided very good feedback and was honest. She made herself available and is helpful.
452903|Prof Pearlman is professional, encouraging, and creates a positive learning environment. She cares a lot for her students and is available for help if needed. She responds quickly to questions by email or telephone.
452211|Professor has been amazing and very helpful with me since I have had these classes. Thank you for everything.
451885|Professor Pearlman truly cares about the progress of her students and makes sure they are moving forward in their studies.
451828|DR. PEARLMAN IS AWESOME! CARING, COMPASSIONATE, CONNECTED. HER CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE HAS BEEN AMAZING!
451885|DR. PEARLMAN HAS BEEN A BEACON OF LIGHT DURING THIS COMPLETELY NEW EXPERIENCE. I WOULD RECOMMEND HER HIGHLY.
451926|I appreciate the check-in calls and the continuous support, thank you
461677|Professor Pearlman is a great professor. She is caring, supportive, and passionate about her students and interactions. She was very efficient with communication and updates and reliable. Professor Pearlman, had my best interest at heart and made my practicum experience feel like a breeze. I am extremely grateful to have had her as a professor for three consecutive classes. I thank her for believing and empowering me through this journey.
461669|Dr. Pearlman has been a rock and wealth of information and support. I can't express my disappointment as I realize I will be leaving her courses for practicum. I have had many questions over the last 24 weeks. Many. Dr. Pearlman has made herself available, not only through email, she additionally scheduled phone conversations which helped me to understand more clearly, direction, self reflection, content, and the role of social work in the complex field of children's services. I will be forever in her debt.
461516|I have really enjoyed this instructor she has been great and very helpful.
436566|I am a working student. All the people I know that attend school, are also working. I don't always know what shift I will be working, so it's easy for me to miss the Thursday and Sunday deadline. Professor Pearlman has been understanding of my problem.
441988|The instructor really appears to care about the performance of the student. What I was impressed about was when she notice that I had a written problem I would highly recommended this instructor to another student. She was organized and provided clear instructions and gave a variety of learning opportunities, such as different websites, pictures and videos. She was compassionate and always there if you needed any help. My professor is wonderful. She is helpful and understanding. I appreciate her teaching and and she amazes me with the videos that she has created on her own to share with the class. I can truly see the passion for teaching my professor has. I hope that she may continue to work hard as she does and stay creative and open. I am very grateful for my professor and all the help that she has given to me. Overall, the professor was very knowledgeable in the material and did provide great feedback to the assignments. She is a fair, professional and ready to help instructor
She was fair with me on a paper that I turn into the writing lab that took 5 days to get back to me. The assignment was late and she still accepted it. The professor really knew her material and made learning fun. I would definitely take a course with her again! The professor was well versed in this course, provided material (videos, websites) to facilitate learning and although she had a very large online class she was personal and interacted with me individually. Very informative class and there's a lot to learn. I wish we had more time to go over everything. I thought she did a great job and graded in a timely manner and an accurate manner. Great instructor that lead a thought-provoking class. Excellent instructor and course! A wonderful reinforcing class of continued social work theory and application! professor was great gives feedback and engages with students. I was given multiple opportunities to review and use the material that was being taught for a more concrete understanding. Everything in the class was great. My only complaint is the writing lab says I should hear back from a tutor in 72 hrs. It took five days to hear anything from anyone. I do not try to use the lab because of that reason. I never get a paper back in time. My biggest concern with this course is the professor did not respond to either of the two emails I had sent her. The emails contained questions about the quizzes and challenges to some of the answers, which again, went unanswered. The instructor was very helpful and instructions were clearly stated. The chapters are very long, I wish there was more time to read everything. This is a great professor gives appropriate amount of work that is doable with a busy schedule. Gives feedback and extra articles relating to topics. overall great Dr. Pearlman is an amazing resource and inspiration to have as an instructor. This was my second class with her and I really enjoyed her style of teaching, and the valuable knowledge that I learned in her class!

STUDENT COMMENTS FROM EMAILS:
Nanci Alvarado <nalvarad@sbch.org>
Mon 5/22/2017 11:54 AM
To: Pearlman, Catherine

Thank you SO much for your leadership and support throughout my practicum. It was truly appreciated!

Nanci Alvarado
Coordinator
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Cottage Children's Medical Center
p: (805) 879-4244
f: (805) 879-4266

Cottage Children's Medical Center

Lisa Sherwood <lsherwoo@mail.brandman.edu>
Mon 5/22/2017 7:33 AM
To: Pearlman, Catherine

Good Morning Prof. Pearlman,

I just wanted to check in with you and let you know I am at 338.5 hours. Almost there!

Also, I wanted to thank you for all of your help, your comments and your advice. I have appreciated everything you have done for me. Going back to school has been huge for me and it has taken me many years (almost 11!) to get to where I am as I usually have taken only one class at a time, and occasionally have had to take time off here and there. I have a lot of exciting changes coming up in life this summer and I am so looking forward to a career change.

Thank you for everything, and I will let you and Prof. Sibyl know as soon as I finish up my hours.

Always,

Lisa Sherwood
Good evening Prof. Pearlman,

Two things: Did you receive the email I sent to you regarding my supervisor's information? For week 7, is there an alternative post for this week's discussion post seeing that this current week is my first week?

On a lighter note, I never knew how tired I would be from working full time, making means to accommodate 16 extra hours a week for this internship and still manage to be a mom. I know the end result will be wonderful and I know that after the first couple of weeks I will be able to physically adjust to my demanding schedule. Thanks again for all of your support and confidence in me as a student. It really means a lot.

Whitney Garrett

Jessica Papke Smith <jpapkesm@mail.brandman.edu>
Thu 9/29/2016 3:38 PM
To:  Pearlman, Catherine  

Catherine,

Thank you again for the opportunity to redo the first paper. I was nervous about the whole class after getting the first feedback and grade. That gave me that gut wrenching scared feeling. Thank you for the positive feedback on that paper and the Literature Review paper as well. Getting that positive feedback and better grades really made me feel much better and stopped doubting my ability for this class. Just wanted to say thank you, and let you know I really appreciate that!

Jessica

2015-2016 STUDENT COMMENTS

Fall 1 Practicum 1 SOCU 493
333384|This was one of my best experiences with an instructor and I am hoping to have her again for my next practicum course.
332725|Dr. Catherine Pearlman is a wonderful instructor I love taking classes with her she is very
helpful, fair, and knowledgeable in the field of social work.
Overall very helpful when it came to questions about our internships.

**Fall 2 Practicum 2 SOCU 494**
Dr. Pearlman was very helpful and understanding when it comes to our practicum hours. Dr. Catherine Pearlman is a wonderful professor who goes above and beyond to help along the way with anything you may need. I would highly recommend her to other students. I absolutely enjoyed having this instructor and am disappointed that it will not be her instructing my next term of practicum. Our interactions were always positive and she was very helpful. She has been my only instructor to use Adobe Connect and I felt it really added to the course.

**Spring 1 Youth at Risk SOCU 391**
Catherine is an excellent professor. She is very knowledgeable and responsive. Professor Pearlman was amazing. Her in class discussions were insightful and stimulating. She was able to get everyone in the class to participate. I knew what she was talking about. Excellent instructor. Meaningful and direct, open minded, presented useful and meaningful information. She is in my top 5 instructors list for Brandman.

**Spring 1 Research**
Overall, the professor offered a lot of useful information for anyone going into the social work field. It was really interesting to get to try new ways of research and different styles of essays. What I appreciated most about Dr. Pearlman, was the fact that she wrote specific comments in the grade book. This direct relaying of the where I needed to improve saved me from drowning in a class where the material was a little complex for me. I would strongly recommend Dr. Pearlman to future students.

Professor P. was great. She responded promptly to DBs, questions, and provided feedback that helped me understand topics I had problems with. This class was probably the most challenging I have taken so far, and her guidance and was greatly appreciated.
The course started off very hard. At one point I second guessed staying in school because this class was so hard. I hung in there, and I am happy that I did not give up. My instructor tested me and challenged me to do better. So yes I would recommend my instructor to everybody.

The instructor provided extra support in the form of Adobe Connect meetings each week.
The feedback she provided was useful and helped me to work to improve my research skills and understanding of the course material. She asked me important questions, she provided some Adobe Connect sessions, and she provided rough draft feedback quickly. The class instructions and assignments were clear. The teacher provided useful information prior to the assignment so that way you had other resources in case the book didn't explain clear enough. Responded to questions you had, really quick and provided constructive criticism and feedback to better your work. Great experience with this instructor and the course. Dr Pearlman was a wonderful instructor with great feedback. I was able to learn more in this class due to her feedback. I appreciate her help. I would definitely recommend her to other students. Also, I have to add a comment stating my gratitude for Dr. Pearlman for having the foresight to ask us to turn in a rough draft or outline of our signature assignment! One thing I would recommend doing, would be to give a sample of the literature review and the research proposal. That way, we as students can better understand exactly what the professor is looking for and not ending up with bad grades simply because we have never done anything like the type of paper the professor is wanting. I did think that the literature review and especially the research proposal are great essays and should be continued to be used, however, having a sample would help tremendously. Professor Pearlman is a great teacher. She is professional and was clear about course content. She taught me quite a bit.

**Summer 1**
**Youth At Risk**
The Professor provided relevant information in addition to coursework which increased learning opportunities. Feedback and insight was provided. Professor Pearlman cares about teaching, she is a consummate professional, knowledgeable in her discipline, attentive to the needs of the students, and consistent with her teaching style. I appreciate all her contributions to my education. Professor was fair and communicated well when errors in assignments were made.

Please share any other comments you have about this course and/or instructor.

Professional and a pleasure. I learned a lot! My passion to work with youth increased.
Alisia Ramos <aramos3@mail.brandman.edu>
Tue 3/8, 9:04 PM
Pearlman, Catherine

Yes. I will hand in my Signature Paper. It will be in by Wednesday. I was working on it, but have been sick the last couple of weeks. Had a tough time concentrating on the paper. Thank you very much for your class. You have given so much feedback that has helped me in the class. This has been one of the classes that I have learned the most from.

Thanks again!!

Theresa Waller <twaller@mail.brandman.edu>
Mon 2/22, 2:43 PM
Pearlman, Catherine

Hello Dr. Pearlman,
I just wanted to say thank you so much for your feedback on my research proposal. I made several changes including moving my "Appendix A" questionnaire location (I had it placed after my reference pages, although not sure why I initially did that). Come what may, I'm happy with my efforts. It's been a great class...and it's not over yet!
Best regards,
Theresa Waller
Hi Dr. Pearlman,

I just wanted to say thank you for all your help and instruction during this spring session. Your class was the most interactive so far and I took all your feedback to heart.

Have a great Spring Ill!

Sincerely,
Radha Jessani

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Hello Dr. Pearlman,

I just wanted to say that I really appreciate your announcements and generous communications with the class. Also, I appreciate that you'll be offering some Adobe office hours as we progress. Some of us may just take you up on your offer! :)
Good morning Dr. Pearman,

I wanted to take a moment to show appreciation for your helpful comments in the grades section of Blackboard. I know I can't reply in that section, however, I just wanted to reply here if I may.

Hi Dr. Pearlman,
Just wanted to thank you personally for such an informative and thought-provoking course. The challenges of it being virtual were compensated by your responsiveness and feedback. Unfortunately I was out of the country for the last Adobe mtg and think I could have benefited. I appreciate the fact that you offered them.

All the best,
--
Sahra Khan
Mobile: (805) 217-3348
skhan@mail.brandman.edu
2014-2015 STUDENT COMMENTS
SOCU 391 Youth at Risk Summer 1

- The instructor was amazing at teaching this course! She was extremely gift at teaching and knows her facts! I would suggest for anyone to take a class with professor Pearlman. Everyone needs to experience her teaching.
- The instructor is also a social worker. She speaks from experience and not just what we read in the books.
- One of the best teachers I've ever had top 10
- I loved Professor Pearlman. I thought she was so informative and really a professor that I could connect too. She provided a healthy environment for our class time and offered constructive feedback when needed inside and outside of class. I would love to take another course with her as she was a great role model. I also went to her about starting out in the social work field. She had great advice about where to start out.
- Professor Pearlman is extremely knowledgeable in this field of study. I truly enjoyed the videos she showed us and the conversations she initiated in the class room. She allowed us to speak our minds, even if we all didn't agree with each other. I really enjoyed having her as an instructor.

Course feedback
- I did not like the fact that we had to do two agency visits. Most people attend Brandman
because we all work full-time and have family obligations and trying to fit in two agency visits in such a short period of time is difficult, especially when a lot of places were not willing to meet with us in person. I would also recommend only using the Youth in America book (a more update version if possible) for this class. That one was much more informative.

- One of the books for this course, Youth Crime in America, Roy Lotz is 10 years old. The material is far too outdated for a course in youth crime.

**SOCU 306 HBSE 1 Spring 2**

- Prof. P was awesome!!
- This instructor is excellent very involved and answers questions in a timely manner would recommend to others.
- You have to take this course.
- Prof. Pearlman, provided feedback in a timely productive manner. She made me understand what the different theory's are and how they differ.
- Dr. Pearlman is very knowledgeable and was super willing to work with me on several items, which I very much appreciated. I enjoyed her feedback and really enjoyed this class!

**SOCU 391 Youth at Risk Spring 1**

- I would definitely recommend this instructor to another student because she was very professional yet understanding to family situations.
- The instructor was great! She was constantly in communication with us so there was never any question unanswered.

**SOCU 309 Social Work Research Spring 1**

- It is very important to learn how to do a research because, it will be very helpful as a Social Work, and also to perform well at any task we had to face. My instructor was very knowledgeable with the course content, I was very pleased.
- I felt that Professor Pearlman was knowledgeable about the subject and she offered her knowledge to the class. I am sure if this class wasn't 100% on line I could really expand on how well Professor Peralman taught the class.
- I would recommend this online course to another student because the Professor knew the syllabus throughout each week and taught all the students the same and respectfully. She gave great insight on how to complete each task. Awesome teaching skills, thank you for this eight week course.
- The instructor was helpful and communicated well through emails and even offering an Adobe class meeting that was very helpful. The instructor was encouraging and provided a very positive learning environment.
- Professor Pearlman was a delight to have. Research is always so intimidating, but she made it so clear. She was fully encouraging the entire course and made me happy to be taking this class.
- This was a very difficult class for me and the instructor was helpful and responded in a timely manner to help me reach the learning objectives of the class. This instructor was
amazing due to being one of the few instructors within the social work program who commented on discussion boards and assignments to facilitate learning within the class. GREAT CLASS DUE TO THE INSTRUCTOR SHE REALLY MADE THIS CLASS A GREAT EXPERIENCE WITHIN BRANDMAN.

- If I had another online class with the same professor, I will gladly take the class because I know the professor is ready and prepared for this eight week course.

**SOCU 306 HBSE 1 Fall 1**

- Great Professor.
- I would however the course load needs to be tweaked quite a bit. There are so many writing assignments that I believe that some should be cut and/or a cumulative writing project due at the end of the 8 weeks. Working full time, doing my internship, taking this course and doing my coursework for the internship is a LOT to handle- and I know I can't be the only one in this situation.
- Helpful, easy to talk to etc.
- Professor worked with me when i had a medical emergency that took me our of state and on the road for two weeks
- I would recommend this instructor, she is very resourceful and she gives you the feedback that you need and gives you the praise and understanding of all homework. Very responsive when she emailed and I just enjoyed having her as my instructor, it makes a huge difference when you have a supporting instructor.
- I fully enjoyed this course and felt like it was well worth my time and effort. The instructor contributed to this by communicating on a weekly basis through an announcement that reflected she was evaluating our work and gave general areas for improvement. In addition, she gave detailed and specific feedback that let me know where I fell short of expectations and allow me to improve in the future. She came across as being approachable and made me comfortable asking questions. She also sought student feedback to identify areas where the materials, assignments, or her teaching could better suit the students.
- This was by far one of the best courses and instructors I have had at Brandman. I know some students felt there was too much work, and some assignments were removed, which was actually disappointing. I understand that many students have time constraints, but when signing up for a course, I expect to be required to dedicate a specific minimum amount of time to reading and assignments. I think some students are used to have courses with the bare minimum of expectations, and aren't used to the work that should be expected of them. I felt that then assignments which were removed would have benefited my knowledge and understanding of the course, as well as have done similarly for other students.
- This course was very informational and interesting because I like the way conducted the discussions. Overall great course and instructor.

**SOCU 304 Fall 2**

- Professor Pearlman was a great instructor that was very demanding about the quality of work that she wants from the student- which is good. She really knows the field and was
helpful when there were needs.

- **Very nice instructor.**
- Dr. Pearlman has been a fabulous instructor. She has worked with students in the class to assure that each had a worthwhile experience. She has been supportive, quick to respond to students, and it is clear that she is knowledgeable in the subject. I would be happy to take a class with her again.
- **Very open to suggestions and fair.**
- She is a great professor and tries to work with you to figure out how she can help you with your dilemma.
- I enjoyed this class and with every post graded I could tell that the post were read and thoughtfully graded.
- Instructor replied to emails quickly. She was very nice and understanding when situations outside my control occurred. She communicated effectively and I knew what was due and when at all times. I enjoyed this class.
- I know it is a required class but if I had another instructor I might have understood the content more. I just really did not understand it how the instructor was teaching it.
- While the instructor for this course was great, the course design was poor. Both the quizzes and the discussion board questions were poorly designed, and did not provide the opportunity to accurately measure learning in this class. Questions for the quizzes were poorly worded and tended to focus on minutiae rather than the overarching themes of this course. In several cases, my answers were marked incorrect when in fact, I was able to provide direct quotes from the assigned text proving that my answers were correct. In each of these cases, the instructor agreed and changed my quiz score. The quizzes were the worst part of this course. Instead of providing a worthwhile evaluation of learning outcomes, they served instead as merely a source of frustration and disappointment. The discussion topics were only slightly better. The discussion questions were repetitive and focused more on regurgitation of information instead of critical thinking. Please note that this criticism is not from an u
- This course, due to the pre-designed quizzes was one of the most difficult classes I have experienced at Brandman.
- The questions were often vague and ambiguous to the topic of discussion. Many times the correct quiz answers were wrong,
- which made more work for our Professor to go back and correct.
- | The quizzes for this course were frustrating. They were not conducive to learning the course material.
- The questions to our quizzes were confusing and a lot of students did not do so well on them because of that. The professor did try to correct it by giving the students extra credit but that was in the 6th week which really of no help to a student like me who was already struggling to understand.
- Quizzes were difficult. Even after reading the materials provided for the week, I felt like some of the questions were worded funny and it took me at least 45 minutes to complete the 25 sections quiz. I would feel that I did well on the quiz but mostly got B’s. The wording was a bit tricky and I often saw after when reviewing my quiz with the answers that I had misunderstood the nature of the question. Other than that, I fully enjoyed the class. It was very informative.
- Quizzes seem to be very off in this course and very hard even if someone read/study the
information from the given textbook.