

## Social Work Course Descriptions

**SW 225 SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE** This course is the first in the social work curriculum to begin the process of establishing a knowledge base for practice. As a foundational level course, it is of significant importance in the curriculum. Students will study the history of social work through the eyes of those who set out to change the world through the establishment of the profession of social work and their advocacy in the field of social welfare. They will be introduced to the roles and responsibilities of professional social workers, the mission of the profession as it relates to social and economic justice, and the importance of advocating for the poor and the disadvantaged. Students will learn skills of self-reflection and self-regulation in the management of personal values and professionalism. Students will learn the importance of ethical behavior. They will learn about advocacy and the importance of research and life-long learning. This course addresses the multitude of current and dynamic issues facing social workers today. It addresses the importance of professional social work in critical practice settings and how the profession is making a difference in changing the world through advocacy for social and economic justice. 3 credit hours.

**SW 235 INTRODUCTION TO CHILD WELFARE** This course provides the student with foundational level knowledge on the historical and statutory basis for child welfare practice. The students will examine all components of the current child welfare system and its federal mandate. Students will learn about and discuss issues of child maltreatment/abuse, the rights of children and parents, and the significance of family in a system with the authority of the government to intervene and/or remove children who are at risk of harm. Students will gain a working knowledge of the definitions of child abuse and neglect. They will learn about and discuss theories of practice, family systems, and the policies that effect practice in child welfare. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing required. 3 credits hours. Cross-listed with PSY 235.

**SW 306 SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS** This course further develops an understanding of contemporary social welfare policies and programs, including private, public, and combined programs. Examines the various historical, political, economic, and societal influences on the development of social welfare policy and service delivery and/or the policy-making process. Provides a framework to analyze and evaluate social welfare policies and programs. Context for policy analysis includes human diversity, human rights, and social and economic justice. Policies related to child welfare, physical and mental health, assistance to the poor, social insurance, hunger, shelter, and civil rights based on gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and immigration will be discussed. The importance of policy practice will be introduced and integrated through community interviews. 3 credits hours. Prerequisites: 225 and SW 235.

**SW 310 SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODS I** This course introduces research methodology pertinent to the evaluation of human service programs, and discusses the rationale for conducting evaluations. Among the topics discussed are the relationship of evaluative efforts to program design and implementation, threats to validity of program evaluation, constructing a measurement plan and designs for program and evaluation. Program evaluation knowledge, skills and techniques, such as needs assessment, operationalization of variables, levels of measurement, statistical significance, efficiency and outcome evaluation are introduced. This

course emphasizes this methodology when conducting formative evaluations, i.e., needs assessment, program development, market research. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 225 and SW 235, AL 169 and Social Work Major.

**SW 326 SKILLS & METHODS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE I: STRATEGIES FOR HELPING INDIVIDUALS** This course is the first in a sequence of three required social work practice courses. Practice I focuses on the development of skills and strategies for helping individuals within a variety of social work and host settings. Key concepts of generalist practice are applied to the development of relationship building and interviewing skills. Generalist Practice is examined as a problem solving process which includes engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation. Students learn to view clients and client systems from a strengths perspective. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 225 and SW 235 and Social Work Major.

**SW 327 FIELD EDUCATION I** is taken concurrently with SW 328, Field Seminar I. This course engages the student in the practice of beginning social work skills and tasks within an agency setting over a period of one semester. It is designed for the senior level student and requires an average of 16 hours per week in the agency for a minimum of 216 hours. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 225 and SW 235, SW 306, SW 346, SW 347, SW 326, SW 426, SW 436, SW 310, SW 410.

**SW 328 FIELD SEMINAR I** is taken concurrently with SW 327, Field Education I. A seminar format will provide for the sharing of practice experiences and practice issues that occur during field practicum. Discussion topics will focus on agency orientation, self-awareness issues, engagement skills, critical thinking skills, ethical dilemma awareness and the development of the professional self. The seminar will provide for the integration of field experience with classroom learning through discussion and assignments. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 225 and SW 235, SW 306, SW 346, SW 347, SW 326, SW 426, SW 436, SW 310, SW 410.

**SW 346 HUMAN BEHAVIOR/THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I** This course will examine ecological systems theory. This course develops the person-in-environment concept in social work. Individuals grow and develop within the context of families, groups, organizations, and communities. This course also examines the relationships among human biological, social, psychological, and cultural systems as they affect and are affected by human behavior within the human life span. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 225 and SW 235 and BIO 146.

**SW 347 HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II** This course further develops the person-in-environment concept in social work, with a specific focus on macro systems and their impact on society, and on human diversity. The course provides a framework for understanding and analyzing the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. The course includes theories used in macro practice and the development of a knowledge base with a macro perspective on families, groups, organizations, institutions, and communities. Students learn how diversity shapes the human condition and how culture affects the perception and interaction in the social environment. The course provides students with a knowledge base on the interactions among and between systems at all levels of practice, and how human behavior and the environment are impacted by the interactions. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 225 and SW 235 and BIO 146.

**SW 410 SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODS II** This course builds on SW 310 and introduces research methodology pertinent to the evaluation of human service programs and individual practice, and discusses the rationale for conducting such evaluations. The written research report is emphasized with student participation in a mock research project and written paper. Each section of the written research report is discussed in depth with continued knowledge building of research methodology. Among the topics discussed and practiced through assignments and written paper are writing a title, writing abstract, writing literature review, hypothesis formation, writing methodology (including operationalization of variables, research design, sampling, data collection tools, procedures, and ethics), writing results, writing discussion, and creating a reference list. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 310.

**SW 426 SKILLS & METHODS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE II: HELPING GROUPS AND FAMILIES** This course is designed to help students further develop their social work practice skills for helping groups and families. Students learn how group work is utilized as a method in social work practice. Various types of groups are examined including task groups, interdisciplinary team meetings, and treatment groups. Students learn skills for forming and conducting groups with different client groups. Generalist practice often requires viewing client situations from a family perspective. Students learn to apply concepts from systems theory to understanding the interpersonal dynamics of family functioning. Working with families and groups utilizes a professional problem solving process to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate practice with groups. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 326.

**SW 427 FIELD EDUCATION II** is taken concurrently with SW 428, Field Seminar II. This course is designed for the senior level student and engages the student in supervised direct service activities within an agency setting. This course provides practical experiences in the application of theory and skills acquired in the social work curriculum. The placement requires an average of 16 hours per week in an agency for a minimum of 216 hours. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 327 and SW 328.

**SW 428 FIELD SEMINAR II** is taken concurrently with SW 427, Field Education II. A seminar format will provide a continuing forum for the integration of field experience with classroom learning through discussion and assignments. Discussion topics will focus on the professional use of self, the use of supervision in practice, on agency-specific policy analysis, and agency provision of service. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 327 and SW 328.

**SW 436 SKILLS & METHODS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE III: ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY CHANGE** This course focuses on developing an understanding of larger systems, and skills for practice within that context. The material includes a macro level perspective of social justice, oppression and advocacy, and a review of various theoretical perspectives, including systems theory and the strengths perspective, as they apply to macro level practice. Discussion will surround an examination of traditional and nontraditional social action strategies, including community organization, development and advocacy. Students learn agency and legislative advocacy skills with a specific focus on human rights and social and economic justice. Social work values and ethical perspectives related to social change are analyzed. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 326 and SW 426.

**SW 490 SENIOR INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR** This course provides the student with the opportunity to integrate classroom and practicum experience for application in their entry level professional practice. This course is the culminating integrative process for baccalaureate generalist practice social work student to further develop and refine communication and problem solving skills, to exercise peer support and evaluation skills; to increase self-awareness through group interaction, values clarification, and discussion and analysis of policy and practice issues in the context of social work values and ethics. This course is a self-directed readings, critical inquiry, and discussion seminar. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SW 427 and SW 428.

### **Social Work Elective Courses**

**SW 365 DRUGS, SOCIETY, AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR** This course investigates the physiological, psychological and social implications of drug use and abuse. Common drugs such as nicotine, caffeine and alcohol as well as the less common and illegal drugs such as marijuana, LSD and cocaine are studied. 3 credits hours. Prerequisite: SOC 101 or PSY 101. Cross-listed as SOC 365.

**SW 375 UNDERSTANDING DEATH AND DYING** This course examines the role of family, church and other social institutions in our experiences with death and dying. The student will study current theories and practices related to death and dying from the standpoint of developmental and learning theory, and social and cultural attitudes and practices. Theories regarding grief and loss are included. The student will learn social work intervention skills and methods for working with the dying and survivors. 3 credit hours. Prerequisites: SOC 101 or PSY 101 and sophomore standing. Cross-listed as SOC 375.

**SW 392 AGING AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT** This course investigates the processes of human aging within the social environment. Social gerontology is concerned with the nonphysical aspects of aging. Particular emphasis is placed on its social, psychological, and spiritual aspects, although attention is given to the impact of aging on biological functioning. Group processes, ageism, and social forces that affect the aging process are examined. 3 credit hours. Cross listed as SOC 392.

**SW 425 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HEALTH CARE** This course offers a comprehensive examination of social work practice in a healthcare setting. The course examines current practice settings and issues impacting health care. It examines the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA). The contents of the course examine the integration of physical and behavioral health care, evidence-based practice, transdisciplinary care, and the increased focus on primary health services associated with prioritized prevention, wellness, and chronic illness intervention. It examines issues associated with managed care and the escalating costs of health care. This course identifies skills, ethical perspectives, techniques, and stresses associated with contemporary health and patient care. The course utilizes a systems perspective to service delivery. It places a significant emphasis on the importance on the need for social workers to be attentive to individual, patient, and institutional provider needs. 3 credit hours.