

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCW 151. Introduction to the Profession of Social Work Cr. 3

The major objective of this course is to inform students of the basic issues, concepts, and systems encountered by the social work practitioner in the helping process. Foundational theories and conceptual materials are introduced. This course is required for all social work majors and minors. It can also be of great benefit to students pursuing careers in fields such as corrections, education, ministry, law, nursing, medicine, and church work. A 25-hour community volunteering experience is required.

SOCW 210. Social Welfare: Policy and Services. Cr. 3

The objectives of this course are historical overviews of the economics, social, and political forces that shape the social welfare structure. Descriptive analyses of current social welfare programs, public and private, are examined. Professional values and ethics undergird the content that further examines macrosystem matters affecting human diversity and social justice. This course offers activities in and out of the classroom that are designed to help students see the relevance of social policy. This course may count for partial fulfillment of the Social Sciences requirement.

SOCW 220 Human Behavior and Social Environment Cr. 3

A study of bio-psycho-social and cultural variables that affect development and behavior. General systems theory is used as a theoretical foundation. The use of various other theoretical frameworks is examined as they apply to different social groups (friendship, family, organization, community). Social systems theory is intentionally integrated throughout course content. Gender, race, sexual orientation, and social class issues related to human development and interaction are analyzed. This course may count for partial fulfillment of the Social Sciences requirement.

SOCW 240 Strategies of Intervention Cr. 3

Strategies of Interventions is a unique experiential and introductory interviewing course where students critically examine and learn about foundational theory for core interviewing skills. Additionally, they learn elements of basic counseling theory, the overarching helping process in a multicultural context, and then apply theoretical frameworks in role play, videotaped, and cross cultural exchanges. Built on social work systems theory and the strengths perspectives, students gain experience in applying theory and skills with sensitivity to work with people from diverse backgrounds. The aim is for students to develop beginning level intentional competence as communicators, interviewers, and change agents with client systems.

SOCW 330. Vulnerable populations: Color, Gender, and Orientation. Cr. 3

This course explores the sociopolitical factors that affect current human responses of diversity, major North American populations of African, Mexican, Asian, Native American descent, women of color, sexually-classified groups, and select international groups of oppression are central in social work's approach to group development and interventions. From a systems perspective of social change and human rights, the emerging cultural response and macro systems policy

development are foundational to this study of diversity. Issues around racism, sexism, and heterosexism surface as likely factors in social change planning. Prerequisites: junior /senior status. This course may count for partial fulfillment of either the Cultural Diversity requirement (option B. 2) or partial fulfillment of the Social Sciences requirement, but not for both.

SOCW 340 Professional Intervention and Human Services. Cr. 3+2 Cr. 5

An integrated learning, practice course, which introduces students to the social work planned change process and generalist intervention model. Students learn theories, concepts, and an ethical guide, that provide a framework for generalist social work intervention. Students complete 100 field hours, during which they apply theoretical frameworks in agency settings. Assignments, both in the classroom and in the field, are compiled to create the Junior Level Learning Portfolio. Prerequisites: SOCW 151, 210, 220, 240.

SOCW 365. Introduction to Methods of Social Research. Cr.3

This course examines the application of concepts of research methodology to social work practice. All students will conduct original research and present it in both oral and poster presentations at conferences. The research content includes qualitative and quantitative research methodologies; data analysis, including statistical procedures; systematic evaluation of practice; instrument development; proposal writing and critique, biases in research methods and reports. Prerequisite: SOCW 151, 210, 220, 240, and PSY 201.

SOCW 390. Social Work Colloquium. Cr. 2-3

A study of selected topics reflective of contemporary concerns for the social worker, such as adulthood, women, clinical methods and techniques for helping professions, housing, ethics, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, and poverty. Listings are announced. Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of the Chair of the Department.

SOCW 391. Advanced Seminar in Social Work. Cr. 1-3

Full- or half-semester courses specializing in particular areas of social work practice or methodology such as administration, current issues in group services, family therapy, new techniques for solving community problems, supervision, and children's services. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing and consent of the Chair of the Department.

SOCW 395 V Independent Study Cr. 1-3

This curricular offering gives students an opportunity to independently examine a topic in depth beyond the traditional social work courses. Credit is based on the anticipated length and rigor of the project. Students are required to be in good standing and have at least a 2.5 GPA. Students are assigned a faculty mentor for the project based on faculty expertise and workload. Prerequisite: junior standing and consent of the Chair of the Department.

SOCW 410. Analysis of Social Policy. Cr. 3

An intensive study of social welfare policy, principally in the United States and a historical review of the contemporary forces, primarily social and economic, that have shaped their development. Students will each select a specific policy area in which to focus their research. Common policy areas chosen include social services, education, housing, income maintenance, protective services, and health care

services. Prerequisites: senior standing, consent of the Chair of the Department, SOCW 151, 210, 220, 240, 330, 365.

SOCW 455. Social Work Practice I. Cr. 3

Social Work Practice I is the first segment of the senior theory component designed to prepare social work students to integrate theory and other classroom concepts into actual practice situations. Students continue their integration of learning pertaining to practice content that encompasses ethics, knowledge, and skills for working effectively with diverse individuals, families, groups, and agencies with particular emphasis on the micro and mezzo levels of practice. For practice evaluation purposes, students identify, analyze, and implement empirically based interventions designed to assist clients in achieving goals. Students further develop their professional social work identity, where critical thinking informs action.

Prerequisites: senior standing, Social Work Major, SOCW 340.

SOCW 456. Social Work Practice II. Cr. 3

Social Work Practice II is the continuation and final theory component for senior social work students. The primary focus is on critical thinking, professional use of self, practice, and ethical engagement needed for effective intervention particularly at the macro level of practice. Students prepare, evaluate, and reflect on their undergraduate baccalaureate experience by compiling the Senior Level Learning Portfolio where they demonstrate growth and proficiency in the overarching program objectives. Prerequisite: SOCW 455.

SOCW 485. Integrative Seminar I. Cr. 3+3 Cr. 6

Integrative Seminar I is the first segment of the senior social work practice component designed to prepare competent and effective social work students to become generalist practitioners. Students complete a concurrent educationally directed field practicum of 225 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays in a community social service agency. Students are required to complete assignments reflecting on their interventions and observations. Prerequisites: Senior Standing, Social Work Major, SOCW 340.

SOCW 486. Integrative Seminar II. Cr. 2+3 Cr. 5

Integrative Seminar II is the continuation and final professional foundation course in the practice sequence for senior social work students. The primary focus is on critical thinking, professional use of self, practice, and ethical engagement need for effective intervention. Students complete a concurrent educationally directed field practicum of 225 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays in a community social service agency. Students are required to complete assignments reflecting on their interventions and observations, building on the reflections in SOCW 485.

SOCW 493. Current Issues in Social Work. Cr. 1

This seminar is jointly designed by senior majors and faculty to deal with those issues of concern which currently face clients and practitioners in the social services delivery system. Prerequisite: SOCW 455 and 485.

SOCW 497. Honors Work in Social Work. Cr. 3

Honors work is designated for students of exceptional ability who may benefit by earning a limited number of the credits required for graduation through supervised independent study rather than through regular course work. Students who apply for Honors Work should understand that their work will be evaluated according to the

highest standards of scholarly achievement. A student who has completed at least 80 credit hours, but has not yet entered upon the work of the last two semesters of the undergraduate experience, and who has a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 and a grade point average in the major of at least 3.50 may apply through the department for admissions to Honors Work. See page 54 of the current General Catalog for additional details.

SOCW 498. Honors Candidacy in Social Work. Cr. 3

See Honors Work, page 54 General Catalog 2006-2007.

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