

## **SOCIAL WORK (SWRK) COURSE DESCRIPTION**

### **SWRK 2305 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK (3)**

This survey course is designed for students interested in pursuing a career in social work. Students majoring in closely related fields will also benefit from this course. The history of the profession of social work is provided. Also, the values and ethics of the profession are emphasized as important elements involved in human service delivery when working with diverse populations at various sized systems levels (i.e., individuals, groups, organizations, communities).

### **SWRK 2306 SOCIAL WORK LAB (3)**

This course involves didactic skill practice. Students engage in skill building exercises related to interviewing, communicating, and case management. Various beginning professional practice interventions are examined for work with diverse populations at various sized systems levels. Instruction for this course is experiential, cognitive and affective. Prerequisite: SWRK 2305.

### **SWRK 2307 SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES (3)**

The first of two courses required for the Social Welfare Policy and Services sequence. This course examines philosophical underpinnings of social welfare in the United States, its historical development & contemporary consequences. Students will explore opportunities to promote social and economic justice, and health and wellness. Major policies and programs that address the needs of rural and urban communities are examined and analyzed. The impact of discrimination and oppression on special populations (i.e., elderly, disabled, gays and lesbians, people of color, women) is also examined. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, ECON 2310, SOCI 2320, PSCI 2312, HIST 2318.

### **SWRK 3308 SOCIAL LEGISLATION (3)**

The second of two courses required for the Social Welfare Policy and Services sequence. This course allows students an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and federal governments. Students will learn the content and substance of social welfare policy, social legislation and politics, and issues related to current social programs, laws and legislation. Also, students will be taught to advocate for diverse clients at all sized systems in both rural and urban regions. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307, ECON 2310, SOCI 2330, PSCI 2312, HIST 2318.

### **SWRK 3310 RESEARCH METHODS (3)**

This course introduces principles & techniques of social investigations. Examines various research designs and techniques; and reviews ethical issues as they relate to practice and evaluation of one's own practice. Instruction is cognitive, affective and experiential. Restrictions: Junior and senior status. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307.

**SWRK 3311 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES IN SOCIAL WORK (3)**

This course is a study of the collection and presentation of data; the nature of sampling problems, methods of calculating the common measures, including central tendency, dispersion, standard deviation. Required for social work majors. Prerequisites: MATH 1330, junior or senior standing. Students will need to have some basic knowledge of computer usage.

**SWRK 3322 HUMAN BEHAVIOR & THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I (3)**

The first of two courses required for the Human Behavior and the Social Environment sequence. Emphasizes the social systems approach for studying and conceptualizing the relationship, interrelationship, and interdependency among various systems and subsystems at the various sized systems levels (i.e., micro, mezzo, macro) with a focus on person-in-environment. Provide students with a knowledge base of the bio-psycho-social development of individuals as they develop over the life span and have membership in families, groups, organizations, and communities. Restrictions: Social Work majors only. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307, BIOL 1450, PSYC 2300.

**SWRK 3323 HUMAN BEHAVIOR & THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II (3)**

The second of two courses required for the Human Behavior and the Social Environment sequence. Serve as an orientation to the human biological, cultural, social, and psychological systems which impact human behavior. Uses a psychosocial approach to study developmental patterns of human growth and change across the life span. Presents a variety of theoretical perspectives central to the understanding of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Restrictions: Social Work majors only. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307, 3308, 3322, PSYC 2300, BIOL 1450.

**SWRK 3324 DRUG ABUSE (3)**

This course offers an overview of drug use and abuse beginning with the pharmacological revolutions. Cultural implications related to drug use, regulations, treatment and education are examined. Prevention and treatment interventions to address the needs of special populations (i.e. elderly, disabled, gays and lesbian, women) in rural, urban, and underserved communities are also examined. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307.

**SWRK 3333 RURAL SOCIAL WORK (3)**

This course prepares students for beginning level professional generalist social work practice in rural settings. Also introduces students to the complex nature of rural service delivery systems, including formal organizations, informal social service organizations, and natural helping agencies. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307.

**SWRK 3350 SOCIAL WORK METHODS I (3)**

The first of three courses required for the Social Work Practice sequence. Employs the generalist social work practice approach. Designed for beginning social work majors. Provides a context for working with diverse populations at varied systems levels (i.e., micro, mezzo). Various interventions and techniques are examined. Restrictions: Social Work majors only. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307, all required general education courses.

**SWRK 3351 SOCIAL WORK METHODS II (3)**

The second of three courses required for the Social Work Practice sequence. Presents further knowledge of basic practice skills focused on generalists practice with small groups, organizations, and communities. Provides opportunities to apply problem-solving strategies with varying sized social systems as well as mechanisms to evaluate one's own practice. Restrictions: Social Work majors only. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307, 3308, all required general education and liberal arts courses.

**SWRK 3352 EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN (3)**

This course assists students in social work and other related disciplines to understand the emotional needs of children. Examines various theoretical and conceptual frameworks to demonstrate and integrate theory with practice applications. Students gain an understanding of and appreciation for cultural, racial and human diversity when examining emotional disturbance among children. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307, 3322, 3323.

**SWRK 3372 FAMILY PRESERVATION (3)**

This course is designed to assist students in social work and other related disciplines in developing competent knowledge, skills, and abilities to work with multi-problem families who are at-risk. Models of family preservation programs (e.g., Homebuilders, Families First) are utilized to demonstrate and integrate theory with practical applications toward the alleviation of problems confronting families. Emphasis is focused on family preservation services and projects which provide family-centered child welfare services. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307.

**SWRK 3392 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES (3)**

This course is designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary approach to studying family and children services. Students will gain knowledge and an ability to analyze concepts, laws, policies, and practices in the field of child welfare in relation to the needs of children and their families. Emphasis is on family centered practice and public child welfare. This course is occasionally team-taught with the inclusion of interdisciplinary faculty (i.e., Criminal Justice, Nursing, Psychology, Human Sciences, Education, Rehabilitative Services, Sociology, Gerontology,) and the Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services. Prerequisites: SWRK 2305, 2307.

**SWRK 4310 FIELD EXPERIENCE I & LAB I (3)**

The first of two courses in the Field Practicum sequence which is designed to provide supervision, educationally directed learning and application of classroom learning. In order to complete field experience courses, students are required to complete 410 clock hours of field practicum at agencies pre-approved by the Field Coordinator. Also, students are required to attend one hour weekly lab sessions which allow students the opportunities to integrate classroom knowledge and to expand learning beyond the scope of practicum. Critical assessment, implementation and evaluation of agency policy within ethical guidelines will occur during the field practicum and lab exercises. The practicum experience includes direct contact with clients, process recording, and participation in agency functions. Students engage in practical experience that will serve as the foundation for advanced experiences in the second semester of field experience. Restrictions: Social Work majors only. Prerequisites: All general education and liberal arts courses; SWRK 2305, 2307, 3308, 3310, 3311 (or SOCI 4310), 3322, 3323, 3350, 3351.

**SWRK 4311 FIELD EXPERIENCE II & LAB II (3)**

The second of two courses in the Field Practicum sequence which is designed to demonstrate students' abilities to selectively develop plans of intervention for various client systems levels. Students are required to complete the remaining 205 clock hours of field practicum at agencies preapproved by the Field Coordinator during the first Field Practicum unless a change of agency is deemed necessary. The field practicum and lab experiences will allow students an opportunity to perform with more effectiveness as they gain further knowledge of the activities of bureaucratic organizations and as they engage in practice skills and interventions under strict supervision. Particular emphasis is placed upon the value and knowledge of the distinctive characteristics of diverse client groups and the development of culturally appropriate practice interventions. After completion of this practicum experience, students will be able to interpret policy and implement services for individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations at the entry professional level. Restrictions: Social Work majors only. Prerequisites: SWRK 4310; same prerequisite requirements as SWRK 4310.

**SWRK 4360 COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (3)**

This course is designed to provide students knowledge of macro practice in the human services with an emphasis on skill development, planning, administration, evaluation, and community organizing components of practice. Students learn how practitioners utilize both empirical and conceptual knowledge in a self-disciplined manner to enable indigenous citizens in both rural and urban communities to gain rights as well as necessary resources. Opportunities are provided for students to explore skills and techniques in needs assessment, goal setting, fiscal management, staffing, and assessment and evaluation. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing or instructor's permission.

**SWRK 4363 INDEPENDENT STUDY (3)**

This course is designed to provide social work students with an advanced research proposal development opportunity. Students get an opportunity to pursue special interest areas utilizing various research procedures and techniques, technology, and community networks. Students who enroll in this course are required to have obtained approval from the social work program director. Due to the extensive one-on-one assistance to each student enrolled, a maximum of three students will be approved to enroll in this course. Students are required to submit an abstract to the University's Research Forum or a similar conference as agreed upon by the student and instructor. If the student(s) is selected to participate in the Research Forum and/or another conference, the instructor will assist the student(s) with the research presentation. Restrictions: Social Work majors only. Prerequisites: Senior status; must be approved by Director of Social Work Program and Advisor.

**SWRK 4365 SENIOR SEMINAR IN SOCIAL WORK (3)**

The third of three courses required for the Social Work Practice sequence. This is a comprehensive and integrative capstone course for senior level social work majors. The course is designed to help students integrate course content learned in the explicit curriculum with emphasis on the program's competencies and the following core content areas: Human Behavior and the Social Environment, Social Welfare Policy and Services, Social Legislation, Social Work Practice, Research and Field Practicum within their beginning professional generalist social work practice. The senior seminar provides opportunities and preparation for the student's development of his/her professional use of "self," self evaluation, and proficiency in the self critical and accountable use of social work knowledge, values, and practice skills from the liberal arts. The course also allows students an opportunity to review various theoretical and conceptual frameworks as well as intervention strategies utilized to alleviate discrimination and/or oppression within diverse populations and systems levels. Students are required to attend Social Work Computer Lab sessions which will include: reviews of SPSS, sample examination items for both the Social Work Comprehensive Examination and the Social Work Licensing Preparation Materials. In order to pass this course, all students must score 70 or higher on the Social Work Comprehensive Examination. Students will be allowed only one opportunity to retake the examination. Restrictions: Social Work Director's approval. Prerequisites: All general education and liberal arts requirements; and all Social Work required core courses.