
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**Course Number:** SW 312**Instructor:** Elaine Cavazos, LCSW**E-mail:** ecavazos@myhealingplace.org**Unique Number:** 60320**Phone/Text:** 512-922-4784**Office:** 3.104a**Semester:** Fall 2015**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12-12:30p,
Thursdays 2-3p**Meeting:** Tue/Thurs, 12:30-2:00p
Room 1.212

Generalist Social Work Practice: Skills, Knowledge, & Values**(Required Course – BSW Program)****STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is the first course in the practice methods sequence, in which students are introduced to the fundamental values and ethics, skills, and knowledge relevant to generalist social work practice. Areas covered include the NASW Code of Ethics and Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice; the development of observation, communication, interviewing and assessment skills utilizing the problem-solving approach. Experiential learning is emphasized, including a 45-hour volunteer component in which students have direct client contact.

Standardized Course Objectives

EP 2.1.1-Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly. (PB) Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development, including attending to professional roles and boundaries. (PB) Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.

EP 2.1.2-Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. (PB) Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide work. (PB) Make ethical decisions by applying strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.

EP 2.1.3-Apply critical thinking in practice. (PB) Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge and practice. (PB) Demonstrate effective oral and written communications

EP 2.1.4- Incorporate and enhance diversity and difference in practice. (PB) Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values shape life experiences as well as oppress. (PB) View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.

EP 2.1.5-Advocate for and advance human rights and social and economic justice. (PB) Identify forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. (PB) Articulate how to engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.

EP 2.1.6-Utilize research processes to inform practice. (PB) Recognize how practice experience informs scientific inquiry. (PB) Recognize how research evidence informs practice.

EP 2.1.7-Utilize and apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Explain the major dimensions of generalist social work practice and the planned change/problem-solving process with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
2. Apply Social Work knowledge, values, and skills to their participation in the learning environment.
3. Demonstrate skills in observation, communication, interviewing, assessment and problem solving.
4. Demonstrate the ability to differentially use basic social work skills to reflect the needs of clients of diverse groups distinguished by race, ethnicity, class, gender, culture, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical or mental abilities, and national origin.
5. Identify ethical issues and recognize when client, societal, and/or personal values conflict emphasizing understanding, affirmation and respect for human diversity and social justice in the practice of social work.

TEACHING METHODS:

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized (e.g. discussion, lecture, and group exercises); experiential learning (e.g. volunteer project, role playing, & active learning) will be emphasized.

Use of Canvas in Class: The instructor will use Canvas —a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>

to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, and to submit assignments (if noted). Students can access support in using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk by calling 512-475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please plan accordingly. Additionally, the Learning Resource Center at the SSW (1st floor) has computers and can provide some computer assistance.

Required Text and Readings:

Birkenmaier, J., Berg-Weger, M., & Dewees, M. P. (2013). *The Practice of Generalist Social Work, Third Edition* (3 edition.). Routledge.

Selected Readings: Additional readings from other books and journal articles may be assigned. Any additional readings will be available on UT Canvas.

Classroom Policies:

Professional Accountability/Conduct in Class: The professor expects students to act like professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism.

Part of professional accountability includes treating others with respect and courtesy. Within the class this entails listening to the opinions and concerns of others with openness, offering suggestions and ideas in a positive and respectful manner, and being willing to promote group cohesiveness in the learning environment.

The student is expected to bring any concerns directly to the professor on an individual basis, if the issue is not appropriate to be discussed in class. Students should be prepared to discuss the concern openly, with willingness to accept feedback, and offer possible solutions.

Please turn off cell phones and laptops during class. Avoid side conversations. A description of proper classroom etiquette will be provided.

Time Management: Students will lose 2 points per calendar day that an assignment is late. Assignments are due on Canvas at the beginning of class. Papers turned in after class begins are considered late. On subsequent days, papers must be submitted before 5:00 p.m. to avoid an additional 2-point penalty. The student should email the professor to indicate that the assignment has been submitted.

If a student is absent on the day of a quiz, they will need to schedule a make-up by contacting the professor or class TA within 3 business days by email. If the quiz has not been made up within 3 business days, the student will not be allowed to earn points for that assignment.

Participation Points will be deducted per absence in the following manner:

Absence 1: Zero points deducted

Absence 2: 3 points deducted

Absence 3: 5 points deducted

Three or more absences may result in the student being dropped from the course. Late arrivals will be noted if the student is more than 10 minutes after the start of class. Three late arrivals will count as one class absence.

Classroom exercises, discussions, role-plays, guest speakers and other class experiential exercises are essential for the students' professional learning and continued development of self-awareness. This form of learning cannot be "made up" once missed. Students will be expected to contact their peers to secure any missed notes or handouts. The student may schedule an office visit with the professor if they wish to discuss missed classroom material in more detail.

Students are to notify the instructor prior to class at the given office number if they cannot attend class due to an illness or emergency.

Contacting the Professor: The professor is available to discuss any issues that arise related to class during office hours or by appointment. Additionally, the student can email the professor via Canvas with questions regarding assignments and/or concerns. The student should be prepared that it could take 24-48 hours for the professor to respond. There is a TA assigned to the course and in some instances, the student may receive a response from them instead of the professor.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from

each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at www.utexas.edu/student/cmhc/.

POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and other forms of electronic communication (i.e. blogs, etc.) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of any client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social

Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>).

USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT. Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS. By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, examination, work assignment, or project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

TITLE IX REPORTING. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on gender. Students who report incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or sexual misconduct to faculty, instructors, and/or staff who supervise students, will be provided a list of University resources. If the incident is impacting the academic

environment, a report will be provided to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may be found at <https://www.utexas.edu/student-affairs/policies/title-ix>.

CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO STUDENTS. Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible for keeping the university informed about a change of e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

BEHAVIOR CONCERNS ADVICE LINE (BCAL). If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Course Requirements:

Service Learning Experience: All students enrolled in SW 312 must complete 45 service-learning hours at an approved agency. It is the student's responsibility to locate an agency at which to complete the hours. To aid students in their search for an agency, the Dinitto Career Center is offering the following event:

1st annual Service Learning Fair
Friday, September 11, 2015
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
School of Social Work
Rooms: 2.212 and 2.214

These websites may also be helpful:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/vslc>

<http://www.211centraltexas.org/>

<http://volunteer.truist.com/ut/volunteer/>

More information about how to secure a service-learning site for this course requirement will be given on the first day of class.

The course instructor must grant approval for the service-learning placement. Only 10 training hours can be used toward the 45-hour requirement. If you are enrolled in SW310 at the same time as this course, you will only have to complete 75 service-learning hours (instead of 90).

Required Service Learning Forms – all forms must be submitted to successfully complete the course. The forms are:

- a. Agency Selection Form (complete on canvas)
- b. Educational Contract (complete on canvas)
- c. Agency Evaluation of Student (hand in last class day and signed by a supervisor)
- d. Service Learning Hours Log (hand in last class day and signed by a supervisor)

*****Please note that if a student does not complete at least 30 hours of the 45 volunteer hours, the student will not pass the course. This is a credit/no credit assignment**

Quizzes: Four quizzes will be scheduled this semester over the assigned readings for class. The quizzes will be administered using the collaborative learning method. This method will be discussed in more detail during class. **The quizzes will be worth 5 points each for a total of 20 points.**

Quiz Schedule:

Quiz One	9/17
Quiz Two	10/8
Quiz Three	11/5
Quiz Four	12/1

Videotaped Interview, Analysis and Reflection: Each student will complete two videotaped interviews during the semester. The purpose of this assignment is to allow for the practicing of relationship building skills. A detailed description of this assignment will be provided at the beginning of the course and posted on Canvas. **Each videotaped interview assignment is worth 15 points for a total of 30 points.**

Journals: Students will be expected to write 7 journal entries over the course of the semester. These will be 1-2 page reflections over a question that has been posed during class. Details for this assignment will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. **Each journal entry is worth 5 points for a total of 35 points.**

Class Participation: It is important to attend class on time, remain for the entire class, and to be actively and meaningfully present for effective learning and demonstration of professional behavior. In order to receive the highest level of participation points, healthy risk-taking for professional growth must be demonstrated. Participation points will be determined by attendance, level of interest, respect for others' learning needs and contributions to classroom discussions and activities. Being prepared for class by reading assigned material is part of this professional expectation as well. **15 points**

Extra Credit: A detailed description of two extra credit opportunities will be given to students at the beginning of the course. Students may take advantage of one these extra credit opportunities and earn points to replace their lowest quiz grade for the semester. All due dates must be strictly adhered to in order to earn the points.

Volunteer Experience	Credit/No Credit
Quizzes	20 points
Videotaped Interview and Analysis	30 points
Journals	35 points
Class Participation	15 points
Total	100 points

Grading Scale:

94.0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	B
80.0 to 83.999	B-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-
Below 60.0	F

Course Schedule:

8/27/15	First Class: Review of Syllabus and Assignments	Reading Assignment (RA): Syllabus
9/1/15	The Social Work Professional	RA: Chapter 1 and Texas Code of Conduct
9/3/15	SW Ethics and Values	RA: Chapter 1, NASW COE
9/8/15	SW Ethics, Values and Use of Self	RA: Chapter 2 Journal Assignment 1 Due
9/10/15 **9/11/15	Quiz One Relationship Building 1st annual Service Learning Fair Friday, September 11, 2015 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	RA: Chapter 3

	School of Social Work Rooms: 2.212 and 2.214	
9/15/15	Assessment	RA: Chapter 3
**9/16/15	Extra Credit Opportunity: The Lasting Impact of LBJ's Legacy on Social Issues	Performance at UTOPIA theater, 9:30-10:45a, seating limited, RSVP to vpackheiser@mail.utexas.edu Please request extra credit assignment from the Professor if you plan to take advantage of this opportunity at least one week in advance
9/17/15	Goal Setting and Planning	RA: Chapter 3 (and assigned reading, tbd)
9/22/15	Intervention	RA: Chapter 4 (and assigned readings, tbd) Extra Credit assignment from LBJ viewing due (reflective paper) Journal Assignment 2 DUE
9/24/15	Assessment and Planning, con't	RA: Chapter 4 (and assigned readings, tbd)
9/29/15	Termination	RA: Chapter 5
10/1/15	Videotape Review Session	Videotape Analysis Due Service Learning Agency Selection Form DUE
10/6/15	Videotape Review Session	Videotape Analysis Due

10/8/15	Families	RA: Chapter 6 Journal Assignment 3 DUE
10/13/15	Families	RA: Chapter 6
10/15/15	Quiz 2 and Families	RA: Chapter 7
10/20/15	Groups	RA: Chapter 8
10/22/15	Groups	RA: Chapter 8 (and assigned readings, tbd) Journal Assignment 4 DUE
10/27/15	Groups	RA: Chapter 9
10/29/15	Guest Speaker	Second Extra Credit Assignment DUE
11/3/15	Quiz 3 and Communities	RA: Chapter 10 (and assigned readings, tbd) Journal Assignment 5 DUE
11/5/15	NO CLASS	
11/10/15	Communities	RA: Chapter 11
11/12/15	Communities	RA: Chapter 11
11/17/15	Videotape Review Sessions II	Videotape Analysis Due Journal Assignment 6 DUE
11/19/15	Videotape Review Sessions II	Videotape Analysis Due
11/24/15	Organizations	RA: Chapter 12
11/26/15	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING

12/1/15	Quiz 4 and Advocacy	RA: Chapter 13 (and assigned readings, tbd)
12/3/15	Last Class	Service Learning Hours Log Student evaluation of Agency Agency evaluation of Student Journal Assignment 7 DUE