

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

<b>Course Number:</b> SW393T	<b>Instructor:</b> Diane McDaniel Rhodes, PhD
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<b>Semester:</b> Fall 2016	<b>Phone:</b> (512) 471-1831
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<b>Meeting Place:</b>	<b>Office Hours:</b> M 4 – 5 pm and by appointment

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE (BSW)**

*Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag  
Service Learning Course*

*This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.*

**I. Standardized Course Description**

This is an introductory social work course in which students will learn about the profession of social work: its fields of practice, values and ethics, its history and the social welfare policies that undergird it, its interactions with contexts which shape practice, and its promotion of social and economic justice to advance human rights, alleviate critical social problems, and promote well-being. The course will also offer knowledge and practice behavior skills in engaging diversity and differences in social work practice. As an introduction to the social work profession, the course will discuss being a professional social worker and how to conduct oneself accordingly. The course carries a Flag for UT Cultural Diversity in the United States and will cover underrepresented cultural groups (e.g., immigrants and refugees, women): their beliefs, perspectives, and histories. The diversity of UT students and the diverse variables of their potential social work clients – as manifested by ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, social class, and religious beliefs – will be explored in the context of the social work helping relationship. Students will have the opportunity to assess their personal strengths and weaknesses and to identify potential ethical conflicts in working with clients. The course will offer the knowledge of principles and practice behaviors to guide professional ethical decision-making.

**II. Standardized Course Objectives**

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

1. Demonstrate and apply knowledge, values and skills of the social work profession.
2. Demonstrate and apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
3. Demonstrate and apply knowledge about diversity and engage in diversity and differences in practice.
4. Explain the history of the social work profession and the American social welfare system.
5. Explain the various contexts and settings in which social workers practice, including the roles and functions that they perform, and respond to contexts that shape practice.

6. Identify some of the social, economic and political forces that have shaped the evolution of social welfare history, policies and services in the U.S.
7. Analyze the important ideologies, values and ethical decision making process in the NASW Code of Ethics that have helped to shape social welfare and social work and that continue to guide the profession.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of how diversity variables, such as race and ethnicity, gender, age and sexual orientation affect the helping relationship, especially with populations at risk.
9. Describe and analyze major issues and trends in various areas of social work practice, such as child welfare, gerontology, substance dependence and domestic violence.
10. Critically analyze how social services enhance the individual and social well-being of people, promote social and economic justice, and advance human rights.
11. Develop an identification as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly, assuming the student is interested in majoring in social work.
12. Assess one's strengths and weaknesses as a potential professional social worker.

### **III. Teaching methods**

This class uses a seminar format. This course is designed to provide you with a meaningful learning environment through use of multiple methods of instruction (e.g. discussion, lecture, and group exercises); experiential learning (e.g. service learning, role playing, & active learning) will be emphasized. You are expected to complete assigned readings prior to each class period. You are expected to participate in class. Class attendance and participation is required and essential for successful completion of this course.

This course will use an electronic Canvas site. Canvas will be used for communication between students, the instructor, and the TA. Some materials, grades, and attendance will also be posted online. To reach your class site on Canvas, please go to <http://courses.utexas.edu> or go to the Social Work web page and click on Canvas. To access the course website, you must have an Internet connection and computer access. You will need a UT EID and password. The Help Desk available through the UT home page ([www.utexas.edu/its/help](http://www.utexas.edu/its/help)) can assist you with your computer and Canvas questions. You can also call them at 475-9400. Additionally, the Learning Resource Center at the SSW has computers and computer assistance.

### **IV. Required and recommended texts and materials**

#### **Textbook:**

Cox, L. E., Tice, C.J., & Long D. D. (2016). *Introduction to social work: An advocacy-based profession*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Supplemental course materials (worksheets, assignments, resources, articles) will be posted on Canvas.

### **V. Course requirements**

*The most detailed description and instruction for course assignments will be on Canvas. Below is a brief guide to the course work.*

### 15 pts (.5 per class day) Attendance

You are required to come to class. Attendance will be managed through a sign in sheet – it is your responsibility to ensure that you have signed in to each class you attend. Absences may be excused by the professor (typically for illness, loss, or other unforeseen crises) – you must request excused absences by email.

### 40 pts (10 per Test) Reading & Comprehension Tests (4)

There will be four multiple-choice tests on the material covered in your textbook. You are required to complete assigned reading. While we may discuss reading in class, class time will be used for experiential learning and to broaden your understanding of the profession and the social problems we normally address.

### 20 pts (10 per paper) Service Learning Reflection Essays (2)

Each reflection will reflect on topics discussed in class and incorporate classroom and volunteer knowledge to discuss your learning and experiences in a 3 – 5 page paper. The topics for each paper are below.

Papers should include a combination of content related to class topics, assigned questions, and personal insight and experience to be considered complete. Appropriate APA formatting and grammar will also be included in grading. APA style is considered the standard for assignments in the School of Social Work. Information is available in the latest addition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association in the reference section in the LRC.

1<sup>st</sup> Paper due

- a) In your own describe the client population(s) you have seen in the agency where you are volunteering. Is it the same as those the agency says they serve? If yes, how? If no, how is the population different?
- b) Reflect on how you have observed clients experience receiving services from this agency? What is the ‘waiting room’ like? Can you tell new clients from those who have been coming to the agency for a while? If yes, how?

3<sup>rd</sup> Paper due

- a) Describe the interventions the agency uses for the problems facing its clients. What happens between the clients and the staff? What happens between the clients and volunteers?
- b) Reflect on how you see those activities having positive or negative outcomes for clients.

### 25 pts Service Learning Completion

You must complete 45 hours of volunteer work in a local social service agency. **[NOTE: Only 5**

**hours of training can be used toward the 45 hour requirement.]**

If you are concurrently enrolled in SW312, you only have to complete a combined 70 volunteer hours (instead of 90). You are required to choose an agency from the list of recommended agencies compiled by the School of Social Work BSW Office. *If you are interested in volunteering at an agency that is not on the recommended list you must provide the instructor with a request related to the alternate agency. All agencies must provide specific social work services and employ licensed social workers. Provide the agency name, description of agency, and the contact information of the social worker employed by the agency. Instructor will follow up with agency social worker to verify the acceptance of the alternate agency.*

**All the forms you need for this assignment are in a folder on Canvas.**

## **VI. Course Policies**

**1. Conduct and Civility:** Social work students adhere to the Student Standards for Professional Conduct of the NASW Code of Ethics and assume responsibility for their conduct. Scholastic honesty and integrity are to be consistent social work values. The instructor will comply with University guidelines regarding scholastic dishonesty, including plagiarism. Social work practitioners respect others; therefore, differences in values, opinions, and feelings of class members and guest speakers will be respected. Students will help create and support a learning environment that does not interfere with the learning of fellow students. When students voice an opinion with which you do not agree, feel free to voice opinions in a civil manner that can enhance the flow of ideas and dialog.

**2. Readings and Preparatory Assignments:** Students are expected to be active and participate in the learning process, and in an interactive framework between collegiate students and professor. Students are also expected to complete readings and preparatory assignments prior to class. Failure to demonstrate through discussions in class, online, and through assignments that one has comprehended the readings will be considered when assigning the final grade. Students are responsible for the material in the assigned readings whether or not the material is covered in class. Professor reserves the right to conduct quizzes should there be a pattern of students not demonstrating that they have completed the readings and are not prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion.

**3. Professional Communication and Interactions:** Refrain from private conversations during class or other disruptive behavior. Disrespect toward the professor, students, or others is unacceptable and will be handled directly and in the context it occurs. Disrespectful behavior includes overt acts, such as talking over others or making derogatory remarks based on another person's age, race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religious preference, and ability. Moreover, covert acts of disrespect such as sneers, and other facial expressions, excluding class members from classroom tasks, etc. are also unacceptable. **Electronic Devices:** All communication devices should be turned off or placed on silent mode and put away during class. Unless laptops are required for specific class sessions, students may not use laptops during class without prior permission from the professor. Grade is negatively impacted by student's failure to comply with this policy.

**4. Class Attendance Policy:** Punctuality and timeliness are important for social work

practitioners. Class attendance is expected. Attendance is defined as students' attentive physical presence in class for the entire class. Establishing a pattern of late arrivals and early departures will negatively affect your grade. A pattern is considered three or more late arrivals and early departures during the semester. Late arrivals and early departures are defined as student arriving 10 minutes after class starting or prior to class ending. Missing more than two classes may result in loss of a letter grade. It is your responsibility to sign the class attendance sheet. The instructor should be notified in advance of any planned absence and as soon as possible in the case of an unforeseen, serious emergency.

**5. Assignments and Grades:** Assignments should be turned in online on the date they are due, barring serious, unforeseen medical illness or family emergencies. Late assignments will be considered when assigning the final grade.

**6. Writing Style:** The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association Sixth Edition (APA) is the style manual to be used by all students. The manual is available at the library or for purchase at the Co-op.

**7. Use of Canvas:** The professor uses Canvas Web-based course management /collective workspace. An orientation will be given the first day of class. If you do not have a personal computer with personal Internet access, there are computers available for your use at the SW Learning Resource Center (LRC), the Flawn Academic Center, campus and public libraries.

**8. Course Modification:** To ensure achievement for course objectives, the professor reserves the right to make modifications to any part of this syllabus related to schedule and assignment due dates. Should any modifications be made, students will be notified in class and modifications will be posted to Canvas. Students should check their email frequently. Note that some of the links to documents and videos on the Internet may change. Documents, new links or alternate options will be provided.

## **VII. 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](tel:512-471-3515) or online at [www.utexas.edu/student/cmhc/](http://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 a 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. Faculty, instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator and/or the Title IX Deputy for the SSW, Professor Tanya Voss. Students, faculty and staff may contact Professor Voss to report incidents or to obtain information. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <http://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/academic-programs/other/qrg-sexualharassment.pdf>.

**CAMPUS CARRY POLICY.** The University's policy on concealed fire arms may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>. You also may find this information by accessing the Quick Links menu on the School's website.

**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](tel: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 Grading:**

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

VII. Detailed Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Due
Wed/Jan 18	Introduction/Syllabus Review	
1 Monday 23	The profession & history of Social Work	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 1&2
Wed 25	Service Learning Opportunities	
2 Monday 30	Generalist Practice	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 3&4
Wed /Feb 1	Advocacy, social justice & ethics	
3 Monday 6	Poverty	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 5
Wed 8	Poverty and race	Service Learning Form 1
4 Monday 13	Family and Child Welfare	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 6
Wed 15	Exam Chpts 1 - 6	
5 Monday 20	Health Care	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 7
Wed 22	Health care disparities	
6 Monday 27	Physical and Mental challenges	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 8
Wed/ Mar 1	Persons with disabilities on campus	Service Learning Educational contract
7 Monday 6	Mental Health & Illness	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 9
Wed 8	Exam Chpts 7 - 9	
8 Monday 13	Spring Break	
Wed 15		
9 Monday 20	Addiction	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 10
Wed 22	Addiction on the Reservations	
10 Monday 27	Aging	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 11
Wed 29	Aging in place	Reflection Essay 1
11 Monday/April 3	Criminal Justice	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 12
Wed 5	Criminal Justice disparities	
12 Monday 10	Housing	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 13
Wed 12	Exam Chpts 9 - 13	
13 Monday 17	Veterans	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 15
Wed 19	Veterans and mental health	Reflection Essay 2
14 Monday 24	Global practice	Cox, Tice & Long Ch 17
Wed 26	Other roles for Social Work	
15 Monday/ May 1	Self care	Cox, Tice & Long Epilogue
Wed 3	Exam Chpts 14 - Epilogue	