

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

Course Number: SW381S	Instructor's Name: Michele A. Rountree, Ph.D.
Unique Number: 62805	Office Number: SSW 3.122E
Semester: Fall, 2012	Office Phone Number: 471-7160
Meeting Time: Fri. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Office Hours: Fri. 11:30
Classroom: SSW 2.116	-1:00 p.m. or by appointment
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Foundations of Social Justice: Values, Diversity, Power & Oppression

STANDARIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is based the following assumptions: 1.) membership in a population-at-risk group (e.g., people of color, women, gay and lesbian persons) significantly influences and individual's life experiences, world view, and increases risk factors for exposure to discrimination, economic deprivation, and oppression; 2.) professional social work ethics and values demand culturally competent practices; 3) it is necessary for students to learn to apply social justice approaches to influence assessment, planning, access to resources, intervention, and research; and 4) professionals and programs have strategies to critically analyze distributive justice, human and civil rights, and global interconnections of oppression. There is an emphasis in this course on the impact of discrimination and oppression by individuals and society on people of culturally diverse backgrounds and orientations.

STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- 1.) Critique and apply culturally competent and social justice approaches to influence assessment, planning, access to resources, intervention, and research (**PB 18, 19, and 20**);
- 2.) Demonstrate familiarity with the history and heritage of population-at-risk groups, including women and culturally diverse populations globally, as well as those prevalent in the southwestern region of the United States (**PB14, 16 and 17**);
- 3.) Understand the social construction of race and ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation (**PB 14**);
- 4.) Examine the personal and professional use of self in ethical, culturally competent, and socially just social work practices (**PB15**) and,
- 5.) Assess the impact of discrimination (e.g. racism, sexism, homophobia) and oppression on public policy, institutional structure, service delivery, and one's own role in promoting social and economic justice (**PB 18, 19, and 20**).

ACCREDITATION

The University of Texas' School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, we engage in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS). Several required courses in our curriculum are part of this ongoing assessment, including this course. Below is a list of the specific Educational Policies (EP) and Practice Behaviors (PB) that are assessed in this course. The complete EPAS can be found in your Student Handbook.

EP2.1.4 Engage diversity and difference in practice.

PB14 Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, create or enhance privilege and power

Objectives 2 and 3

Assignment:

Reflections

Position Papers

Culture Chests

Critical Analysis & Strategic Action Paper & Presentation

PB15 Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups

Objectives 4

Assignment:

Reflections

Culture Chests

PB16 Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences

Objectives 2

Assignment:

Reflections

Position Papers

Culture Chests

Critical Analysis & Strategic Action Paper & Presentation

PB17 View selves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants

Objectives 2

Assignment:

Critical Analysis & Strategic Paper & Project

EP2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice.

PB18 Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination

Objectives 1 and 5

Assignment:

Reflections

Position Papers

Critical Analysis & Strategic Paper & Presentation

PB19 Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice

Objectives 1 and 5

Critical Analysis & Strategic Action Paper & Presentation

PB20 Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice

Objectives 1 and 5

Assignment:

Critical Analysis & Strategic Action Paper & Presentation

TEACHING METHODS

Teaching involves a partnership between the instructor and the student in a collaborative and passionate commitment to the mutual learning process. My philosophy of teaching is to provide students with relevant content in the form of presentation, text, and instructional activities that assist students in the integration of the material. Within the field of social work, content delivered without its applicability to micro and macro level practice is irrelevant to the student that gravitates to the profession to be an agent of social change. Essentially, as an instructor I see my role as 1.) creating a safe learning environment that 2.) allow for the sharing of ideas, in-depth critical analysis and integration of the material.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Required Text:

Adams, M., Blumenfeld, W.J., Castaneda, R., Hackman, H.W., Petters, M.L., Zuniga, X. (Eds.). (2010). *Readings for diversity and social justice: An anthology on racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, classism, and ableism*. New York: Routledge.

Friere, P. (1970). *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. New York: Continuum.

Texts can be purchased at University Co-op, 2246 Guadalupe, 476-7211, website: <http://www.universitycoop.com>.

Required Readings:

The readings are posted on blackboard according to week. The instructor reserves the right to provide and/or assign additional reading to supplement the texts and reader.

Note:

Course policies, course requirements and schedule for the semester will be distributed the first day of class. This offers the instructor the opportunity to present the details of the course to students directly and to discuss and answer any questions.