

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

Course Number: SW 310

Unique Number: 94643

Semester: Summer 2012

Meeting Time: Tuesday & Thursday
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Meeting Place: SSW 2.130

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM & by appointment

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INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE

**(Required Course – BSW Program)
(Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag)**

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory social work course in which students will learn about the profession of social work and the populations/issues that concern social workers. You will be exposed to the values and ethics of social work, as well as the policies and history of the social work profession. Students will examine how social services enhance the well being of people, promote social and economic justice, and alleviate critical social problems. The diversity of UT students and of their potential social work clients, as manifested by age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc. will be discussed in the context of the helping relationship. A 45 hour/semester volunteer component is required in this class.

The course is also a **UT Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag course** and will focus on the underrepresented cultural groups of: immigrants/refugees; women; the GLBTQ community; and the aged. The course will cover the culture, perspectives, history, and current day resilience within these groups.

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 identifying potential ethical conflicts 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

Although a variety of teaching methods will be employed (e.g., lecture, videos, guest speakers, discussion, and group exercises), experiential learning (e.g., group projects) will be emphasized.

This course will use an electronic Blackboard site—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her e-mail address is correct on this site so that class e-mails are received. To reach your class site on Blackboard, please go to <http://courses.utexas.edu>. You will need a UT EID and password. The Help Desk, available through the UT home page (www.utexas.edu/its/help/), can assist you with your computer and blackboard 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 COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

DiNitto, D. & McNeese, A. (2008). *Social work issues and opportunities in a challenging profession*. Chicago,IL: Lyceum Books

Ferguson, M, Neuroth-Gatlin, H. & Borasky, S. (2010). *Caught in the storm: Navigating policy and practice in the welfare reform era*. Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Due to the format and content of this course, both attendance and contribution are imperative. The other students in your class are dependent upon you for a quality learning experience; if too many students are absent, the class suffers. Students' participation is highly encouraged, and is both valuable to them and to their classmates.

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|---|-------------|
| 1. Midterm and Final exam (15 points each) | 30pts |
| 2. Volunteer Hours..... | 25pts |
| 3. Five Volunteer Agency Forms (I,IIA, IIB, III, IV)..... | 5pts |
| 4. Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations..... | 15pts |
| 5. Reflection Paper..... | 20pts |
| 6. Attendance and Class Participation | <u>5pts</u> |
| | 100pts |

** Volunteer component grade will be based on the hours completed, subject to verification by instructor. To receive full credit for volunteer hours, all parts of the assignment must be completed. Up to 20 points may be deducted from the volunteer component grade for incomplete or poor performance on the forms, the logs, the individual paper or the group presentation. **If students do not complete at least 30 hours of the 45 hours volunteer hours, they may not pass the class.***

Note: Please submit all assignments in hard copy (unless electronic copies are requested).

REQUIREMENTS

1. Volunteer hours

25pts

The School of Social Work requires **45 volunteer hours** in this class, which can include up to a maximum of 10 hours of orientation. If the agency in which you volunteer provides only a minimal orientation, you must conduct 1 to 2 interviews with a social worker or other professional at the organization to obtain a deeper understanding of the problems faced by the clients vis-à-vis what you are learning in class. For example, if you mentor low-income children, in the interview find out more about the problems the children and their families face, as well as the goals of the organization in working with them. Include the information in The Agency Orientation/Social Worker Interview (Form

V) and/or in your agency presentation. With confirmation of time spent, the interview(s) can be counted toward volunteer hours. Interview questions and answers must be attached to the Verification Form.

All Volunteer Placements:

- 1) must be approved by your instructor before proceeding with hours
- 2) must involve work done this semester only
- 3) will be contacted to confirm your involvement

2. FIVE Required Forms

5pts

Provide a set of the forms to your supervisor at the beginning of the semester for their records.

Volunteer Agency Selection (Form I)	Due June 12 th
Volunteer Time Log (Form II A & Form II B)	Due June 21 st and July 12 th
Agency Evaluation of Student (Form III)	Due July 17 th
Student Evaluation of Agency (Form IV)	Due July 17 th

3. 10 Minute Volunteer Agency Individual Presentation

15pts

Students are asked to provide a brief description of their volunteer experience. The oral presentation will include (a) description of the volunteering agency; (b) type of population served at the agency; (c) social work related activities assigned to you at the agency; and (d) lessons learned about cultural diversity, social work/advocacy, and social justice in your agency.

***OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION REQUIRED ON DAY OF PRESENTATION**

Individual Presentation Dates: June 19th, July 3rd, July 10th, July 19th

4. Reflection Paper

20pts

Write a 2 to 3 page paper reflecting on what you have felt, thought, and learned during your volunteer experience, particularly related to: social work's systems and strengths perspectives, the profession's role in ameliorating 'isms (racism, sexism, ageism, heterosexism, etc.), and fighting for social and economic justice. Include your strategies for continuing to advocate for oppressed/vulnerable populations, and consumers of social welfare/social work services.

5. Midterm and Final Exam

30pts

Two exams will be given during the semester covering material from class lectures and course readings from the textbook. The midterm exam will be given on June 26th and the final exam will be on July 24th.

6. Class Participation

5pts

This will be determined on attendance and the quality of participation in class discussion, homework assignments, and small group exercises. Class readings and assignments will require *informed* classroom participation. This is worth 5% of the total

grade.

GRADING POLICY/GRADING CRITERIA:

Beginning Fall 2009 UT is adopting a +/- grading scale for undergraduate courses. The UNDERGRADUATE GRADING SCALE is

- 100-94=A
- 93-90= A-
- 89-87=B+
- 86-84=B
- 83-80=B-
- 79-77=C+
- 76-74=C
- 73-70=C-
- 69-67=D+
- 66-64=D
- 63-60=D-
- 59 and below=F

Each class requirement has been assigned points. Half-points may be given (e.g., 9.5). **To receive an “A” in this course you must have excellent attendance, participation, and you must produce work that is of superior quality.**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 90-100 points | A (excellent) |
| 80-89 points | B (above average) |
| 70-79 points | C (average) |
| 60-69 points | D (below average) |
| 59 points or below | F (failing) |

Grading of all written assignments will take into account the quality and content of the writing. The American Psychological Association (APA) – 5th edition format should be used when relevant. Written material should be carefully proofread and errors (punctuation, typographical, spelling, etc.) corrected prior to submission.

VI. CLASS POLICIES

1. Participation and Attendance

Students are expected to attend class sessions regularly and to participate in an interactive framework between collegiate students and professor. Students are expected **to complete the readings PRIOR to class** and should be well prepared to participate in discussions and experiential learning assignments. Failure to regularly attend the class and demonstrate through discussions that one has completed the readings will be considered in assigning the final grade.

2. 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, an examination, a work assignment, or a 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. For more information:

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi04-05/ch4/ch4g.html#religious>

3. Late Assignments

Except in the case of extreme emergencies, and then only with the permission of the professor, late assignments WILL NOT be accepted without penalty. Students are expected to turn in all required assignments on the agreed upon due date at the beginning of class. Assignments not turned in class on the day it is due will be considered late. If accepted, late assignments will be assessed point penalties at the rate of **three (3) points** each day late. If the due date is a problem, then the student should see the professor and negotiate another due date well in advance. Make up quizzes will not be given unless an alternative arrangement was made with the professor prior to the day of the quiz.

4. Student Achievement

Student Achievement in meeting course objectives will be evaluated on the following written, oral, and in-class experiential assignments, regular and punctual class attendance, and informed class participation based upon class readings/assignments.

5. Student Feedback

Student feedback is welcome either informally or formally about class room learning and content, the teacher's teaching strategies, peer relationships, scheduling, or other items. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback during office hours, by phone, by e-mail, and by appointment if they desire.

6. Professional 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 sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism. Laptop use is not permitted in class unless instructor permission is given.

7. Assignment Changes

The instructor reserves the prerogative to change class assignments as needed to meet the course objectives. The changes will be discussed with the students in class or by email before implementation.

8. 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.

9. 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://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

10. 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). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. 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/>.

11. 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 to keep the university informed about changes to their 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>.

12. 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.

13. 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 among 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>.

14. 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 of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered 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're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office

VII. Course Schedule

Date	Class Session	Readings To Be Read BEFORE Class Meeting
May 31	Introduction/Syllabus Review Volunteer Requirement	Distribute Syllabus Forms I, IIA, IIB, III, IV
June 5	What is Social Work?	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 1
June 7	Volunteer Opportunities	(Handouts)
June 12	Theory and Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups (<i>Volunteer Form I Due</i>)	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 2
June 14	Practice with Organizations and Communities	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 3

June 19	Non-profit organizations (Agency Presentations)	Ferguson 1 & 2
June 21	Culturally Competent Practice (Volunteer Form IIA Due)	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 4
June 26	MIDTERM EXAM	
June 28	Social Work Practice with GLBTQ Community	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 6
July 3	Mental Illness and Social Work Practice (Agency Presentations)	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 7
July 5	Addictions and Social Work Practice	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 8
July 10	Social Work Practice in Health-Care (Agency Presentations)	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 9
July 12	Poverty in the United States (Volunteer Form IIB Due) (Reflection Paper Due)	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 13 Ferguson 5 & 6
July 17	Social Work Practice in the Justice System (Volunteer Forms III and IV Due)	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 14
July 19	International Social Work (Agency Presentations)	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 16
July 24	FINAL EXAM	

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Volunteer Agency Selection (Form I)	June 12 th , 2012
Midterm Exam	June 26 th , 2012
Volunteer Time Log (Form II A)	June 21 st , 2012
Reflection Paper	July 12 th , 2012
Volunteer Time Log (Form II B)	July 12 th , 2012
Agency Evaluation of Student (Form III)	July 17 th , 2012
Student Evaluation of Agency (Form IV)	July 17 th , 2012
Final Exam	July 24 th , 2012