

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

**Course Number:** SW n383T

**Unique Number:** 88730

**Semester:** Summer 2019

**Meeting time/place:** Tues/Thurs

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

SSW 2.122

**Instructor:** Starla Simmons, LCSW (she/her)

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**Office:** 3.124D

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 1:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Or by appointment

**Social Work Practice**  
**II**

**I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course builds upon Social Work Practice I by deepening students' knowledge of the generalist social work perspective in the application of theory and practice methods for effective and ethical service delivery to diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities in conjunction with field education. **Prerequisites:** This course must be taken concurrently with Field Instruction II, except for those students having advanced standing status. It is a prerequisite for all second-year concentration courses.

**II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyze professional values, ethical dilemmas and ethical decision making and their impact on service delivery, policy and practice;
2. Identify, critique, apply and evaluate social work theories and methods from a strengths-based generalist perspective for effective service delivery to diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities;
3. Apply beginning practice skills in the development, leadership and evaluation of small groups in agency, organization and community settings;
4. Identify aspects of human diversity within and between groups and the implications for this diversity in assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation;
5. Demonstrate knowledge of leadership and advocacy skills, conflict management and Inter-professional collaboration at all levels of social work practice to promote social and economic justice;
6. Apply a beginning level of skill in utilizing empirical knowledge to evaluate theoretical frameworks, intervention plans and practice effectiveness;
7. Communicate effectively and professionally, both orally and in writing, assessment, intervention and evaluation plans for diverse client systems that enhance client strengths, capacities, assets and resources.

**III. EPAS COMPETENCIES**

The Steve Hicks 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, the UT SHSSW engages in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS).

**Using a common evaluation instrument - the Final Case Analysis assignment - this course measures the implementation of knowledge, skills, values, and/or cognitive and affective processes to assess the following competencies:**

**Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior**

Outcome 1.1: Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context.

Outcome 1.2: Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations.

Outcome 1.3: Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication.

Outcome 1.4: Use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes

Outcome 1.5: Use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior.

**Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families & Groups**

Outcome 6.2: Use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies.

**Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families & Groups**

Outcome 7.1: Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.

Outcome 7.3: Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies.

Outcome 7.4: Select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies.

**Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families & Groups**

Outcome 8.1: Critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.

Outcome 8.3: Use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes.

Outcome 8.4: Negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies.

Outcome 8.5: Facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals.

**Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families & Groups**

Outcome 9.1: Select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes.

Outcome 9.3: Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes.

Outcome 9.4: Apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

**IV. TEACHING METHODS**

I teach using a variety of methods with an emphasis on experiential learning for the purpose of building skill and confidence. The generalist nature of the course content requires a didactic approach as well. Therefore, PowerPoint lectures, role-plays, videos, class discussions, small group and dyad exercises, and guest speakers will all be utilized. For success in this class, you must be willing to participate, take risks and “stretch” out of your comfort zone. You are expected to ask questions to clarify expectations, provide me with constructive feedback in a timely manner and meet with me individually as needed and/or when requested.

**Use of Canvas for this course:** This class uses Canvas – a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu> - for confidential communication such as posting and submitting assignments. Readings that are not in the required text, assignment guidelines and assignment grading rubrics are all posted to Canvas. Students can access Canvas Help 24/7 by calling 855-308-2494. Students are expected to set notifications in Canvas so they receive announcements and

updates as soon as they are posted. ***If anything is getting in the way of your learning, let me know as soon as possible so we can discuss it and problem solve together!***

## **V. REQUIRED TEXT**

Walsh, J. (2013). *Theories for Direct Social Work Practice*. (3rd edition). California: Wordsworth Cengage Learning.

Articles and Podcasts are assigned weekly to supplement the text. They can be found on Canvas with this link:

## **VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Attendance and Participation**

**(10 points)**

Being a self-motivated, lifelong learner is essential to becoming a strong social work professional. It is also important to practice new skills and learn to work effectively with other social work professionals. *Therefore, consistent attendance (you come every time, on time, and stay until dismissed), demonstrated preparation (you complete the required readings before class) and regular participation (you share insights, ask relevant questions, and contribute to exercises) are expectations of this course. I do not excuse absences.* It is up to you to decide whether missing class is worth the point deduction. I do ask that you communicate in a timely manner your absence, tardy or early departure. Email communication is preferred.

Students are expected to practice professional behavior in class. This includes, but may not be limited to, paying attention to lectures and fellow students during discussions, showing respect for opinions that may differ from your own, and communicating with the professor and others in a professional manner. We will use some class time to discuss what constitutes a civil classroom. On occasion, you will be required to complete a pop quiz or written exercise in class. These must be turned in before leaving for the day.

**All electronic devices – including laptops - must be put away/silenced during class unless their use is requested by the professor for a class exercise, or their use supports a documented disability.**

**Attendance & Participation points will be deducted in the following manner:**

**Absence 1** will result in a loss of 0 points as long as you communicate with me in a timely and professional manner (-1 point if no timely, professional communication provided)

**Absence 2** will result in a loss of 2 points

**Absence 3** will result in a loss of 3 points

**A pattern of absences, late arrivals or early departures (more than 3), or a pattern of poor preparation or participation may result in disciplinary action.**

**B. Learning Profile and Reflection: (15 points)**

Students will answer in self-assessment questions that reflect their social work goals, learning styles, understanding of social justice. Separate questionnaire sheet can be found in Canvas.

**C. Theory Group Project (25 points)**

To study theory in-depth and practice task group skills, you and your group will develop a creative class presentation about a particular theory and its application to practice. Students will choose from four theories: Family Systems Theory; Crisis Theory; Relational Cultural Theory; and Cognitive Theory. Groups will be decided in class. Guidelines with grading rubric and due date can be found in Canvas.

**D. Video Role Play Project (20pt)**

This assignment is designed to help students improve their interviewing and *intervention* skills, as well as improve their self-awareness and ability to give and receive feedback. Guidelines with grading rubric and due dates can be found in Canvas. This project has two parts:

- 1) **Video & Feedback Participation (5 points):** Pair up with another student to do a role-play or real play. This role play/real play will demonstrate the *work* phase and allow you to practice an intervention. Students will then show a 5-minute clip of the video to a small group from the class, and exchange feedback with members of the group.

**E. Final Case Analysis (30 points)**

To help you consolidate your professional knowledge and skills acquired over Practice Class, and to support the school’s CSWE accreditation process, you will study a fictional case and answer a set of questions about the case. The case and questions will test your competency in the areas of ethics & professionalism, and engagement, assessment, intervention and evaluation of individuals, groups & families.

**VII. COURSE GRADING**

This table summarizes how you will demonstrate your learning and how each assignment is weighted:

Assignments	Points possible	% of Total Grade
<b>A. Participation</b>	10	<b>10</b>
<b>B. Learning Profile and Reflection</b>	15	<b>15</b>
<b>C. Video Role Play</b>	20	<b>20</b>
<b>D. Group Theory Presentation</b>	25	<b>25</b>
<b>E. Final Case Analysis</b>	30	<b>30</b>
<b>Total:</b>	100	<b>100</b>

The following graduate grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade for the course. **The student who earns a high “A” for this course is one who consistently submits excellent quality work over the entire semester.**

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	
<b>70.0 to 73.999</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>(Class failed/no credit)</b>
67.0 to 69.999	D+	
64.0 to 66.999	D	
60.0 to 63.999	D-	
Below 60.0	F	

Students who were admitted to the MSSW program on a conditional basis are not able to take an incomplete for this course if the conditions for admission are still in place.

### VIII. CLASS POLICIES

Social work students must adhere to the Student Standards for Professional Conduct of the UT School of Social Work and the NASW Code of Ethics and assume responsibility for their own conduct.

**Find the MSSW Handbook at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/current/forms/>**

**Find the MSSW Graduate Guide to Field at <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/field/forms/>**

**A. Professional Conduct in Class:** 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. 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.

**B. Student Privacy & Confidentiality:** Class discussions or role plays can on occasion bring up strong emotions or raise issues of a personal nature. For student privacy, it is recommended that students not discuss matters of a highly sensitive nature in class. If you need to talk, come see me after class. Your privacy and confidentiality will be protected unless the matter must be reviewed by the School of Social Work or must be reported by law (please refer to the MSSW Handbook and Title IX requirements). I will connect you with resources in the community if your personal needs exceed what can be provided by me or by UT services.

**C. Client Privacy & Confidentiality:** If class work prompts you to reflect on past or current client contact, and sharing information about that contact is necessary for the learning process, it is your professional obligation to protect the client’s privacy and confidentiality as much as possible by sharing judiciously and anonymously (this applies to information shared about staff at your field agency as well).

**D. Classroom Civility:** 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 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.

**Personal Pronoun Preference:** *Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.*

**E. 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 instructor. The instructor 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 can contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

#### **F. Grading Policies**

If you are confused by a grade or the feedback you receive on an assignment, please make an appointment to meet with me. I enjoy talking face to face with students about how they can improve and may give some credit back on the assignment.

Assignments are all due to Canvas on Wednesday by 5:00pm (except presentations and videos due by class time). Assignments turned in after due date are considered late. Students will lose 5% of the assignment point value per calendar day that an assignment remains un-submitted. On subsequent days, papers must be submitted to Canvas by noon to avoid the additional 5% penalty. If you anticipate a problem turning in an assignment on time, please contact me in advance. **You have one free late day per semester to be used at your discretion, but you must indicate in Canvas that you are using your "pass" when you submit the assignment or it the pass will not be applied.**

#### **IX. UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**A. 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.

**B. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT & 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 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.

**C. 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 instructor. The instructor 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 can contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

**D. 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.

**E. 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/>).

**F. USE OF COURSE MATERIALS.** The materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, exams, quizzes, and homework assignments are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor 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 includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing those materials with other current or future students.

**G. 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://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

**H. 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.

**I. 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 SHSSW, 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 <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/academic-programs/other/qrg-sexualharassment.pdf>

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

**K. CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY.** Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on education supervision, and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights & 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 procedures for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work education.

**L. 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>.

**M. 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.

**N. 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>.

**O. 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 are given instructions to do so by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

#### IV. Course Schedule

WK	DATE:	TOPIC:	Readings	Assignment Due
1	Thursday, 6/6	Syllabus Review  Professional Use of Self	In Class Reading:  <i>Dana A. Schneider, D &amp; Grady, M. (2015) Conscious and Unconscious Use of Self: The Evolution of a Process</i>	
2	6/11	Anti-Oppression Social Work Practice  Multicultural Therapeutic Practices	In Canvas:  1. Ishizuka, K. & Husain, A. (2015). Article 2. Maurer, K. (2016). The invisibility of whiteness in clinical practice:	
3	6/13	Advocacy Skills  Policy, Legislation, & Organizing  Social Work Grand Challenges	In Canvas: 1. Hardina, D. (2014) “Dialogue in Community Organizing Practice”  2. Community Organizing Handout  Website review: <a href="http://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/grand-challenges-initiative/">http://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/grand-challenges-initiative/</a>	Learning Assessment Due
4	6/18	Integrating Theory into Practice  Person-Centered Theory  Group Work	Walsh Chapter 1, 2  In Canvas: Groups Handout	
5	6/20	Trauma Informed Care vs. Healing Centered Care	Walsh, Chapter 5 In Canvas: 1. McCormick, A., Scheyd, K., & Terrazas, S. (2018). Trauma-informed care and LGBTQ youth 2. Healing Centered Engagement by Dr. Shawn Ginwright	
6	Tuesday 6/25	Video Role Play Reviews	none	Video Role Play Reflection

7	6/27	Video Role Play Reviews	none	Video Role
8	7/2	Mindfulness Ecotherapy & Environmental Justice	1. Summers and Viven (2018). Ecotherapy: A Forgotten Ecosystem Service Review	
9	7/4	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
10	7/9	Solution Focused Therapy & Motivational Interviewing	Walsh Chapters 10/11 In Canvas: Solution Focused Interview Guide	
11	7/11	Crisis Theory Group Presentation	Walsh Chapters 13	All Group Project Handouts Due
12	7/16	Relational-Cultural Theory Group Presentation	Walsh Chapter 5	
13	7/18	Narrative Theory Group Presentation	Walsh Chapter 12	
14	7/23	Cognitive Theory Group Presentation	Walsh Chapter 8	
15	7/25	Evaluation  Professional Self Care		Final Case Analysis Due
16	7/30	Endings, Transitions, and Celebrations	None	

All readings, assignment guidelines, grading rubrics and other essential information will be on the Canvas website. **Check Canvas regularly and use it to ask questions about the course schedule. Changes to the schedule may be made at Professor Simmons' discretion and as circumstances require.** It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced. Professor Simmons will make every effort to announce changes with as much advanced notice as possible

#### IV. Bibliography

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