

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

Course Number:	SW 383R	Instructor:	Robin M. Smith, LCSW-S
Course Unique Number:	59640	Email:	robinsmith@austin.utexas.edu
Semester:	Fall 2020	Phone:	512-825-5308
Class meeting time/place:	Thursdays 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Zoom	Office location:	SW 3.124A
		Office Hours:	Thursdays 12:30 - 1:30 or by appt.

Social Work Practice I

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to social work practice methodology and professional use of self from a generalist perspective for social work practice with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities in conjunction with field education.

II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify and begin to apply social work values and principles of ethical decision making as articulated by the NASW Code of Ethics;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of professional use of self and awareness of personal values in the development and maintenance of purposeful, problem solving relationships with multiple levels of client systems, as well as cooperative and constructive relationships with agency staff, other professionals and community members;
3. Utilize professional communication skills, supervision and consultation in the effective and ethical provision of services to diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of organizational and community context on service delivery through the in depth analysis of the assigned field agency;
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical roots and major developments of the social work profession and its commitment to promote social and economic justice for populations at risk;
6. Systematically apply an eco-systems framework to engage client systems in identifying target systems and goals, and in analyzing, implementing and evaluating interventions that enhance client system strengths, capacities, assets and resources in relation to their environment;
7. Recognize the influence of socioeconomic status, age, developmental level, gender, culture, race, ethnicity, physical status, sexual orientation and spiritual beliefs on assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation at all levels of practice;
8. Demonstrate familiarity with basic concepts and methodology related to work with small groups in agency, organization and community settings;
9. Identify the importance of empirically based knowledge to evaluate and improve practice, policy and social service delivery.

III. TEACHING METHODS

For fall of 2020, this course will consist of both synchronous and asynchronous class activity; the synchronous portion of the class – the coming together of all class members in real time on Thursday mornings - will be conducted using ZOOM. Asynchronous work will be done online in Canvas. Please sign up for your UT Zoom account prior to the start of classes using this link: <https://zoom.its.utexas.edu/>. The Zoom link for the weekly synchronous class can be found in Canvas.

Canvas is a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu> and is used for posting, submitting and evaluating assignments. Readings that are not in the required text, assignment guidelines and assignment grading rubrics are all posted to Canvas. You can access Canvas Help 24/7 by calling 855-308-2494. Please set notifications in Canvas so that you receive announcements and updates as soon as they are posted.

I use a variety of teaching methods with an emphasis on experiential learning for the purpose of building skills and confidence. The foundational nature of the course content requires a didactic approach as well, so I may use PowerPoint lectures, role-plays, videos, class discussions, small group and dyad exercises, and guest speakers. For success in this class, you must be willing to participate, take risks and go out of your comfort zone. Please 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 to make the most of your learning experience.

IV. REQUIRED TEXT

A. Hepworth, D. H., Rooney, R.H., Rooney, G.D., & Strom-Gottfried, K. (2017). *Direct social work practice: Theory and skills* (10th ed.). Cengage Learning, Boston, MA.

B. Articles and Podcasts are assigned weekly to supplement the text. They can be found under *Modules* on Canvas, organized by the week they are assigned.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance and Participation (20 points)

Attendance and participation (including participation in asynchronous class activities) are tracked throughout the semester. Your final point total is calculated towards the end of the semester and depends on your overall class participation. Full credit is given to students who not only attend class consistently, but who also complete the required readings and do well on the asynchronous assignments, make substantive contributions to discussions, take some learning risks and think critically about the material. A pattern of frequent absences, late arrivals or early departures (especially without communication), or a pattern of unprofessional behavior, could result in disciplinary action. **I do not excuse absences. It is up to you to decide whether missing synchronous class time is worth the point deduction (see below). I do ask that you communicate with me in a timely manner about any absence, tardy or early departure. Email communication is preferred.**

Once we're together as a class, we will discuss group norms and expectations for using Zoom. Plan to give the class your full attention during Zoom meetings in order to earn participation credit. Please let me know if you have a documented disability that requires any adaptation of the Zoom format or of the asynchronous discussions or assignments so I can arrange ahead of time to make all meetings and materials accessible.

Attendance points will be deducted as follows:

Absence 1 = 2 points deduction

Absence 2 = 4 points deduction

Absence 3 = 4 points deduction

Tardies and early departures will result in a loss of 1 point each time unless excused by Prof. Smith

B. Ethics Close-Up (10 points)

To become more familiar with the NASW Code of Ethics – the backbone of ethical, culturally competent and effective social work practice! - and its application, you will answer five essay questions that ask you to reflect on particular aspects of the code, your own values and potential dilemmas you might encounter in practice. Guidelines with grading rubric and due date can be found in Canvas.

C. Agency Analysis (20 points)

To familiarize you with your field agency at a deeper level, and to strengthen your critical thinking about social work at the organizational level, you will write a paper and/or prepare a presentation examining your field agency's structure and ability to meet clients' needs. Guidelines with grading rubric and due date can be found in Canvas.

D. Video Role Play Project (20 points)

This assignment will help you improve your interviewing and assessment skills, as well as improve your 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):** You will pair up with another student in the class and prepare and complete and record a 20-minute (approx.) role-play or real-play using Zoom. *The role play must demonstrate you doing an assessment interview.* You will then show a 5-minute clip of your video to a small group from our class, and exchange feedback with members of your group.
- 2) **Paper (15 points):** You will also complete a single-spaced one-page report on your “client”, plus a 4-page double-spaced reflection paper on your assessment interview and what you learned.

E. Client Assessment with Case Analysis (30 points)

To continue to strengthen your ability to gather, analyze and synthesize client data, you will choose a client from your caseload in field and complete a biopsychosocial-spiritual assessment on that client. To improve your ability to connect private troubles with public issues and utilize professional use of self, you will also complete an in-depth analysis of your case. A rough draft is due the week before Thanksgiving to review with classmates. Guidelines with grading rubric and due date can be found in Canvas.

VI. COURSE GRADING

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

Assignments	Points possible	% of Total Grade
A. Class Attendance & Participation	20	20
B. Ethics Close-Up	10	10
C. Agency Analysis	20	20
D. Video Role Play Project	20	20
E. Client Assessment with Case Analysis	30	30
Total:	100	100

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
70.0 to 73.999	C- (Class failed/no credit)
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.

VII. 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/>. Professor Smith can also make a confidential referral directly to the CARE Counselor in our school which may expedite your getting an appointment. Please talk to me privately if you think you might need a mental health referral and would like my help.

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. If a student has demonstrated strong class participation and professionalism throughout the semester, I round up any fractional point totals. For instance, a 93.2 (A-) would become a 94 (A).

Assignments are all due to Canvas on Fridays by 5:00 pm (except presentations and videos due by class time). Assignments turned in after this time on the Friday 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 5:00 pm to avoid the additional 5% penalty. If you anticipate a problem turning in an assignment on time, please contact me in advance of the due date to discuss and I will consider adjusting the due date depending on your circumstances. **NOTE: You have one free late day per semester to be used at your discretion. Please indicate that you are using your “pass” when you submit the assignment in Canvas, otherwise the pass will not be applied.**

VIII. 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.

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

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 race, 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. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. 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 <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

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 (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) 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/>.

SHARING OF COURSE MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

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.

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.

CLASS RECORDINGS. Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

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>.

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 on the basis of sex <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>. Faculty, field instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, or any other forms of sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <https://titleix.utexas.edu/>.

CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on concealed firearms 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.

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 have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. 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.

COVID CAVEATS. To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to [University Health Services](#), and faculty and staff report to the [HealthPoint Occupational Health Program](#) (OHP) as soon as possible. Please see this [link](#) to understand what needs to be reported. In addition, to help understand what to do if a fellow student in the class (or the instructor or TA) tests positive for COVID, see this [University Health Services link](#).

IX. Course Schedule

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 Smith's discretion and as circumstances require. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced. Professor Smith will make every effort to announce changes with as much advance notice as possible.

WK	DATE	TOPIC	Readings due by class time	All P1 & F1 Assignments are due Fridays by 5:00p except where noted
1	8/27	Overview of Practice I Making Social Work History	None	None
2	9/3	Values of the Profession, SW Roles, Legacy of Racism	1. Hepworth Ch.. 1, 2 & 3 2. Garran & Miller article	Journal 1
3	9/10	Ethical decision-making, dual relationships, risk mgt.	1. Hepworth Ch. 4 2. Reamer article 3. Congress article	Journal 2
4	9/17	Mezzo/macro practice, principled negotiation, impact of environment	1. Hepworth Ch. 14 2. Lens article 3. Saleebey article	Journal 3 - SHORT Ethics Close-Up
5	9/24	Empathic responding, use of self, "tuning in"	1. Hepworth Ch. 5 2. Shulman article 3. Dewane article	Journal 4 Learning Contracts should be in Canvas by this week
6	10/1	Effective communication, broaching the subjects of race, ethnicity & culture	1. Hepworth Ch. 6 & 7 2. Day-Vines, et al. article	Journal 5 - SHORT Agency Analysis
7	10/8	Assessment process & product, professional documentation	1. Hepworth Ch. 8 2. Sidell article	Journal 6 Process Recording I
8	10/15	Assessing multiple dimensions, special assessments	1. Hepworth Ch. 9 2. Lukas article 3. Cultural interview article	Journal 7 - CREATIVE Start working on your mid-semester evaluation
9	10/22	Assessing diverse families	1. Hepworth Ch. 10 2. Congress article	Journal 8
10	10/29	Video project feedback groups: Group 1 8:30 – 10:30 Group 2 10:45 – 12:30 Group 3 1:00 – 2:30 Group 4 2:45 – 4:15	None	SHORT Journal 9 Video due by group time Video Project Paper due by Monday Nov. 2 nd at 5:00 pm
11	11/5	Contracting, developing goals, evidence-based practice	1. Hepworth Ch. 12 2. SW Podcast w/ Parrish	Journal 10 Process Recording II
12	11/12	Planning and implementing change-oriented strategies	1. Hepworth Ch. 13 2. DeJong & Miller article	Journal 11
13	11/19	Over/under-involvement with clients, working across cultures, termination	1. Hepworth Ch. 18 & 19 2. Velasquez article	SHORT Journal 12 Client Assessment w/ Case Analysis -draft
14	11/26	THANKSGIVING WEEK		
15	12/3	Summary of the semester, tying up loose ends, celebration	None	Process Recording III Client Assessment w/ Case Analysis -final (Self-Reflection narrative, field hours and final evaluation must be completed & uploaded to Canvas by Monday Dec. 7 th at 5:00p

X. Bibliography

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