

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Course Number: SW 310

Unique Number: 60990

Semester: Spring 2021

Synchronous Meeting Time: 11-12:30pm Tuesdays

Asynchronous Activities: 75 Minutes Per Week

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Instructor's Name: Cossy Hough, LCSW

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office Number: Remote

Office Hours: General group student check-in to follow class each week in Zoom, individual office hours should be scheduled with instructor

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE

(Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag)

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, policies and history of the social work profession, its interactions with contexts which shape practice, and its promotion of social and economic justice to advance human rights, alleviating critical social problems, and promoting well-being. The course will also offer knowledge and practice behaviors 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 is also a UT Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag course and will focus on the underrepresented cultural groups of immigrants and refugees and women, covering the culture, perspectives and history of 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 wellbeing 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

The class is web-based and taught using a flipped model of teaching or a form of blended learning where students learn content partially asynchronous through analyzing readings and articles, watching videos and completing exercises. Students will meet synchronously online for the other portion of the class. These methods intentionally draw on diverse pedagogical approaches to be inclusive of a variety of learning styles. Students will be expected to complete approximately half of the course content online and approximately half the course material in synchronous class. Students will need to have access to a computer with reliable internet connection to complete this course.

This course will highlight diverse perspectives of thought and encourages students to engage in new ways of thinking that may be represented by speakers, the professor, and classmates from diverse backgrounds. Experiential learning will be the foundation of this class and students will be expected to critically process and reflect on what they are learning through readings, lectures, videos and learning about social work practice in the community. The goal is to support you in making your own decisions about how to proceed and then ask you to reflect on the trajectory of your experience. Did it go as you expected? What was unexpected? What did

you learn? What did you learn doesn't work well? I will evaluate the *process* of your doing and learning, not just the *product*.

This course will use the following platforms for virtual learning:

- **Canvas** —a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu/>. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their e-mail address is correct on this site so that class e-mails are received. To reach your class site on Canvas, 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.
- **OfCourse**
Students will access a variety of informational/instructional videos using the OfCourse, online platform.

IV. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS

Required Course Materials:

A subscription OfCourse!, Topics in Social Justice & Social Welfare Policy (<https://www.ofcourseworks.com>) will be required for this course. Each week's materials and readings will be assigned or shared with students in modules in Canvas

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Online Discussion Questions | 30pts |
| 2. Introduction Video | 2pts |
| 3. Critical Analysis Paper/NASW Code | 15 pts |
| 4. Social Work Practice Area Group Presentations | 20 pts |
| 5. Intersectionality Paper | 20pts |
| 6. Attendance and Class Participation | 10pts |
| 7. Experiential Learning Reflection | 3pts |
| | 100pts |

REQUIREMENTS

Introduction Video

2pts.

Students will be expected to record a video introduction using animoto and upload to Canvas. This video should include basic introductory information about the student (name, pronouns, hometown, family, pets, major, etc...) as well as some photos. Videos will be used to get to know each other in this online class.

Due 1/21/21

Online Discussion Learning**30 pts.**

Students will be required to watch videos, complete readings and complete exercises related to the topics of that week. In order to integrate what is learned for that week, students will be required to complete a discussion question in Canvas. The discussion question will be assigned in Canvas at least one week in advance. Students should use critical thinking skills in answering the question. Students should also provide a response to, at minimum, one of their peer's answer(s) in the Discussion Board. Each Discussion Board Answer and Response will be worth a maximum of 2 points for a total of 30 points. All Discussion Board posts will be due, at the latest, at 11:59pm on Sundays weekly.

Critical Analysis Paper/History of NASW Code of Ethics**15 pts.**

Students will complete a 5-7 page, double-spaced paper discussing their observations of the changes in the NASW Code of Ethics over time. A separate assignment sheet will be provided.

Due 2/23/21**Social Work Practice Area Group Presentations****20pts**

Students will be required to coordinate with an assigned group and record a presentation with that group at the end of the semester. Recorded presentations will be shared with other class members for feedback and discussion. Assigned student groups will be used for other purposes in synchronous and asynchronous work during the semester, supplying students with opportunities for coordination and reflection with a small student group. This assignment will require students to explore a type of social work practice in depth and include research about client experiences and outcomes in this topic area as well as at least one interview with a social worker who is practicing/has practiced in this area. A separate assignment sheet will be provided.

Due 4/18/21**Intersectionality Paper****20pts**

Students will complete a 5-7 page, doubled-spaced paper addressing the intersectional nature of cultural diversity in the United States by examining two or more intersectional identities. A draft of the paper worth 3 points will be due on March 30, 2020. Students will participate in a peer review of their papers worth 2 points and revise with the final paper being due on April 30, 2020. The final paper will be worth 15 points.

A separate assignment sheet will be provided.

Draft Due 3/30/21, Final Due 4/20/21**Class Participation****10pts**

This will be determined on attendance in synchronous class meeting times and the quality of participation in class discussion and small group exercises. Attending the entire class period is expected in order to receive credit for attending class that day.

Attendance will be taken using a class meeting “exit ticket” which you will complete for each in-person class session. You will complete exit tickets with your name and a very brief reflection and/or question regarding your learning for that class session. Instructions will be given each class session.

Due to the format and content of this course, both attendance and contribution are imperative.

Experiential Learning Reflection

3pts.

With experiential learning exercises being interwoven throughout this class and the student group presentation, students will be required to complete a brief experiential learning reflection.

A separate assignment sheet will be provided.

Due 5/4/21

VI. GRADES

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. CLASSROOM POLICIES

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.

Regular and punctual attendance to each in-person class is expected for this course. Student will lose one participation point for every missed class synchronous meeting beyond one

missed class unless a student has accommodations approved in advance through University Services for Students with Disabilities. Students are expected to contact the professor by email or phone in a timely manner about absences, and alert the professor about late arrivals or early departures. Any student missing more than three synchronous classes in total may be in jeopardy of not passing this course.

Students are asked to have their camera's on during synchronous class. Students may have times that having their cameras on is not possible (for example illness, joining class from a public space, anxiety, etc....). The instructor asks that students chat privately during the first part of class to let the instructor know if a camera needs to be turned off.

“Attendance” and participation for the asynchronous portion of this class will be evaluated based on the completion of online activities. Students will complete a discussion board question that relates back to the online activities. These discussion boards are worth 2 points each.

Students are responsible for any material missed due to absences. Course material will be posted in Canvas.

Due Dates and Late Assignments: It is expected that all assignments will be turned in on time. Assignments are generally due at 11:59pm on the due date. Exceptions to this time will be announced when necessary. Assignments, including papers, are due on the date and time indicated in Canvas. Late assignments will be penalized 5% of the assignment point value for each day late. After 7 calendar days, late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Frequent communication is key when needing to turn in a late assignment. Email and meetings with the instructor to plan for late assignments are the key to success if a student is encountering barriers to turning in an assignment.

Papers: Students are expected to produce high quality written work in terms of appearance, style, and content. When using information from sources to complete a paper, references and the bibliography should conform to current APA style. The American Psychological Association (APA) – 7th edition format should be used. Written material should be carefully proofread and errors (punctuation, typographical, spelling, etc.) corrected prior to submission in order to avoid losing points in the assignment grade. Instances of plagiarism will be addressed according to University policy. Questions about grades should be raised with the instructor within one week of receipt of the grade.

Use of Cell Phones in the Virtual Classroom: Cell phones should be turned off when class begins and remain off throughout the duration of synchronous class times unless the student has spoken with the instructor prior to class beginning about an urgent need to have the phone available during class.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

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: <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php>.

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.

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 <https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy>.

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 <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>.

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.

GRADING SCALE

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

IX. Class Schedule

Week of	Topic	Assignment(s) Due	Readings
1/19	Introduction/ syllabus review Academic Writing and Citations Using APA	Introduction Video (1/21) Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (1/24)	Readings and videos from UT Library System
1/26	<i>NASW Code of Ethics</i> Primary Functions and Focus of Social Work	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (1/31)	Cox, Tice and Long, <i>The History of Social Work</i> NASW Code of Ethics

	History of Social Work and Social Welfare		McClain, <i>Social workers critical in fight against coronavirus</i>
2/2	<i>NASW Code of Ethics</i> History of Social Work and Social Welfare	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (2/7)	Crofoot and Harris, <i>Indian Child Welfare Perspective...</i> NASW Code of Ethics <i>Anti-colonialism in SW</i> podcast, Decolonize Social Work
2/9	History of Social Work and Social Welfare	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (2/14)	Washington, <i>The Need for and Education....</i> and NASW, <i>Institutional Racism and the Social Work Profession...</i> (through page 16) NASW, <i>Code of Ethics Historical Excerpts</i>
2/16	Generalist Practice and Theories Advocacy	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (2/21)	Generalist Theory One Pagers Kolivoski, K. M., Weaver, A., & Constance-Huggins, M., <i>Critical Race Theory: Opportunities for Application in Social Work Practice and Policy.</i> Cox, Tice and Long, <i>Advocacy in Social Work</i>
2/23	Racism	Critical Analysis Paper/History of NASW Code of Ethics Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (2/28)	Foster, <i>Anchor Babies and Welfare Queens: An Essay on Political...</i>
3/2	Intersectionality	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (3/7)	Mattson, <i>Intersectionality as a Useful Tool...</i>

		Groups in Office Hours	
3/9	Poverty Housing	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (3/14) Groups in Office Hours	International Federation of Social Work, <i>Poverty Eradication and the Role for Social Workers</i> Avkanian, A. and Fogel, S, <i>The Criminalization of Homelessness</i> <i>Universal Basic Income was a Fringe Idea. Then the COVID-19 Pandemic Happened.</i>
3/16	Spring Break		
3/23	Healthcare Aging	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (3/28) Groups in Office Hours	Eden Philosophy of Care De Saxe Zerden, L., Lombardi, B. and A. Jones, <i>Social workers in integrated health care: Improving care throughout the life course</i> Perry, A, Harshbarger, D, and Romer, C., <i>Mapping Racial Inequity Amid COVID-19 Underscores Policy Discriminations against Black Americans</i> Rasmussen, B and Garran, A, <i>In the Line of Duty: Racism in Health Care</i>
3/30	Disability Family and Children	Intersectionality Paper Draft Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (4/4)	Thompson, V. <i>Black History Now: Vilissa Thompson</i> NASW, <i>Social Work Speaks, People with Disabilities</i>

			Cox, Tice and Long, <i>Family and Child Welfare</i>
4/6	Veterans	Intersectionality Paper Peer Reviews Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (4/11)	VHA Social Work
4/13	Mental Health Substance Misuse	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (4/18) Group Presentations Due 4/18	Mendenhall, A. and Frauenholtz, S., <i>Mental Health Literacy: Social Work's Role in Improving Public Mental Health</i> Cox, Tice and Long, <i>Mental Health</i>
4/20	Criminal Justice Environmental Justice	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (4/25) Final Intersectionality Paper	NASW, <i>Criminal Justice Social Work in the United States</i> Mackall, A., <i>Social services are central to public safety.</i>
4/27	Global Social Work View Group Presentations	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (5/2)	<i>Social Work and Environmental Justice: A Natural Partnership</i> <i>Eco-Social Work: An Ethical Imperative</i>
5/4	End of semester wrap up View Group Presentations	Discussion Board and Exit Ticket (5/9) Experiential Learning Reflection	

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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