

**The University of Texas at Austin
Steve Hicks School of Social Work**

Course number: SW 383T	Instructor: Starla Simmons, LCSW (she/her)
Unique number: 61195	Office number:
Semester: Spring 2021	Email: starla.simmons@utexas.edu
Meeting time/place: Online Wednesdays 8:30-11:30am, Field Seminar, 11:30-12:30pm	Office hours: Wednesdays, 12:30pm-1:30pm and 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.

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, 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

III. Teaching Methods:

This web-based course will be conducted via ZOOM. Please sign up for your UT Zoom account prior to class beginning: <https://zoom.its.utexas.edu/>.

This class will be taught using a variety of teaching methods to foster a stimulating, creative and collaborative learning community. Experiential learning that builds upon students' field instruction will be emphasized. Other teaching methods include small group interaction, class discussion, role-play, videotaping, videos, guest speakers, lecture and learning activities in the community. For a meaningful experience in this class, students must actively participate, take risks, stretch their creativity, apply their critical thinking skills and attend class regularly. All students are encouraged to ask questions, raise issues, provide the instructor feedback and meet with the instructor individually as needed to enhance their learning.

Students with disabilities are expected to inform the instructor so appropriate academic accommodations may be planned. Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities in the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

IV. Required Texts and Materials

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

All required readings listed on the class schedule that are not found in the required texts will be available on Canvas. If readings are added to the reading list after the beginning of the class semester, you will be notified by the professor, generally by email.

V. Course Requirements

Students will be required to complete the assignments listed below. Detailed assignment learning objectives and instructions, including expected demonstration of content mastery and skill development will be provided in a separate handout. All assignments will be discussed in detail in class and students are encouraged to meet with the instructor should they have any questions about the assignments. Grading sheets with point allocation will be provided with the assignment guidelines. All assignments will be graded on depth and quality of required content, creativity and critical thinking skills, overall professionalism and quality of writing. Specific point totals for each assignment are indicated below.

- **Asynchronous and Class Participation: 10pts**

Consistent attendance, 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.

Asynchronous work may consist of reading responses, podcasts, videos, groupwork with classmates, discussion boards, etc. These assignments are to supplement instructional objectives while providing opportunities to learn independently. Completion of asynchronous activities throughout the course are required and count towards your grade. All work will be posted in Canvas.

- **Group Dynamics Paper: 10pts**

To demonstrate understanding of group development and group roles, students will observe a group in the community, or use an example from a film to write an analysis of basic group concepts and dynamics. Separate assignment sheet and rubric can be found in canvas.

- **Social Work Theory Group Project: 25pts**

To study theory in-depth and practice task group skills, you and your group will develop a 90-minute, interactive professional workshop about a particular theory and its application to practice. Each group will *Attachment, Behavioral, Cognitive, Relational Cultural, Existential or Narrative Theory*. Groups and topics will be decided in class. Guidelines with grading rubric and due date can be found in Canvas.

- **Advocacy and Action Project: 20pts**

To continue to expand your understanding and responsibility to Social Justice, and to increase your cause advocacy skills, you will participate in self-directed advocacy project aligned with twelve *Social Work Grand Challenges*. Guidelines with grading rubric and due date can be found in Canvas.

This project has three parts:

- 1) Proposal (5 points): Write and submit a proposal identifying a cause and action that supports advocacy effort towards your cause. Professor Simmons's approval required to move forward with proposal.
- 2) Engagement in Action (10 points): In a paper, critique the event and reflect on the experience.
- 3) Presentation (5 points): Give a brief, professional presentation to the class about the event.

- **Video Role Play and Critique 15 pts**

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.

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. A separate assignment sheet will be provided.

- **Final Case Analysis: 20 pts.**

To help you consolidate your professional knowledge and skills acquired over the year, 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. Case, questions and guidelines will be posted on Canvas the week after Spring Break.

VI. Grades

The following graduate grading scale will be used to determine the final letter grade for the course. The student who earns an A for this course is one who, over the course of the semester, consistently submits work that exceeds expectations. Assignments will not be given letter grades individually; instead, a number of points will be awarded for each assignment, leading to the cumulative grade for the semester.

UT 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

Asynchronous & Class Participation	10
Group Dynamics Paper	10
Video Role Play and Self Critique	15
Social Work Theory Group Project	25
Final Case Analysis	20
Advocacy and Action	20
TOTAL POINTS	100pts

VII. Class Policies

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION Attendance and participation for the full three hours of class and the additional hour of field seminar is expected for all students. If a student is unable to attend class, please inform the Professor by email at your earliest convenience. Repeated absences will require conference with Professor, additional make-up work if necessary, and possible loss of points. Classroom exercises, discussions, role-plays, guest speakers and other class experiential exercises are essential for the students' professional learning and continued development of self-awareness. This form of learning cannot be "made up" once missed. Students will be expected to contact their peers to secure any missed notes or handouts. The student may schedule an office visit with the professor if they wish to discuss missed classroom material in more detail.

PAPERS Students are expected to produce high quality work in terms of appearance, writing style and content. Points will be deducted for errors, misspellings, incorrect grammar, poor organization, repetition of information, and inferior word processing. When using information from other sources, references and bibliography should conform to the current APA style of citation. Students are encouraged to consult with the SSW writing consultant. Plagiarism is a serious violation of university rules and will be dealt with according to university policy.

TIME MANAGEMENT All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date and time indicated. **Late assignments will be penalized 5% of the total percentage points allowed per day that they are late and will only be accepted in the first week following an assignment due date. However, students will be allowed to turn one assignment in late by one day during the semester without incurring the 5% penalty.** Contact the instructor before the assignment is due if other arrangements need to be made due to an emergency. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date and time indicated on Canvas.

USE OF CANVAS IN CLASS In this class the professor uses Canvas Web based course management system with password protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu> distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online quizzes and surveys. Students can find support in using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk. For more information go to <http://www.utexas.edu/its/helpdesk/>

FEEDBACK Students will be asked to provide feedback on their learning and the professor's teaching strategies in informal as well as formal ways. It is very important for the professor to know the students' reactions to what is taking place in class, ensuring that together the professor and students can create a dynamic and effective learning community. Students are encouraged to provide ongoing feedback to the instructor during class and office visits.

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.

IX. Course Schedule:

Date	Topic	Practice II Assignment Due (by midnight)	Readings: (See handouts in canvas each week)
1/20	Welcome Back! Course and Syllabus Review Self-Care for Social Justice		
1/27	Sharpening Critical Race Theory lens Liberatory Social Work Practice		Grand Challenges https://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/orientation/ Articles in Canvas
2/3	Leadership, Advocacy, & Organizing Crip Camp & Disability Justice		Community Tool Box https://ctb.ku.edu/en
2/10	Holistic Social Work Ecopsychology & Ecotherapy		In canvas: Norton article
2/17	Psychodynamic Theory Defense Mechanisms		Walsh Chapter 4 Handouts in canvas
2/24	<u>Asynchronous Class:</u> Crisis Response Module	Advocacy proposals due	Walsh Chapter 13

3/3	Family Systems Theory Attachment Theory		Walsh Chapters 5, 6
3/10	Group Development & Dynamics	Group Dynamics Paper due	
3/24	Social Work Theory: Group Presentation #1	Group Handouts	Walsh Chapters 7
3/31	Social Work Theory: Group Presentation #2	Group Handouts	Walsh Chapter 8
4/7	Social Work Theory: Group Presentation #3	Group Handouts	Walsh Chapter 10
4/14	Social Work Theory: Group Presentation #4	Group Handouts	Walsh Chapter 11,12
4/21	Video Role Play Feedback Groups		none
4/28	Guest Speaker: TBA Advocacy Project Showcase	Advocacy Project presentation	
5/5	Last Class Celebration		
5/7		Final Case Analysis due	

X. Bibliography

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