

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIALWORK**

Course Number:	SW 310	Instructor:	Brooke White, LCSW
Unique Number:	61315	Email:	brookewhite@austin.utexas.edu
Semester:	Fall 2021	Office:	Remote
Synchronous Meeting Time	11-12:30pm Tuesdays via Zoom	Asynchronous Activities	75 minutes per week

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL WELFARE

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory social work course in which students will learn about the profession of social work and its history: it's areas of practice, values, and ethics. The history of social welfare policies in the United States will be explored, as will the timeline of social welfare policy which shapes social work practice. You will be exposed to the human rights issues that impact and are impacted by social work. As an introduction to the social work profession, the course will critically discuss being a social worker - the current laws, policies, ethics, and documents that guide practice. You will be introduced to generalist social work practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

Differences in and between communities - as categorized as radicalization, ethnic origin, class, gender, gender identity and expression, culture sexual orientation, religion, age, physical and mental abilities, caste, immigration and refugee status, national writing of communities and tribal sovereign status - will be explored in the context of social work. Student will have the opportunity to assess their own identities, strengths, and challenges and identify potential ethical conflict working directly with people who share or do not share identities with the social worker. This course will explore beginning skills in engaging diversity, differences, and equity in social work practice.

The 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 experience persistent marginalization.

II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Locate contexts and settings in which social workers practice, including the roles and functions that social workers perform.
2. Identify ways that an individual's assumptions, identities, values and beliefs impact

- social work practice.
3. Provide a basic outline of Ecological Systems Theory, Strengths-based Perspective, & Critical Race Theory in relationship to specific social problems
 4. Identify the social work ethics, laws, and policies that guide practice, including the NASW Code of Ethics
 5. Explain the history of social work within the United States social service system including:
 1. The relationship to racialization, ethnic origin, class, gender, gender identity and expression, culture, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical and mental abilities, caste, immigration and refugee status, national origin of communities and tribal sovereign status.
 2. The social, economic and political ideologies that have shaped the evolution of social welfare history, policies, and services in the U.S.
 6. Explain beginning knowledge of issues and concerns in the social work profession around racialization, ethnic origin, class, gender, gender identity and expression, culture, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical and mental abilities, caste, immigration and refugee status, national origin of communities and tribal sovereign status.
 7. Give examples of social work leadership.
 8. Illustrate the importance of the impact of individual stories to the growth of social work, especially stories from people in oppressed groups.
 9. Describe possible career paths in social work.

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 encourage 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 platform 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 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 Canvas questions. You can also call them at 512-475-9400. Additionally, the Learning Resource Center at the SSW has computers and computer assistance.

IV. REQUIRED TEXT AND 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

Assignment	Points
Online Discussion Questions	30 pts
Introduction Video	5 pts
Critical Analysis Paper/NASW Code	25 pts
Social Work Practice Area Group Presentation	30 pts
Attendance & Class Participation	10 pts
Total	100 pts

Introduction Video, 5 pts	Assignment	Due Date
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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, interest in social work, etc...) as well as some photos. Videos will be used to get to know each other in this online class and assign groups for the semester-long group project.

9/5/2021

Assignment

Due Date

Online Discussion Questions, 30-32.5 pts

Students will be required to watch videos, complete readings and complete exercises related to the topics of that week during the asynchronous class time. 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 2.5 points, there are a total of 13 weekly discussion boards in all, students may complete 12 discussion boards for full credit or all 13 for an additional 2.5 extra credit points. All Discussion Board posts will be due, at the latest, at 11:59pm on Sundays each week.

Weekly, due at
11:59pm the
Sunday
preceding class

Critical Analysis Paper/NASW Code, 25 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. An outline of the key points in this paper will be due on 10/5/21 and will be worth 5 points. Students will receive feedback on their outlines to add in the completion of the final paper which is due on 10/24/2021. A separate assignment sheet will be provided.

Outline due
10/5/2021;
Final paper due
10/24/2021

Social Work Practice Area Group Presentation, 30 pts

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.

11/21/2021

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.

Assignment

Due Date

Attendance & Class Participation, 10 pts

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.

Ongoing,
Weekly

Extra Credit, 2 pts

Students who make and complete an appointment with a UT writing center consultant to review the Critical Reflection paper will receive 2 extra points on their final grade. Students may schedule these appointments here: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/services/writing-appointments/>. It usually takes 1-2 weeks to get an appointment scheduled with the writing center so please plan ahead. verification of completion of a writing appointment must be sent directly to the class instructor to receive credit.

Confirmation of
appt. due by
10/24

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. CLASS 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 maybe 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: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

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 <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 campus carry may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>.

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 and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL). 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 and COVID-19 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>. The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

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

Week of	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
8/23	<p>Synchronous meeting 8/26/2021</p> <p>Introduction & syllabus review</p> <p>Academic Writing Overview & APA Citation Review</p> <p>Writing in social work</p>	<p>Exit Ticket (Due at end of class 8/26)</p>	<p>Before class on 8/31: Review syllabus and resources from UT library systems as well as class guidelines</p>
8/30	<p>Synchronous meeting 8/31/2021</p> <p><i>Class Guidelines</i></p> <p><i>NASW Code of Ethics</i></p> <p>Primary Functions and Focus of Social Work</p> <p>History of Social Work & Social Welfare</p>	<p>Exit Ticket (due at end of class 8/31)</p> <p>Discussion Board (Due 9/5)</p> <p>Introduction Video (Due 9/5)</p>	<p><i>Social Work Profession: History</i></p> <p><i>NASW Code of Ethics</i></p>

Week of	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
9/6	Synchronous meeting 9/7/2021 <i>NASW Code of Ethics</i> History of Social Work & Social Welfare	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 9/7) Discussion Board (Due 9/12)	Reisch, <i>Lessons from Social Work's History for a Tumultuous Era</i> <i>NASW Code of Ethics</i> <i>Anti-colonialism in SW</i> podcast, Decolonize Social Work
9/13	Synchronous meeting 9/14/2021 History of Social Work & Social Welfare	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 9/14) Discussion Board (Due 9/19)	Crofoot & Harris, <i>Indian Welfare Perspective...</i> NASW, <i>Institutional Racism and the Social Work Profession...</i> (through page 16) NASW, <i>Code of Ethics Historical Excerpts</i>
9/20	Synchronous meeting 9/21/2021 Generalist Practice & Theories Advocacy	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 9/21) Discussion Board (Due 9/26)	Generalist Theory One Pagers Maylea, etc... <i>Independent Mental Health Advocacy: A Model of Social Work Advocacy?</i>
9/27	Synchronous meeting 9/28/2021 Critical Race Theory Anti-Racism	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 9/28) Discussion Board (Due 10/3)	Kolivoski, K.M., Weaver, A., & Constance-Huggins, M., <i>Critical Race Theory: Opportunities for Application in Social Work Practice and Policy.</i> CRT One Page Document

Week of	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
10/4	Synchronous meeting 10/5/2021 Knowing self in Social Work Practice Co-Conspiring	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 10/5) Critical Analysis Paper/History of NASW Code of Ethics Outline (Due in class 10/5) Discussion Board (Due 10/10) Group meetings with instructor	<i>Guide to Allyship</i>
10/11	Synchronous meeting 10/12/2021 Intersectionality	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 10/12) Discussion Board (Due 10/17) Group meetings with instructor	Kolivoski, <i>Applying Critical Race Theory & Intersectionality...</i>
10/18	Synchronous meeting 10/19/2021 Poverty Housing	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 10/19) Discussion Board (Due 10/24) Group meetings with instructor Critical Analysis Paper/History of NASW Code of Ethics (Due 10/24)	International Federation of Social Work, <i>Poverty Eradication and the Role for Social Workers</i> Avkanian, A., Fogel, S., <i>The Criminalization of Homelessness</i> <i>Day in the Life of a Social Worker</i>

Week of	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
10/25	Synchronous meeting 10/26/2021 Mental Health Substance Misuse	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 10/26) Discussion Board (Due 10/31)	Mendenhall, A. and Frauenholtz, S., <i>Mental Health Literacy: Social Work's Role in Improving Public Mental Health</i> <i>Day in the Life of a Social Worker</i>
11/1	Synchronous meeting 11/2/2021 Healthcare Aging	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 11/2) Discussion Board (Due 11/7)	Eden Philosophy of Care De Saxe Zerden L., Lombardi, B., & A. Jones, <i>Social workers in integrated health care: Improving care throughout the life course</i> Rasmussen, B. & Garran, A., <i>In the Line of Duty: Racism in Health Care</i>
11/8	Synchronous meeting 11/9/2021 Disability Family & Children	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 11/9) Discussion Board (Due 11/14)	Thompson, V. <i>Black History Now: Vilissa Thompson</i> NASW, <i>Social Work Speaks, People with Disabilities</i> <i>Day in the Life of a Social Worker</i>
11/15	Synchronous meeting 11/16/2021 Criminal Justice & Public Safety Veterans	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 11/16) Discussion Board (Due 11/21) Group Presentation Recording (Due midnight on 11/21)	NASW, <i>Criminal Justice Social Work in the United States</i> Mackall, A., <i>Social services are central to public safety</i> <i>VHA Social Work</i> <i>Day in the Life of a Social Worker</i>

Week of	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
11/22	No Synchronous Meeting this Week International Social Work	Discussion Board (Due 11/24)	<i>Day in the Life of a Social Worker</i>
11/29	Synchronous meeting 11/30/2021 Environmental Justice End of Semester Wrap-Up	Exit Ticket (due at end of class 11/30) View Group Presentations (12/5) Group Presentation Feedback & Questions (Due 12/5)	<i>Social Work and Environmental Justice: A Natural Partnership</i>

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