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

Course Number: SW 395K
Instructor: Sandy Magaña, PhD, MSW
Email: smagana@austin.utexas.edu
Unique Number: 61875
Semester: Fall 2021
Meeting Place/time: 124 Burdine Hall
Tuesdays 5:30 to 8:30PM

Office: 3.130H
Office Phone: 512-232-9216
Office Hours: by appt.

Leadership Training: Autism

Interprofessional Instructional Team
Professor Sandy Magaña from Social Work will lead the course, which will be team taught with the following faculty:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Brinster, PhD</td>
<td>School Psychology</td>
<td>Dell Children’s Medical Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Brumback, MD</td>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>Dell Med Neurology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Campbell, PhD, AuD</td>
<td>Audiology, Neurosciences</td>
<td>UT, Speech, Language, and Hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Hampton, PhD</td>
<td>Special Ed, BCBA</td>
<td>UT, Special Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen Padilla PhD</td>
<td>Special Ed, BCBA</td>
<td>Baylor, Educational Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheri Ravenscroft, MD</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>Dell Medical School Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sal Silinonte, BA</td>
<td>ABA</td>
<td>UT, LEND faculty member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Vanegas, PhD</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Texas State, School of SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Winges-Yanez</td>
<td>Social Work/Dis Studies</td>
<td>Texas Center for Disability Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina Zuna, PhD</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Texas Center for Disability Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. Standardized Course Description
This course provides interdisciplinary leadership training to students in social work and other health professions on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other related disabilities. The course is modeled after the federally funded Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs which are offered across the country. Therefore, the course emphasizes core objectives from LEND to advance knowledge and skills in improving health care delivery for all children with developmental disabilities. Like LEND, this course will emphasize the importance of understanding the integration of services, developing community partnerships, and promoting innovative practices to enhance cultural competency, family-centered care, and interdisciplinary partnerships.

II. Standardized Course Objectives
1. Demonstrate knowledge of neurodevelopmental and related disabilities.
2. Discuss the special healthcare needs of individuals with disabilities across the lifespan and their families.
3. Evaluate systems of care at the local, regional and national levels.
4. Demonstrate skills in cultural sensitivity and competence with respect to disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race/ethnicity, national origin and culture.
5. Critically analyze research, frameworks and clinical practices as they relate to disability issues.

III. Teaching Methods
This course takes an interprofessional education approach to learning. Students will be guided by discussions in which they share their experiences in their professional training programs and reflect upon and share their professional perspectives about the course content. Instructors will ensure that the content presented is inclusive of the different professions represented by students in the class. Students across professional programs will work together on at least one group assignment. The course will be offered as a hybrid model with UT students attending in person and Baylor and Texas State students and others will attend virtually. In Burdine Hall we have the support of LAITS who have designed a special “studio” classroom just for us! They will provide technology support for the classroom. Some instructors will join us in person and others remotely.

IV. Required Materials
Readings and materials for each week will be available on canvas. This may include articles, book chapters, and links to reports or other materials. There may also be prerecorded lectures or other video or online based materials for each session.

V. Course Requirements
Class Participation and Attendance- In order to have a rich interprofessional experience, class attendance and participation are important. Students will have the opportunity to learn from each other in lecture and classroom activities. Attendance is worth 14 points. Students can miss one class without point deduction.
Discussion on Weekly Readings and Materials- students will enter comments and/or questions Canvas discussion by 10PM the night before class based on the readings and materials for that week. Students should use these questions/comments in class as a basis for class participation. There will be 12 opportunities for posting and students should post 10 out of 12 weeks. Each weekly posting is worth 2 points, total 20.

Out of Classroom training, reflection, and discussion- Students who are not in the ACT LEND program will choose two ACT LEND clinical training sessions and write a two or more-page reflection on each observation. ACT LEND trainees enrolled in the class will attend most of the trainings but will reflect on two. During class time, students will have the opportunity to share their experiences with each other noting similarities and differences in professional perspectives. This assignment is worth 26 points (13 for each training). All reflections are due by 11/30 unless you opt for the December 3 training (which is after the last day of class). This one will be due 12/6.

The following training opportunities are on Friday from 2 to 5PM at the Dell Pediatric Research Institute, first floor conference room, 1400 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Austin TX 78723

- September 3, Best Practices for Screening and Assessment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations
- September 18, Developmental Screening
• October 1, Autism Screening
• October 15, Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule Overview other
• December 3, Assessment of Mental Health in ASD/DD (if you select this workshop, reflection is due 12/6)

Policy Brief- Working together in interprofessional teams, the class will prepare a 1-2-page policy brief. In-class instruction will be provided. Students will work on this activity in teams of 2 or 3. Students will attempt to contact a local legislator and present the brief; students will share their experiences in class. This assignment is worth 20 points and will be due 11/23/21

Research, Clinical or Leadership Project- Students can use their existing internships or research assignments or engage in new ones (opportunities will be discussed in class). The goal is to develop a product that is related to your experience and people with autism or developmental disabilities. It can be a resource for families or clinicians, a small research study, etc. At the end of the semester, students will conduct a 5-minute online presentation of the project in the last class. This assignment is worth 20 points.

Summary of Assignments and Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance (13 out of 14)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly reading questions (10 weekly postings, you choose which weeks)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of classroom training (2 activities, 13 points each)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research, clinical or leadership project (including final presentation)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy brief (group project)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. GRADES

94.0 and Above          A       74.0 to 76.999   C
90.0 to 93.999           A-      70.0 to 73.999   C-
87.0 to 89.999           B+      67.0 to 69.999   D+
84.0 to 86.999           B       64.0 to 66.999   D
80.0 to 83.999           B-      60.0 to 63.999   D-
77.0 to 79.999           C+      Below 60.0       F

VII. CLASS POLICIES

1. Conduct and Civility: Students adhere to the student standards for professional conduct of their respective discipline/profession and assume responsibility for their conduct. Scholastic honesty and integrity are consistent with professional values. Practitioners respect others; therefore, differences in values, opinions, and feelings of class members and guest speakers are respected. Students will help create and support a learning environment that does not interfere with the learning of fellow students.

2. Readings and Preparatory Assignments: Students are expected to be active and participate in the learning process, and in an interactive framework between collegiate students and professors. Students are also expected to complete readings and preparatory assignments prior to
3. Professional Communication and Interactions: In this course, students will have the opportunity to practice interprofessional communication. This includes listening and learning from students in different professional training programs and sharing your perspective, all in a respectful way.

4. Class Attendance Policy: Class attendance is important as interprofessional learning and activities are a key part of class. Attendance is defined as students’ attentive physical presence in class for the entire class. It is your responsibility to sign the class attendance sheet. The instructor should be notified in advance of any planned absence and as soon as possible in the case of an unforeseen, serious emergency. **Each day counts as 1 point of the attendance grade, students can miss one class and receive full points.**

5. Assignments and Grades: Assignments should be turned in online or in person on the date they are due, barring serious, unforeseen medical illness or family emergencies.

6. Use of Canvas: The professor uses Canvas Web-based course management/collective workspace. An orientation will be given the first day of class. If you do not have a personal computer with personal Internet access, there are computers available for your use at the SW Learning Resource Center (LRC), the Flawn Academic Center, campus and public libraries.

7. Course Modification: To ensure achievement for course objectives, the professor reserves the right to make modifications to any part of this syllabus related to schedule and assignment due dates. Should any modifications be made, students will be notified in class and modifications will be posted to Canvas. Students should check their email frequently. Note that some of the links to documents and videos on the Internet may change. Documents, new links or alternate options will be provided.

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/](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/](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/](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](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/](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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues 8/31</td>
<td>Review course goals, objectives &amp; syllabus. Overview of autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities, terminology, definitions, etc. Sandy Magaña and Nina Zuna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading/Discussion</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Online Materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tues 10/5</td>
<td>Disability legislative policy and advocacy: Chris Massey from Autism Society</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> TBA, See links on canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tues 10/12</td>
<td>Local and state systems of care, Kate Thompson &amp; Leslie Jackson Person Centered Practice, Mary Bishop from HHSC</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Person Centered Thinking, Planning and Practice: A National Environmental Scan of Indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tues 10/26</td>
<td>The importance of Audiology in neurologic assessments, Julia Campbell</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disability and Desire (supplemental)  
NPR - Sex Ed and Intellectual Disability (supplemental)  
Guest Room short video (supplemental) |
| 13   | Tues 11/23 | Adults and neurodiversity- Amy Yu and Sal Silinonte                   | **Readings:** TBD                                                                                                                         | Reading discussion  
Policy Brief due  
Student Presentations |
| 14   | Tues 11/30 | Presentation of final projects/ celebrate and evaluations            |                                                                                                                                          | Observation Papers due |
X. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education: Report to the Governor of Texas and Texas Legislature January 2019

Developmental Disabilities Act 2000, pp. 6-12.


