

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

<b>Course Number:</b>	SW 325	<b>Instructor:</b>	Diane Rhodes
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<b>Semester:</b>	Fall 2022	<b>Office:</b>	via Zoom
<b>Meeting Time/Place:</b>	n/a	<b>Office Phone:</b>	Email please
		<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment

**The Foundations of Social Justice – Web-based**

**I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on recognizing injustice and constructing socially conscious responses to inequity using generalist social work practice. You will gain skills to identify and communicate about inequality affecting various identities and social statuses. You will understand different forms of marginalization by dominant groups and how unequal power relations adversely affect individuals, groups, and communities. You will also learn about frameworks that support discourse about inequity, marginalization, injustice, and exclusion, including the cycle of socialization, the tension between private troubles and public issues, systemic oppression, human rights, and strategies for socially conscious change. You will have the opportunity to explore your role in the promotion of social, racial, and economic justice.

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. The purpose of the Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag is for students to explore in depth the shared practices and beliefs of one or more underrepresented cultural groups subject to persistent marginalization. In addition to learning about these diverse groups in relation to their specific contexts, students should engage in an active process of critical reflection. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one underrepresented cultural group in the U.S.

**II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the history and heritage of marginalized groups in the United States, including familiarity with the impact of racialization, ethnic origin, class, gender, gender identity and expression, culture, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical and mental disabilities, caste, immigration/refugee status, national origin of communities and tribal sovereign status, and intersectional links of oppression.
2. Understand the social construction of difference and how social construction factors into oppression by dominant groups.
3. Analyze basic principles and critiques of various social justice and human rights theories, perspectives, and practices, including, but not limited to, perspectives of anti-racism and anti-oppressive theories, critical theories such as critical race theory, lat-crit and queer-crit, dis-crit, and feminist and narrative theories.
4. Examine anti-racism, centering racialization, using perspectives developed by Black, Indigenous and other scholars of color.
5. Critically examine use of ecological systems theory and strengths-based practice, and analyze factors of these perspectives that support or hinder equity, in the pursuit of social, racial and economic justice.
6. Using a social justice lens, identify policies, behaviors, and beliefs that perpetuate racist and other oppressive ideas and actions and suggest strategies for change.
7. Critically examine how experiences of marginalization and oppression are similar and different in countries outside of the United States.
8. Critically examine personal and professional values, cultural perspectives and use of self in ethical, culturally humble, and socially just social work practices and leadership.
9. Identify and apply strategies to mitigate the ways in which historical and current marginalization is manifested in public policy, institutional structures, service delivery (including clinical assessment, planning, and intervention), and social work research.

### III. TEACHING METHODS

This course is an asynchronous online course with no assigned group meeting times. **Asynchronous work** is a blend of direct instruction and self-paced individual tasks using online platforms, web resources, and occasionally requiring an activity. You are expected to complete assigned readings, watching, and activities each week. Weekly course work is required and essential for successful completion of this course and is counted as attendance. Canvas will be used for turning in assignments, grading, and communication between students, the instructor, and the TA.

**Use of Canvas:** The professor uses Canvas, the University's learning management system. 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.

To reach our class site on Canvas, please go to <http://courses.utexas.edu> or go to the Social Work web page and click on Canvas. To access the course website, you must have an Internet connection and computer access. You will need a UT EID and password. The Help Desk available through the UT home page ([www.utexas.edu/its/help](http://www.utexas.edu/its/help)) can assist you with your computer and Canvas questions. You can also call them at 475-9400. Additionally, the Learning Resource Center at the SSW has computers and computer assistance.

**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.

### IV. REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS

#### **Subscription to Skyepack (digital textbook)**

- Go to [www.skyepack.com](http://www.skyepack.com)
- Click on “**Create Account**”. Please make sure you are **using your university/school-assigned email address**.
- Skyepack will send you a verification email to the address used to create your account; follow the steps in the email to **Verify Your Account**.
- Go back to [www.skyepack.com](http://www.skyepack.com), login, and click on “**Channel Guide**” on the left sidebar.
- Select your school's channel. (If you do not see this channel, email [support@skyepack.com](mailto:support@skyepack.com).) You will see the pack for your course listed here.
- From the drop-down menu on the course pack icon, select “**Add to My Collection**”.
- Pay the access fee using a debit, credit, or prepaid redemption card from your bookstore.
- Your course pack will now be available by selecting “**My Pack Collection**” from the left sidebar.

**Additional reading and video links will be assigned and available to you electronically via Canvas.**

### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### **SkyePack Review Questions**

The SkyePack chapters are built specifically for this class by your instructor and comprise part of the weekly ‘online lecture’ for this class. Therefore, review questions for all the modules are required.

#### **Attendance**

You are required to complete course work each week, your attendance will be recorded each Friday by checking your participation on Canvas, and/or completion of the SkyPack end of chapter questions.

#### **Self-Assessment**

Conduct an interview-style initial assessment of your own ideas and attitudes about diversity, privilege, and oppression. An interview guide is provided on Canvas. Make an audio or a video recording of yourself answering the questions in the interview guide. (video submission approx. 1 hour long)

**Collage Portrait and Gallery**

Create a culture storyboard narrating ‘identities’ assigned to you in society and those that may be invisible by illustrating your story with pictures of items that represent those ideas and putting together a collage.

**Argument Map of an Op-Ed**

Map the arguments progression in an opinion/editorial chosen from the New York Times on an issue that is important to you.

**Implicit Bias Test Screenshot**

You will take the Harvard Project Implicit race inventory and one other inventory and capture a screenshot of the results to upload to Canvas.

**Quizzes and Discussion Boards**

**In Context**

Apply what you have learned via an interpretation of an advertisement (1 referenced advertisement + 2 pages)

**End term paper**

Includes the common evaluation instrument for this course.

Assignment	pts
Discussion Post: Introduce yourself	
Self-Interview	5
SkyePack Quizzes	20
Screenshot of IB test results Due	5
Collage Portrait	5
Collage Portrait Reflection	5
Argument Map Due	15
Accessibility Tour Quiz Due	15
In Context Reflection Paper	10
Advocacy Discussion Board	5
Final Reflection Paper Due	15

**Note: A detailed introduction and explanation of assignments, including examples, is in Canvas.**

**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-

## VII. CLASS POLICIES

### Guide for work turned in:

- Your work must be clear. Using format and composition, ensure your work is understandable to readers.
- It also needs evidence of your original thoughts; including elements of critical thinking:
  - Reflection
  - Analysis
  - Acquisition of information
  - Creativity
  - Structuring arguments
  - Decision making
  - Commitment
  - Debate
- You must give credit to outside sources for any materials used in your assignments. Social work uses APA formatting to do this. If you are unfamiliar, or use another system, notify the instructor.

Note: social work majors need a final grade of a 'C' - or above to progress to following courses in the major

## 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 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.** Students who violate University rules on academic 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 academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

**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.

**UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC MAIL STUDENT NOTIFICATION.** Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. 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 HOLY DAYS.** A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Office for Inclusion and Equity](#). The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

**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	Topic	To Read/Watch	Assignments Due
1	Introductions & Syllabus Review		
2	What's the problem?	Skyepack Module 1 Courage_West Johnson Ch.1-2	Discussion Post: Introduce yourself Photo Release form due 8/26
3	History of Privilege	Skyepack Module 2 Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack_MacIntosh Johnson Ch3-4 *Zinn: Ch's 1-4/23-26	Self-Interview Due 9/2
4	Cycles of Socialization	Skyepack Module 3 Jean Baker Miller: Domination and Subordination	Screenshot of IB test results Due 9/9
5	Implicit knowledge	Skyepack Module 4 * Don't Call Me LGBTQ_Rauch The Rules_Robertson	Collage Portrait Due 9/16
6	Structures that Influence Society	Skyepack Module 5 * V.F. Cordova : America * Some: Grandfather's funeral	
7	Ways to frame the problems	Skyepack Module 6 Fields & Fields: Racecraft – Introduction Marcos Doesn't Live Here Anymore Discussion Boards	Discussion boards Due 9/30
8	Cultural Competence	Skyepack Module 7 Annah Anto-Pallindrome: This white feminist loved her dreadlocks- here's why she cut them off *Johnson 5 & 6	Accessibility Tour Reflection 10/7
9	Positionality & Intersectionality	Skyepack Module 8 "Christian Privilege" *Essay_Sharon 'Shaz' Mthunzi *Johnson 7	Collage Portrait Reflection Due 10/14
10	Othering & Belonging	SkyePack Module 9	Argument Map Due 10/21
11	Awake	Skyepack Module 10 Wronka: Human rights as the pillars of social justice *Johnson 8 & 9, Epilogue	In Context Reflection Paper Due 11/4
12	Ally	Skyepack Module 11 America's Untouchables	
13	Advocate	Skyepack Module 12	Advocacy Discussion Board 11/18

14	Activism	Skyepack Module 13 & 14 How bad will climate change get?	
15			Final Reflection Paper Due 12/2

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