

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BSW PROGRAM

SOWK 100 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WELFARE 3 credit hours

This course is a study of how social welfare services operate by addressing their evolutionary processes, their present and future functions; analysis of social welfare as an effective and/or ineffective delivery system for welfare as a helping system; examination of the development of the social work profession, and the roles of social workers.

SOWK 200 SEMINAR FOR MAJORS 0 credit hours

This course provides a forum for professional development, social work knowledge, and familiarity with social work roles relative to contemporary social issues. It also presents departmental and university expectations and concerns. (Prerequisite: Social Work 100) **SOWK 211 SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES I** 3 credit hours. This course examines the social welfare system and the historical development of social welfare policies and services.

SOWK 211 SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES I 3 credit hours

This course examines the social welfare system and the historical development of social welfare policies and services. This course is designed to help students begin to understand the significance of social welfare policies created to address the needs of marginalized individuals, families, groups, and communities.

SOWK 241 COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS 3 credit hours

Communication Skills is a required course for BSW students. The focus of this course is on written and oral communication skills utilized in the social work profession. The course, therefore, is designed to study and develop skills in the use of processes and techniques of interviewing and recording through instruction and practice. This course includes a required experiential component designed to enhance students' oral and written communication skills

SOWK 2810 SEMINAR: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT 0 credit hours

This course provides students the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom to a transformative community engagement learning experience with groups and/or organizations in their natural setting. It also provides a forum for professional development, reflects on the self-assessment of the student, and incorporates the values and ethics of the social work profession. (Prerequisites: SOWK 100, SOWK 200, SOWK 211, SOWK 241, SOWK 341, SOWK 350 plus 1 social work elective).

SOWK 311 SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICE II 3 credit hours

This course is the second in a sequence that moves beyond an examination of the social welfare system and relating historical development of social welfare policies and services to studying various models to analyze social problems, welfare programs, and social and public policies. Students learn to use a framework to analyze social welfare policies. This course is also designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills to become policy advocates. (Prerequisite: SOWK 211 or Consent of Program Director)

SOWK 341 HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I 3 credit hours

This course is a study of individual and social behavior, wherein behavior is considered a consequence of the total social situation in which individual subsystems, group subsystems, or other social units find themselves. General Systems Theory provides a construct that enables

us to examine new dimensions of human behavior, the nature and range of social experiences, and the effects of interaction and transaction among individual, group, and social environments. (Prerequisite: SOWK 100; SOWK 241; Can be taken concurrently with SOWK 343)

SOWK 343 HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT III 3 credit hours

This course builds on theoretical perspectives developed in HBSE I. It provides students with core knowledge and theory pertaining to macro systems. Economic and sociological principles, along with the themes of empowerment, advocacy, and transformation, are used to understand the dimensions and dynamics of broad social units (the workplace, human service organizations, institutions, ideologies, and worldviews). (Prerequisites: SOWK 100, SOWK 241; Can be taken concurrently with SOWK 341)

SOWK 350 DIRECT SERVICE I 3 credit hours

This course is a study of the components of social work practice, social systems, and the dynamics of planned social change as they apply in social work practice, and the identification and development of basic skills essential to the appropriate concepts and methods common to all social and rehabilitation services. (Prerequisite: SOWK 100, SOWK 241, or consent of Program Director)

SOWK 351 DIRECT SERVICE II 3 credit hours

This course is an exploration of family and group practice, interactional phenomena, and the development of family and group practice skills. Emphasis is on the application of knowledge and values of family and group processes in social work practice. (Prerequisite: SOWK 100, SOWK 241, SOWK 350 or Consent of Director)

SOWK 352 APO I: SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES 3 credit hours

This course is a study of social work techniques applied to community problem-solving and the development of macro-level skills. The theoretical models utilized are community development, social planning, and social action as a means for effecting social change in the community. (Prerequisite: SOWK 100, SOWK 343) Can be taken concurrently with SOWK 350.

SOWK 360 INTERACTIONAL SEMINAR ON AGING (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course provides an examination of the views and feelings of the elderly about this phase of life, the way the elderly relate to youth, problems, needs, and interests of the aged. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 410 SOCIAL WELFARE SEMINAR (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course is a process that focuses on an issue of current concern in the field. The topic varies from one semester to another. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 420 WORKING WITH CHILDREN (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course focuses on the needs of children. Consideration is given to devising appropriate goals in light of family attitudes, the agency's function, and the child's unique personality. Particular attention is given to the diagnostic analysis of non-verbal communication and to the role of expressive activities, such as play, crafts, and games. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 422 FAMILIES IN STRESS (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course provides a perspective on the family as a viable and dynamic unit. It is based on a theoretical framework consistent with the preventive services of social work intervention. This course draws upon knowledge of theories, explaining family dynamics as they adapt to the various crisis that confront families in today's society. The focus of the course is on awareness of family dynamics for corrective and preventive social work services. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 429 MEDICAL & SOC. ASPECTS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course examines the interdependence of the medical and social aspects of health and disease and their relevance to the practice of social work. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 430 INDEPENDENT STUDY

3 credit hours

In this course, students select a topic of special interest and submit a written proposal, which must be approved and supervised by a Social Work instructor. The requested course cannot be a required course in the program. This course is only available with prior approval. (Prerequisite: Consent of BSW Director) (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 431 SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

3 credit hours

This course is a study of fundamental research methods used in Social Welfare research, designed to equip students with marketable skills in the research area. Teaching methodology involves a learning laboratory approach. The first semester focuses on concepts and terms commonly used in research, learning skills in practice evaluation research, and skills in selecting topics in preparing research reports. Students develop and practice research techniques, including participant observation, case study, content analysis, social surveys, and unobtrusive research. (Prerequisites: SOWK 351)

SOWK 432 SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS

3 credit hours

This course is a continuation of part one of the research sequence with an emphasis on statistical data analysis. During the second semester, the students focus on learning statistical and computer techniques for analyzing data sets. Each student completes a major field research project demonstrating competence in statistical analysis and in writing a report of this analysis. (Prerequisite: SOWK 431; Open to MSW students to meet undergraduate statistics requirement)

SOWK 433 INSTITUTIONAL RACISM IN THE U.S. (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course examines the nature and significance of racism in American life. The economic, political, and psychological attitudes, as well as institutional practices, are also investigated. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 434 SOCIAL LEGISLATION, POLICY & PROCESS (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course is a study of selected phases of social legislation, the constitutional framework, problems and inadequacies of these laws and programs, and methods for improvement. Students examine congressional records and laws; visit courts, city councils, and state legislative meetings to develop an in-depth understanding of and sensitivity to the political system as a means of effecting social change and "strategizing" social action. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 435 OLDER PERSONS IN FAMILY SETTINGS (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course is an issues and practice elective for BSW students. It focuses on the meaning of the family system, including all members from the young to the elderly. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 436 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours.

This elective course is a comprehensive study of the principal child welfare services, including a historical perspective on the current socioeconomic context in which child welfare social work operates. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 437 SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE HANICAPPED (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course is an examination of the broad concept and specialized programs of rehabilitation and the handicapped individual; a study of the handicapping effects of specific disabilities; psychological and social implications that provide a framework for understanding the handicapped individual; and determining levels and areas for intervention. Community programs are visited; films and tapes are used to acquaint the student with current trends and the utilization of the team approach to treatment. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 438 AGING: PROCESS AND PROBLEMS (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This course is a study of the aging process in its various aspects: the cultural, social, and economic influences upon the elderly; their adjustments to the roles and status of late life; and a consideration of social service programs and community resources for the elderly. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 440 HUMAN SEXUALITY (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course examines, in historical context, the myths, misinformation, and taboos that have influenced present views on sexual behavior. The broad range of sexual behaviors are reviewed as well as selected aspects of individuals and social problems such as rape, abortion, sexually abused children, sexual functioning, and dysfunction. This course is structured to convey knowledge and dispel myths within a biological, social, cultural, and psychological framework. The course includes content on sexual minorities from an empowerment perspective. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 441 INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL HEALTH 3 credit hours

This elective course is an introduction to the field of mental health as a vital part of the social welfare of the individual, the group, and the community. Its objective is to demonstrate the need for knowledge of mental health theory, including an analysis of the social system, values and attitudes, the growth of the individual and community, the development and maintenance of self-concept, and the mental health system in our community. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 442 INTEGRATION OF COMM. MEDIA IN SOCIAL WORK (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course provides the student with experiences in selecting, preparing, and utilizing communication media in social work. The student acquires skills in planning, designing, and producing materials for presentation. The student also learns to operate various types of audio-visual equipment. The formal project is a correlation of issues and topics from other social work courses. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 443 DIVERSITY AND EMPOWERMENT

3 credit hours

This course examines historical and current commitments to social justice as they relate to oppressed groups in a multicultural society. It enhances understanding of and appreciation for diversity in self and others. The course addresses issues of power, inequality, privilege, and resulting oppression. The focus includes a social justice perspective for the study of oppressed groups. The course included learning about cultural competency standards. (Prerequisite: SOWK 341 or consent of Program Director).

SOWK 444 DEATH, DYING AND GRIEF (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course provides an introduction and survey of the current issues, concepts, and research of the psychological aspects of death, the stages of dying, and the grieving processes. The needs of the dying and their families, as well as the role of the social worker's caring relationship, are examined. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 445 FAMILY VIOLENCE (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course is designed to examine and suggest strategies for social work intervention with violent families, including those involving child abuse and neglect, spouse abuse, and abuse of the elderly. The focus is on current research related to societal, interpersonal, and individual factors associated with family violence and emphasizes socio-cultural variations in patterns based upon lifestyle, social class, and racial/ethnic factors. The problem is viewed from dual perspectives: societal concern and interventions, including policies and programs designed to work within individual families. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 450 SUPERVISION FOR DIRECT SERVICES (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course examines the methods employed by professional social workers in supervision and/or leadership with other social service personnel. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 452 MOBILIZING AGAINST AIDS (ELECTIVE)

3 credit hours

This elective course is an examination of the policy and practice implications and the effectiveness of intervention efforts in confronting the challenge of AIDS disparities among diverse individuals and communities. The course emphasis is on engagement, assessment, interventions, and practice evaluation in working with people with HIV/AIDS. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 460 ADMIN. AND MANAGEMENT IN SOCIAL WELFARE (ELECTIVE) 3 credit hours

This elective course is a study of the problems and principles in social service administration. Special emphasis is placed upon finance, personnel standards, and management. (Open to undergraduate students only)

SOWK 481 (FIELD I) AND 482 (FIELD II) INSTRUCTION & SEMINAR 3 credit hours

Students participate in an internship, which affords an opportunity for educationally directed practice in traditional and non-traditional settings. The overall goal of the field instruction course is to enable the student to integrate and apply their theoretical knowledge and to acquire generalist skills that will prepare them for an entry-level position in the social work profession. A minimum of 16 (sixteen) hours per week over two semesters of fieldwork is required. Students must

participate in an integrative field seminar course concurrently with the field internship. The seminar courses meet for two and a half hours per week to ensure that the educational objectives of field instruction are being met. (Prerequisite: SOWK 100, 211, 241, 311, 341, 350, Senior Status or Consent of the Director of Field)

SOWK 492S SENIOR SEMINAR

3 credit hours

This course must be taken by students completing the final semester of the BSW coursework. It examines and assesses the BSW majors' knowledge, skills, and values required for effective generalist practice. It consists of seminars that help prepare students for entry into the marketplace and/or graduate school. An exam is administered at the completion of this course, covering content from all required social work courses (intro, human behavior, social work methods, research, communication skills, and social welfare policy). (Prerequisite: Open to Social Work Seniors only)