

HWC379: Special Topics in Social Work - Resiliency, Wellness and Self-Care for the Social Worker and Client

Self-Care is an essential part of being an effective Social Worker. Yet, many times the Social Worker will neglect their own needs for wellness. This course is specifically designed to help empower the Social Worker how to best care for themselves, in turn, enabling them to be the most impactful in their role as helper. This course will discuss Spirituality, obstacles to Self-Care, High Cost of Neglect, and Developing a personalized self-care plan.

HWC379: Special Topics in Social Work - The Aspects of Aging: Social Work Practice with Older Adults

This comprehensive course will prepare students to serve older adults and their families at each level of social work practice. Content will include the current models, theories, and perspectives in the study of aging. Students will learn of the biopsychosocial-spiritual experiences of older adults in America and the systems that impact them, and develop care coordination skills necessary to serve their needs. Attention will be paid to physical and mental wellness, social programs, ethical issues, and diverse populations within gerontology.

HWC 351 Law and Social Change

This course introduces students to the interrelationship of the legal process in the United States and the profession of social work. Focuses on the legal process in general, social welfare law, in particular, and the implications for effective social work practice. Co-scheduled with HWC 551.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Interventions for Substance Abuse

This course is an advanced practice elective. It is open to second year MSW students. This course will help students deepen their understanding of alcoholism and substance addictions as well as to deepen their clinical knowledge and skills in working with recovering people and their families. Special emphasis will be placed on how a social worker provides direct, evidenced based, counseling with individuals, groups and families in a variety of agencies and settings. Current thinking about the inclusion of cultural practices, spirituality, and alternative therapies in the recovery process will be also be examined during the semester as well as the importance of including racial, ethnic and cultural support in the intervention process.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Human Rights and Social Work; Tools for Clinical Practice and Advocacy

The goals of social work are intertwined with the premise that the realization of universal human rights are essential to a just and ordered society. This class stresses the need for social workers to use a human rights framework for practice, especially in our interconnected global economy. Human rights can help link micro practice to macro practice and connect the varying roles of the social worker. This class will highlight timely issues such as human trafficking and environmental justice. This class will provide students with advanced clinical practice skills rooted in human rights as well as advocacy strategies needed to create policy based on human rights.

HWC 579- Special Topics in Social Work: Fathers and Families

This advanced practice elective focuses on engagement, assessment, and interventions with fathers in social work practice. The course provides an historical overview of fatherhood, the socio-cultural context of fatherhood and masculinity, considerations for work with diverse fathers, engagement of men in various settings to enhance fathering, and child support policy in the context of work with men and fathers. This course is offered online with scheduled guest speakers from various father-serving organizations including NYC Office of Child Support Services.

HWC 551 Law and Social Change

This course introduces students to the interrelationship of the legal process in the United States and the profession of social work. Focuses on the legal process in general, social welfare law, in particular, and the implications for effective social work practice. Students will be required to explore and integrate the ways in which legal frameworks determine the nature of practice processes and structures within their chosen field of Specialization. Permission required for students not enrolled in the School of Social Welfare.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Dynamics and Therapeutic Interventions with People Impacted by Trauma

This course will examine the complexity and range of traumatic events. For example, the way in which temperament, genetic pre-disposition and environment impact traumatic reactions; as well as the physiological and psychological reactions that individuals experience. This course will examine therapeutic interventions with different populations (children, adults, groups, elders) as they recover from trauma experiences. This course will cover the range of psychological models that comprise trauma theory and examine the protective factors that mediate post-traumatic growth. Throughout this course we will examine cultural, legal, judicial and policy issues that impact trauma treatment.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Forensic Social Work: Psychosocial and Legal Issues

This advanced elective prepares social workers to integrate socio-legal knowledge when working with diverse population in forensic practice with individual, families, and communities impacted by the criminal justice system. Students will increase their competencies to practice at the intersection of social work, public health, and the law using human rights and social justice frameworks. The course will explore evidence-based engagement strategies, assessment, and interventions encountered in various settings including health care, child welfare, addiction treatment facilities, and juvenile and criminal justice.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Therapeutic Approaches for People with Disabilities

This course will provide a framework for practice with individuals with disabilities based on cognitive-behavioral and solution-focused therapies. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the acute issues facing individuals with disabilities primarily from a social model lens which focuses on socio-environmental constraints and barriers. These include limited human rights, access to care and treatment choices, and socio-cultural forces. Psychosocial factors will also be explored. The empirical knowledge base that informs and guides the assessment and theory based interventions of individuals with disabilities will be examined and critiqued.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Welfare: Social Work Practice With The Military

This elective focuses on the specific challenges of those who serve in the military and the response of social work practitioners to those challenges. The course will explore the nature of war, its impact on those who are wounded - physically and mentally -- and the impact of the military experience on them and their loved ones/caregivers. Students will be introduced to a theoretical orientation to combat stress management that acknowledges the stressors of war and the adaptations made by those engaged in war-related activity. Course content will explore the culture of the military and how that impacts the service member; will explore the stages of deployment and how both the service member and those close to him/her manage the departure and return to civilian life. In addition, students will be provided with an overview of the management of various war related physical and mental health challenges. Particular emphasis will detail the impact of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on returning veterans, many suffering with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury and substance abuse problems. Additional areas of exploration include the challenges faced by women in the military, the wounded, those who contemplate suicide. The on-going need for care for the practitioners who attend to the needs of our military will be explored with suggestions for self-care. Intervention strategies and case material will enhance student understanding.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: LGBT Social Work Practice: Micro Interventions and Political Change

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' professional competence with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) people. Content explores social work practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and across social, political, and economic realms. Students will be introduced to LGBTQ civil rights movement and the underlying theories of sexual orientation and sexual identity development. As sexual orientation in contemporary culture is politically charged and socially regulated, students will be taught macro-level advocacy skills to fulfill their call as social workers by promoting social justice and equality. On the micro level, students will learn appropriate clinical assessment tools and social work intervention skills for use with LGBTQ people. A life cycle perspective will be presented to highlight the unique issues of LGBTQ people at various stages of human development, from the very young to the very old. Special concerns within the population, such as the coming out process, adolescent suicide, aging, and coping methods, will be considered.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: School of Social Work

Examines the practice of school social work in an in depth manner. It gives an overview of the central issues that occur in schools. It discusses strategies to build a positive and safe school climate for diverse and disenfranchised populations. The course will cover evidenced-based practices including DBT and CBT for schools. It examines the social/political context of working in the school. Topics will also include working with students struggling with psychiatric, psychological, substance use, and familial issues as well as assisting students in special education. Crisis intervention techniques and trauma-informed educational practices will be discussed.

HWC 579- Special Topics in Social Work: Palliative and End of Life Care

This course examines the roles of social workers in palliative and end-of-life care in the context of varied palliative care teams and settings. Particular attention will be given to models of palliative care, interdisciplinary practice, and family-oriented care. Additional attention will be given to the relationship of research and practice in palliative care social work.

HWC 579- Special Topics in Social Work: Social Work in Higher in Higher Education

This is an advanced practice elective course that introduces how political, socio-economic, cultural, and health issues impact higher education. This course prepares social workers to practice in college settings and with diverse student populations. Social issues on college campuses are emphasized including mental health, identity development, diversity and inclusion, leadership development, community organization, and social work practice roles in college settings.