

Spring 2024 Course Description

379 & 479 Special Topics

HWC 379-2 (55220) Special Topics in Social Work: Communication and Storytelling Social Justice

Communication is key for impacting social justice issues. In this class, Communication: The Art of Storytelling for Social Justice, students will learn strategies for giving voice to and writing pieces that engage, inspire and motivate others to take action and address challenges in our communities and the world. Students complete the course with a campaign in support of their chosen human rights and justice issue. Take your passion for social justice to the next level. Join us for Communication: The Art of Storytelling for Social Justice.

HWC 379-3 (55222) 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 379-4 (55272) Special Topics in Social Work: Addictive Behavior

Includes identification and discussion of addictive behaviors, how they start, signs, symptoms and ways to prevent them. Discussion of treatment strategies and intervention processes that have been effective with alcoholics and other drug addicted men, women and adolescent abusers, elderly gamblers, over-eaters, and other addictions that students encounter in their families and agencies.

HWC 379-6 (55304) Special Topics in Social Work: Social Work with Special Populations - Working with Special Needs Youth & Families

This course will address children with disabilities, the possible causes, characteristics and interventions. Classifications, medical diagnoses and services will be discussed for children ages 3 through 21. Both general education and special education settings and services will be discussed including inclusion and related services in relation to MTSS and state mandates. The use of 405 plans and IEPs will be covered as well as the local, state and federal laws pertaining

to children with special needs. Resources and referrals will be explored. This course will also discuss the need for advocacy and support for this population of children and their families.

HWC 479-3 (56026) Special Topics in Social Work; Starting a Non-Profit

Students will learn the stages in detail of starting a non-profit organization. Upon completion of the course students will know how to analyze the need, business plan, mission and vision, bylaws, recruit board, tax information, obtaining space and staff, strategies on receiving funds, develop marketing strategies and obtaining community support

HWC 479-4 (56238) Special Topics in Social Work: Social Work and Environmental Ecological Justice

This course provides students with a foundation in the principles of environmental and ecological justice, environmental racism, and an understanding of the role of social work in promoting social, environmental, and ecological justice. The meaning and application of Environmental Social Work will be explored through readings, class discussions, and service learning assignments. The course will highlight examples of environmental inequity and environmental racism in the local community, region, and worldwide; provide historical context for the environmental justice movement; suggest various ways that social workers and communities can mobilize to redress injustice; situate social work's role in environmental justice in the context of ecological justice; and expand our definition of "environment" beyond the social. This class will meet in person with a required service learning component of 6 hours to be completed in local communities.

This course includes a combination of in-person class meetings, zoom check ins, independent service learning activities, and group (the whole class and smaller sub-groups) service learning projects. The majority of the time in this class will be spent outside of the classroom setting. We will meet in person and via zoom to cover critical historical background and define our projects and service activities for the semester. The three main focuses of this course for Spring, 2024 are: 1) Long Island environmental justice, including the history of EJ movements and current issues (Brookhaven Landfill, Superfund sites, climate change); 2) Environmental Justice in Puerto Rico, including the aftermath of natural disasters, climate justice, military occupation, and sustainable development of small island states; 3) Policing of environmental movements, including "eco-terrorism", Stop Cop City movement, Standing Rock water protectors, global examples of police or military quelling of environmental justice advocacy.

Most of our group activities will take place during the course meeting time at locations around Long Island accessible by car or carpooling. Examples of these local service learning activities include: visiting landfills, beaches, superfund sites, and visiting local community environmental justice advocates. Other group activities will be conducted independently or in small groups (examples: awareness campaigns, bake sale fundraisers, targeted local activities).