

Spring 2023 Course Description

379/479/579 Special Topics

HWC 379 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 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 379 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.

HWC 379 Special Topics in SW - Law Enforcement & Social Work: A Crucial Collaboration

With recent, historic protests and calls for changes to policing and the criminal justice system, social work professionals are being utilized by police departments across the country in various ways to develop programming and strategies to ensure a healthy and resilient workforce and best serve communities through leadership and communication. In light of recent events, police departments and social workers stand on the verge of a new era of policing and must examine how to best serve communities through leadership, coalition building with advocacy groups and stakeholders, and creating and implementing equitable policies. In this course, students will learn how collaboration between social workers and law enforcement is crucial in order to shape ethical and equitable policies and how the integration of social workers in the policy making process impacts relationships and dialogue with community stakeholders and works towards changing agency cultures.

HWC 479 / 579 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.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work; Social Work Practice and Aging

This course focuses on social work practice with older adults and families within a life course perspective. We are in the midst of an aging revolution. Nearly 10,000 people turn 65 years old each day, most of whom will live long enough to experience multiple chronic conditions that will result in dependency and require some level of care. This course emphasizes micro and macro level practice skills essential to effective work with older adults. Major areas of focus include: assessment and diagnostic tools; evidence-based interventions; coping with age-related changes; caregiving demands; legal and financial planning; elder abuse; and grief and loss. A thoughtful exploration of the diverse dimensions of aging will include: ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender identity, material status, race, religion or spirituality and sexual orientation.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work; Emotionally Focused Therapy for Individual Couples and Families

Emotionally Focused Therapy is an evidence-based, state of the art, new science researched relational therapy with a success rate of almost 75% effective five years after treatment. Students will understand and practice the basic experiential and systemic concepts of an "Emotionally Focused" approach to therapy. Students will be able to view clients interpersonal attachments and conceptualize relationship distress and repair based on theories of attachment and emotion including trauma-informed strategies to address the invisible wounds of those most harmed. Students will develop and practice skills in overcoming common blocks and impasses in individual, couple and family modalities and so shaping core corrective emotional experiences.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work; PACE - Partnership to Advanced Collaborative Education

The Partnership to Advance Collaborative Education (PACE) is an interprofessional wellness program that focuses on health-promotion and disease-prevention needs of older adults on Long Island. Located in SBU's School of Dental Medicine's Dental Care Center, the PACE team includes social work, nurse practitioner, speech and language, dental students, and medical students and their respective Faculty Preceptors. PACE focuses on the interface between the patient and practitioner as well as interprofessional team learning and leadership. PACE is now in its 7th year. SSW students can take PACE—as part of their field placement (with their supervisor's permission) OR an elective. PACE is face-to-face on Wednesdays from 9-1:00p.m at the School of Dental Medicine and runs through the Spring semester. Students will receive a Stony Brook Medicine email account and are asked to complete a background check from Castlebranch before beginning PACE. This program is limited to 6 students per semester and Dr. Kathleen Monahan is the social work Faculty Preceptor.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work; Advanced Clinical Skills for Educational Social Work

This class will instruct students about clinical interventions and policy issues in school social work and in social work in colleges and universities. Clinical intervention include- mindfulness and acceptance-based approaches such as acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), dialectical behavioral therapy skills (DBT), mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT), and mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR).

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Welfare; Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees

This course examines pre-migration, migration, and post-migration influences and experiences of immigrants and refugees. The course will also explore the political, social, economic, and environmental context of life in the United States, including the health and mental health, community, and legal systems. Students will learn and apply concepts relevant to social work that define specific strengths, needs, and challenges facing migrant wellbeing from practice and policy levels. Mastery of course content will provide students with an understanding of and appreciation for diversity in self and others from a human rights perspective.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Welfare; Women's Health Issues

This course will cover the health issues most relevant to women in today's society. Each week a guest speaker will provide background information and state-of-the art information on a particular woman's health issue and the treatment and policy issues relevant for social work. Topics incorporate health issues, clinical treatment and social policy for women that vary across the lifespan. Topics range from pregnancy and childbirth to the particular health needs of aging women.