

Fall 2020 Elective - Course Descriptions

HWC 326 Crisis Intervention: Opportunities for Change

This course provides theoretical and substantive content that will enable students to gain knowledge, understanding, and skill in relation to crisis intervention in social work practice. This course defines crisis, provides examples of the types of crises workers will face in various fields of practice, explores the role of the social worker, and the range of interventions needed in response to crisis situations. Permission required for students not enrolled in the School of Social Welfare.

HWC 342 School of Social Work an Overview

This course is an introduction to the practice of school social work. 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. It examines the social/political context of working in the school and the impact of policies such as the Common Core, NCLB and Race to the Top. Topics will also include working with students struggling with psychiatric, psychological, substance use, and familial issues as well as assisting students in special education. An overview of crisis intervention techniques will be presented.

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. Permission required for students not enrolled in the School of Social Welfare.

HWC 542 School of Social Work: Practice Policy and Research

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 545 Individual and Family Treatment of Alcohol and Substance Abuse

This course covers alcoholism and substance abuse as family illnesses and their stages of development, as well as the impact these illnesses have on the families of active and recovering alcoholics and substance abusers. Ethical dilemmas and treatment modalities including Self-help groups and on traditional and relatively recent modalities used in the treatment of addicted individuals and their families are focused on. Class meets two hours in-class and one hour of instructor directed assignments.

HWC 548 Adolescent Development and Health Promotion

The effect on adolescent development of physiological changes, relationships with peers and family, and societal expectations are examined. Emphasis is on the development of assessment and engagement skills for working with adolescents and their families to help counteract adolescent self-destructive behavior and promote well-being. Class meets two hours in-class and one hour of instructor directed assignments. Advanced Practice Elective.

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 569 Childhood Sexual /Abuse and Long Term Sequelae

Introduces students to the incidence and prevalence of childhood sexual abuse as a national problem. Covered are definition issues, sequelae during childhood, family constellation and adult sequelae. Addressed are assessment and current treatment modalities, particularly for families and offenders, as well as ethical and legal dilemmas and the subsequent health related difficulties of this childhood trauma. Special attention is paid to the cultural dynamics in sexual abuse. Students are expected to develop an awareness of and critically analyze current research. Focus is on examination of policy issues and legislation.

HWC 577 Program Evaluation

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the technical requirements of program evaluation and the organizational and political constraints that influence the evaluation process. Techniques in the design and implementation of evaluation research in the health and human services fields are covered.

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 a 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: 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: The Dynamics of Trauma

This course will examine the complexity and range of traumatic events. For example, the way temperament, genetic pre-disposition and environment impact traumatic reactions; as well as the physiological and psychological reactions that individuals experience. Throughout this course we 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 treatments.

HWC 591- Social Work Issues In Higher Education

Through an interdisciplinary approach, which draws from social work strengths and empowerment perspectives, student affairs perspectives, and college student development theories, this course emphasizes how community on the college campus is influenced and

shaped. Historical developments in higher education and student development as well as the impact of societal issues are introduced. This course will follow a student-community development lens and discuss a variety of important topics in higher education including: overview of major policies and programming, campus safety, campus climate and inclusion, social determinants, financial aid, relationships, and mental health.