

Winter/Spring 2021 MSW Course Descriptions

HWC 527 - Social Work in the Political Practice – Campaign School

Social Workers, and the people they work with, are fundamentally dependent on the decisions made by the people who are elected to the executive and legislative branches of government. In order to advance the values of the Social Work profession, and advocate on behalf of clients, Social Workers must participate and engage in the political process.

This course is an exploration of the world of partisan electoral politics as an area of social work practice. Social workers can, and do, play many roles in the political arena. These roles can include, staff to elected officials, volunteer and staff positions on political campaigns, political appointments, lobbying roles and as *elected officeholders*. This course makes it clear why it is important for social workers to be in the political arena. The specific techniques and requirements for running for office, or serving in a leadership role on a political campaign, will be covered throughout this course.

This is a hybrid course that combines ten class sessions, hybrid learning hours, and ***required attendance*** at a two day conference, via zoom, entitled “Campaign School.”

The ten class sessions will take place on Saturdays from 12pm-2pm on the following dates: 2/6/2021; 2/13/2021; 2/20/2021; 3/13/2021; 3/20/2021; 3/27/2021; 4/3/2021; 4/10/2021; 4/17/2021; 4/24/2021.

The conference will be on Friday February 26th and Saturday February 27th.

HWC 538 Death and Dying; Loss and Separation

This course explores student values, attitudes, fears and conceptions relating to death and dying. Issues of loss and separation in relation to various age groups, cultural orientations and societal expectations are examined. The focus is on the acquisition of bereavement counseling skills.

HWC 542 School Social Work: Practice, Policy, & 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 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.

HWC 559 Mental Health Evidence-Based Practice

This course develops the knowledge and skills necessary for working with individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness using recovery-oriented evidence-based practices. This course is designed for M.S.W. students and M.S.W. mental health practitioners. The course familiarizes students with evidence-based practices, within a recovery-oriented paradigm, as a general approach to practice as well as specific evidence-based interventions to use for individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness. Students should have a basic knowledge of serious mental illness as pre- or co-requisite, however a review will be provided. Research literature is examined to determine the various levels of support for specific interventions and essential principles for translating research into practice. Appropriate treatment outcomes that reflect effective quality mental health practice are identified. Focus is on providing assessment and treatment to a diverse group of individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness.

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 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 Work: Anti-Racist Social Work: Understanding White Fragility and Black Rage

The course will assist social work students in understanding the complex nature of the dynamics of social oppression, racism, and anti-racist practice. Students will explore their own personal values, beliefs, and behaviors that may limit their ability to practice effective social work with people of diverse backgrounds, in particular, disadvantaged and oppressed persons. Students will acquire the knowledge needed for practice using an anti-oppressive and anti-racist lens framed by an understanding of systemic racism.

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: 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: 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 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: 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 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: Aging in Place

This course will cover the key domains that enable older adults to age in place -- the ability to stay in one's home and community safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age and income. Participants will acquire the skills and knowledge needed to navigate systems and support older adults, their families and caregivers through transitions and choices. Utilizing an integrated care coordination approach, this course will include behavioral/health issues, family, social and community engagement, along with policy and practice considerations.

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 589 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 591 SW in Higher Education: Practice in College and Universities

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 the 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.