

Summer 2025

BSW/MSW Elective Course Description

HWC 479/579 Special Topics in Social Work: Food Justice II: Exploring Policy Implications and Prefigurative Imaginings Towards Food rights

This course allows students to delve more deeply into the strengths and limitations of U.S. and global food policy and practice. Specific attention is given to issues of food justice, food sovereignty, and the possibilities of rights-based alternatives to the food system as currently structured. Students are tasked with a critical examination of the U.S. & global food system, and have the opportunity to strengthen skills of policy analysis and development. By deploying their developing social work lens, students will be able to extend their imaginative visions of food-just policies and practice, and craft alternatives which advocate for transformative reforms towards food rights and justice.

When offered as a Summer or Winter elective, this course includes a required service-learning component, i.e., mandatory weekly in-person participation of at least 3 hours (travel time inclusive) with a local food justice organization, or completion of alternative assignment(s). (Completion of HWC 379 Food Justice I: Advocacy Practice for Food rights is recommended, but not required.)

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Welfare: Play Therapy in Social Work Practice

This course is designed to provide social work students with an introduction to child-centered play therapy. Students will explore the history of play therapy, its different types, and begin to enhance their engagement skills with children and parents through play. In addition, students will learn about the application of play therapy with specific populations. Attention will be given to play therapy viewed through a multicultural lens. Social justice issues will be explored as well within this modality.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Welfare: Working Together: Interprofessional Telehealth

This elective provides an opportunity for Medical, Nursing, Dental, and Social Welfare students to collaborate. This four-week elective will focus on the integration of multiple clinical specialties (e.g. medicine; nursing; social work) and the incorporation of telehealth to deliver timely and effective care. It will be offered via a hybrid model blending live virtual meetings on Zoom and off-line asynchronous activities on Blackboard. Students will explore the different roles of a multidisciplinary clinical team, telehealth communication and practice, as well as best practices in addressing cultural diversity and health disparities in virtual care. Drawing from a central clinical case, students will be assessed through live simulation activities, group

reflections, group projects, group discussion based on reading assignments, peer and self-evaluations.

HWC 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Caregiving Across the Life Cycle: A Social Work Perspective

This hybrid (Zoom/async) course offers an in-depth exploration of the multifaceted role of caregiving across diverse populations, including children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Students will critically examine the unique challenges, ethical considerations, and best practices in providing care to individuals caring for persons with developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, mental and physical disabilities, as well as older adults living with dementia and age-related conditions. Throughout the course, students will engage with real-world case studies, participate in interactive role-plays, and examine the intersection of culture, family dynamics, and community resources in caregiving. Emphasis will be placed on holistic, person-centered approaches to care, the importance of caregiver well-being, and ethical considerations in decision-making. Students will also explore policy issues related to caregiving and advocacy for underserved and marginalized caregiving populations.