

Spring 2022 Elective Course Descriptions

HWC 342 School 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 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 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 327 /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. ("by permission of the Instructor only.")

****This course requires attendance at a two day conference called "Campaign School." The conference is scheduled to take place in person in Hartford, Connecticut on March 4th & 5th, 2022. Conference cost is the student's responsibility.****

HWC 540 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 556 Proposal Writing in the Health and Human Service Fields

This course provides a comprehensive study of the principles and methods used to prepare program, training, research, demonstration and other types of proposals. Extensive workshop practice in developing appropriate writing skills and in locating and accessing funding sources is included.

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; 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; 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 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 379 / 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; Assessment and Treatment of Alcohol and Substance Misuse Pt. 2

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 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; 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; Men and Masculinities in the 21st Century

Societal conceptualizations of masculinities directly impacts how men live their lives. This understanding also impacts how men interact with other men as well as with people of all genders. In this class, students will be expected to engage in the active study of how masculinities have influenced their lives and those with whom they interact. In addition, we will examine how masculinities intersect with issues such as race, class, ethnicity, gender identity and presentation, and sexuality. We will seek to understand these issues as they were historically and as they are today; including a sense of contexts such as those provided by popular media, politics, education, and others.

This course is designed to be an active learning experience. Through individual and group work, students will engage with others in learning how masculinities have impacted both their own lives and the lives of others.

Students will examine the nexus of masculinity and social work in all fields of practice.

By the end of this course, students will be expected to develop an understanding of what it means to be a healthy man, the myriad of choices and behaviors inherent to that identity, and how to build a society that embraces this.

Although the focus of this course is on men and masculinities, it is important to note that gender exists as a spectrum and our course goals benefit immensely from the inclusion of that diverse identity. Therefore, all students, of all gender identities and presentations are welcomed and strongly encouraged to register for this class.

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 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 587 Social Work Practice with Military and Military Families

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 589 Therapeutic Interventions for Trauma

This course will examine therapeutic interventions with different populations (children, adults, groups, elders) as they recover from trauma experiences. This course will appraise the range of psychological models that comprise trauma theory and examine the promotive factors that mediate Post-traumatic Growth. Throughout this course we will examine cultural, legal, judicial and policy issues that impact trauma treatment.