

Summer 2021

BSW & MSW Elective Course Descriptions

HWC 379 / 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Models of Change - Trailblazers, 'Good' Troublemakers, & Change Agents

This class will explore human rights advocates and dig deep into the social movements that have driven societal change. This class stresses the need for social workers to use a human rights framework for practice, especially in our interconnected global economy. This course will examine human rights, social work as a human rights profession, and in particular, vulnerable populations. This class will highlight timely issues such as human trafficking and environmental justice and will highlight advocates who like John Lewis "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America".

HWC 379 / 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Legislative Advocacy for Social Workers

The course will introduce students to the role that citizens, and social workers, play in shaping and influencing the legislative process - from elections to researching, writing and passing legislation. This course will primarily focus on the New York State legislature. Students will be introduced to the role that elections take in shaping policy and political accountability; the role that social workers can play in shaping policy; and how to go about influencing policy. Students will develop the skills necessary to succeed in legislative advocacy on behalf of their clients and the profession.

HWC 379 Special Topics in Social Work: Food Justice

This course offers students an introduction and explanation of food systems, food policy, and rights frameworks, and the relation of each to food justice. Students will explore concepts such as food insecurity (and its measurement and costs), the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Right to Food, food security, food justice, and food sovereignty in order to develop a critical assessment of the food system, food policies, and hunger relief programs of the U.S., with a focus on social work advocacy and policy practice towards food justice.

HWC 519 Psychopathology and Psychopharmacology

This course focuses on the concepts of mental health, mental disorders and the influence of culture on both. The mental health concerns of diverse social, racial and ethnic groups, particularly those historically devalued and oppressed are covered. In addition, the use and misuse of the classification system of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSMIV) are examined. This examination includes the distinction between major mental disorders and other forms of dysfunctional behavior and the recognition of symptoms. Assessment of psychosocial functioning within a multi-cultural and gender role frame is emphasized. Social work values, roles, responsibilities and ethical considerations are detailed throughout the course. The role of

the social worker as an integral member of the interdisciplinary mental health team is discussed. Class meets two hours in-class and one hour of instructor directed assignments.

HWC 556 Proposal Writing in 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 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 Welfare: Big Ideas for Social Justice: Advanced Social Policy Analysis

Universal health care. Paid family leave. Forgiving student loans. A basic income guarantee. Reparations for racial injustice. Throughout U.S. history, policy advocates have advanced big ideas for achieving social justice, many of which evolved into the laws and programs that today constitute our civil rights laws and welfare state. In this advanced social policy analysis course, students will gain knowledge about the historical and comparative development of the welfare state and analyze big ideas in the contemporary policy debate. Students will be taught to work systematically through policy analysis frameworks, weigh the merits of empirical evidence, and consider policy arguments across the political spectrum. The course will provide students knowledge of social welfare systems and policies, an overview of research methods and tools to evaluate the impact of social policies, and an appreciation of the skills of policy analysis as a means to achieving social justice.

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: 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 Welfare: *Practical Research for the Social Work Clinician (Assessing Individuals, Families, Groups, and Organizations)*

Course Description: This course provides students an opportunity to utilize their understanding of social work research in an applied setting in order to become practitioners who can engage in self-directed assessment and evaluation. Using core knowledge about research methods and skills, as well as key theories of human behavior and the social environment, students will critically design, implement, and evaluate research specifically for their diverse client groups (individuals, families, small groups, or organizations).