

Summer 2020 Course Descriptions

HWC 340 Social Issues in Popular Culture

Movies have been a useful medium that can illustrate current social issues and family dynamics, as well as policy and research dilemmas. Each week, a film with a central practice/research/policy issue provides the basis for a lecture and class discussion. Topics focus on a variety of social issues such as family dynamics, bereavement, adoption, domestic violence, abuse, residential placement, policy and research.

HWC379/579: Special Topics in Social Work: Legislative Advocacy for Social Workers

The course will introduce students to the role that citizens play in shaping and influencing the legislative process - from elections to researching, writing and passing legislation. This course will primarily focus on the legislative branch of country government on Long Island. 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. This class will include at least one trip to the Suffolk County Legislature in Hauppauge or Riverhead.

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 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. 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 579 Special Topics in Social Work: Dynamics and 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 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.