

Social Work Course Descriptions

(Department of Social Work)

SWK 105. Facing Life's Challenges: Resilience, Hope and Happiness (3) Explores the necessary changes and challenges faced by individuals, families, and communities as part of this thing call "life." Focus will be on how each of us can foster resilience, hope and happiness in the face of life's demands from simple changes to traumatic events.

SWK 106. Social Work Global Visions: Citizens, Issues and Approaches (3) Explores the global issues faced by disenfranchised people around the world, including issues of diversity, poverty, political issues, economic concerns and environmental issues. How social work on an international level addresses these issues through collective strength-based practice will be covered.

SWK 235. Introduction to Social Work and the Social Welfare System (3) Social welfare institution and the social work profession in the United States; the values, methods and roles of social workers and the history of the system.

SWK 240. Basic Working Relationship Skills (3) Prerequisite or corequisite: SWK 235; corequisites: SWKL 240 and SWK 320. Multi-cultural working relationship skills for generalist practice, building client-directed partnerships, interviewing, and transitioning from services using a strengths-based and solution-focused perspective. Process recordings, case assessments, social work ethics, values and diversity are covered.

SWKL 240. Working Relationship Lab (1) Prerequisite or corequisite: SWK 235; corequisites: SWK 240 and SWK 320. Students will practice the basic working relationship interviewing skills.

SWK 310. Social Service Practice with the Elderly (3) Prerequisite: SWK 235 or GRN 101. Examines the status of the elderly and specific problems they confront in modern society. Focuses on social agencies and other service resources. Analyzes policies. Major emphases on practice, service settings and special populations.

SWK 311. Child Abuse and Neglect (3) Study of the knowledge base, laws, and professional roles associated with contemporary child welfare practice. Identification of child maltreatment, reporting procedures and community-based interdisciplinary practice issues are emphasized. Upon acceptance to the NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative, students must complete both SWK 311 and SWK 312 before admission to a DSS field placement.

SWK 312. Seminar on Practice in Children, Youth, and Family Services (3) Prerequisite: SWK 311. Second of two-course sequence to prepare students for contemporary child welfare practice. Focused study of the skills, tasks, and best practices associated with public child welfare services. Upon acceptance to the NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative, students must complete both SWK 311 and SWK 312 before admission to a DSS field placement.

SWK 315. Issues for Social Workers in Mental Health (3) Prerequisite: SWK 235. Concepts of mental health and practice in social context. Managed care, models of practice, rural community mental health, and future directions in community health, all considered in a multicultural perspective.

SWK 316. Generalist Social Work in Rural Communities (3) Prerequisite: SWK 235. A survey of rural community life, its institutions, value systems, customs, and their implications for social work practice. Issues dealing with migrant workers and Native American cultures.

SWK 318. Social Work and Health Care Delivery (3) Prerequisite: SWK 235. An examination of the rationale, issues, problems and practices related to the implementation of client-centered health care. New programs and proposals for the delivery of health services will be reviewed systematically with reference to the implications for social work practice.

SWK 319. Ethical Decision Making in Social Work Practice (3) Prerequisite: SWK 235 or permission of instructor. Study of ethical issues in social work practice with emphasis upon application of NASW Code of Ethics.

SWK 320-321. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I and II (3-3) Prerequisites or corequisites for SWK 320: SWK 235, 240, SWKL 240; Prerequisite for SWK 321: SWK 320; corequisites for SWK 321: SWK 341, 396. Perspectives on human development and behavior in diverse contexts, including: culture, oppression, poverty, gender, ethnicity, physical and social settings. Implications for social work practice and policies. 320: Prenatal Through Adolescence. 321: Young Adulthood Through Death. Each course requires a 25-hour service-learning project.

SWK 335. Social Welfare Policies (3) Prerequisites: PLS 101 and SWK 235. Social, cultural, economic, and political influences on the social welfare system. Policy-making, program development and planning.

SWK 341. Generalist Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families (3) Prerequisite: SWK 240. Client-directed strengths-based and solution-focused generalist practice with individuals and families. Assessments, progress notes, case management, working with mandated clients, crisis and trauma work covered.

SWK 355. Issues in Diversity for Generalist Practice (3) Prerequisite or corequisite: SWK 235. Values, biases, and prejudices which produce personal and social vulnerability. Consequences in the lives of people of color, women, the poor, gays and lesbians, and others.

SWK 396. Pre-field Seminar (1) Prerequisites: SWK 235, 240, 320; corequisites: SWK 321, 341. Explore professional expectations of field education, including ethical standards of the NASW Cod of Ethics. Preparation of a resume, identification of the student's learning style, and exploration of diverse agencies and fields of practice.

SWK 406-407. Research Methods for Social Work Practice (3, 3) Prerequisites: SWK 321 and SWK 341; corequisite: SWK 496 or 497. 406: Research methodologies in social work practice; client-centered research questions, theoretical frameworks, research design sampling, data collection, analysis and report writing. 407: Program/Practice Evaluation: group and single-subject designs, applications, data analysis, and ethical considerations.

SWK 417. Constructing Masculinities: from Boyhood to Manhood (3) Prerequisite: SOC 105 or consent of instructor. Impact of biological-psychological-social/cultural influences on male development, the construction of multiple masculinities and the consequent impact on men's lives, their families, and society. Discussion of implications for social work practice and social policy.

SWK 418. Social Work Practice in the School Environment (3) Prerequisite or corequisite: SWK 341; corequisite: SWK 496 or consent of instructor. Examines legislation shaping contemporary public education and school social work services in North Carolina. Emphasis on strengths-based, solution-focused social work intervention across the spectrum of social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students to enhance school performance. This course and a field placement in a school setting are required for NC School Social Work Certification.

SWK 442. Generalist Social Work Practice with Groups (3) Prerequisite: SWK 341; corequisite: SWK 496. Basic group typology and dynamics applied to task and treatment groups in generalist social work practice. Client-directed strengths-based skills for a range of treatment and task groups.

SWK 443. Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations (3) Prerequisite: SWK 442; corequisite: SWK 497. Knowledge, values, and skills common to social work practice at the community and organizational levels. Principles of social planning, community development, and social action. Topics include needs assessment, program planning and development, organizational change and program evaluation.

SWK 491. Directed Individual Study (1-3) Prerequisite: Overall GPA of at least 2.00, junior or senior standing, and consent of instructor, department chair and dean. Involves investigation under faculty supervision beyond what is offered in existing courses. For further information, consult the Directed Individual Studies section in this catalogue.

SWK 495. Topical Seminar (1-3) Prerequisite: SOC 105, SWK 235 and consent of instructor. Discussion of selected topics in social work. May be repeated under a different subtitle.

SWK 496-497. Field Practicum I and II (6-6) Prerequisites for SWK 496: SWK 321, 341, 355, 396; corequisites: SWK 406, 442. Corequisites for SWK 497: SWK 407, 443, consent of instructor and 2.40 overall GPA. Development and application skills used in social work practice. Supervision of student field experience in a community social service setting. Analysis and discussion of field experiences in a series of field seminars to be arranged by the field liaison. A minimum of 450 hours of fieldwork is required.

SWK 499. Honors Work in Social Work (2-3) Prerequisite: Eligibility for honors program and senior standing. Independent study for honors students.

For 292 and 492; 294 and 494, see explanations on p. 184, 107.