



School of Social Work

SWK 507: ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL POLICY SCHEDULE: Summer 2020 Online

According to State of Texas HB 2504, this course syllabus must be submitted for review prior to the course's scheduled start date. Therefore, the instructor has the right to modify this syllabus and course calendar at any time between submission for publication and the first day of class. Furthermore, the instructor has the right to modify the syllabus as any time during the course provided (1) such changes do not increase expectations or requirements beyond a reasonable equivalent and (2) students must be given ample notice of any changes

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Overview of Course

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course builds on the generalist practice with individuals, families and group class, extending the concepts of empowerment based practice and the strengths perspective to macro client systems such as organizations and communities. The relationships between organizations and communities and at-risk populations are infused throughout the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Students will learn the major theories of organizational and community functioning in the United States.
2. Students will apply the skills of practice intervention in organizations and communities.
3. Students will explore the effects of oppression and exclusion as they affect the well-being of at-risk populations in organizations and communities.
4. Students will assess their own values and beliefs relating to organizational and community life.
5. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of practice interventions with organizations and communities.
6. Students will impact the political processes that affect client systems served by the profession.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES:

This course builds on foundation content in SWK 503, 513 and 521 relating to organizations and communities. It also incorporates content from SWK 541 relating to the roles of at-risk populations in organizations and communities. This course examines the dynamics of services to at-risk populations by formal organizational systems. The course provides theoretical content which supports SWK 508, Social Work Administration. In addition, it addresses specific practice skills related to community development and social policy advocacy.

PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Prepare MSW graduates for professional advanced generalist practice that reflects application and integration of critical thinking, theoretical frameworks, and differential interventions.
2. Enable MSW graduates to apply ethical reasoning to advance equality, justice, and social change.
3. Promote leadership and service that is relevant to individual contexts of practice and enhances well-being and quality of life.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires a competency-based approach to identify and assess what students demonstrate in practice. In social work, this approach involves assessing students' ability to demonstrate the competencies identified in the educational policy. Students achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration of the following competencies for Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP).

Competency AGP 2.1.1 Exemplify professional social work behavior and standards

Competency AGP 2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to resolve dilemmas and create positive change

Competency AGP 2.1.3 Critically analyze practice solutions and Communicate judgments and reasoning through decision- making processes

Competency AGP 2.1.4 Demonstrate the ability to build strengths based on mutual engagement with diverse populations

Competency AGP 2.1.5 Demonstrate commitment to strategies that address discrimination, reduce disparities, and promote social and economic justice

Competency AGP 2.1.6 Contribute to evidence-based best practice approaches to assess and improve effectiveness

Competency AGP 2.1.7 Differentially apply theories and frameworks of HBSE

Competency AGP 2.1.8 Promote social policies to improve service delivery systems

Competency AGP 2.1.9 Use leadership skills to respond, influence, and shape changing contexts

Competency AGP 2.1.10 Demonstrate autonomy in dynamic practice situations that involve:

2.1.10.1 Relationship-building at all levels of systems

2.1.10.2 Evidence-based assessment tools and intervention approaches

2.1.10.3 Effective intervention with complex problems and prevention strategies

2.1.10.4 Response to the feedback process from interventions

Competency 2.1.11 Develop leadership skills as advanced generalist practitioner to enhance organizations and communities

Competency 2.1.12 Demonstrate innovative problem-solving in social and organizational systems

Practice Behaviors

Each competency (outlined above) describes the knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes that comprise competency at the Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP) level. While content and activities of each course in the MSW curriculum covertly or overtly addresses each of the nine competencies, identified within each course is a set of specific practice behaviors representing observable components of one or more competencies. Content and assessment in this course reflect the bolded competencies and following practice behaviors:

2.1.1.b Models professional demeanor in behavior and communications

2.1.2.a Articulates and advocates social work values and ethic among interdisciplinary situations and settings

2.1.5.a Actively promotes opportunities and participation of diverse constituents

2.1.9.a Demonstrates leadership in changing contexts of social, organizational and community environments

2.1.9.b Knows leadership skills necessary for community decision-making processes

2.1.11 Becomes increasingly proactive in recommending constructive change in organization communities

2.1.12 Demonstrates innovative problem-solving in social and organizational systems.

Course Structure

Texts and Associated Materials

Required Texts: Hardcastle, D.A., Powers, P.R., & Wenocur, S. (2011) Community practice: Theories and skills for social workers (3rd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional Readings Suggested:

Overview of Course Assignments

Demonstrate understanding of assigned readings – 150 points

- Multiple Choice quizzes
- Graded Exercises
- Presentations and assignments

Due Weekly BY ASSIGNED DATES Students will complete Multiple Choice quizzes over readings, graded exercises, presentations, and assignments. If

quizzes, exercises, presentations, and assignments are not completed in the allotted time and by the required dates, no points will be awarded.

Community Intervention Paper (75 points) & Community Presentation (25 points): 100 points (due _____)

This assignment involves writing a 6-8 page paper that proposes a community intervention to a significant LOCAL community problem. This paper should reflect the content from all applicable assigned readings. The paper must be correctly referenced using American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines. Special attention should be given to the **correct style of referencing**. Papers need to be original, typed, with clear and lucid analyses, and excellent grammar.

Please note that this is a graduate level course and the expectations are considerably higher than those at an undergraduate level. This research paper is intended to demonstrate your ability to **apply a macro-level model of intervention to a real problem situation**. The paper should be written in a formal, scholarly format.

In addition to reflected problem analysis, planned intervention and proposed change efforts consider issues related to economics, social policies, political influences, and involvement of various levels of systems (individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities). Papers will be graded on quality of analysis, creativity, incorporation of theories and knowledge, and quality of writing.

Your selected problem should target **one specific community or regional area** and the content related to community assessment and resources should be specific to that community. The initial selections related to a **description of the problem is due _____**.

Presentation – You will be expected to present your identified problem, assessment data, and proposed solution to a body of LOCAL POLICY DECISION-MAKERS (such as city council, county commissioners, local school board, Council of Governments, public hearing on a particular issue, etc.). All communities have decision-making bodies that are open to public comment and input. However, you will need to find out the parameters of such input AHEAD OF TIME. Sometimes there is a time limit and advance request for permission to speak. Failure to present before an appropriate group will result in point deductions. **You will need to include documentation (including a contact person) that can verify your presentation.**

Grading Scale

1. Quizzes/assignments	100
2. Community Intervention	100
3. Comprehensive Final	100
Total Points Possible	300

Scale:

90 – 100% of possible points = A

80 – 89% of possible points = B

70 – 79% of possible points = C

< 69% of possible points = Fail

Student Rights and Responsibilities

"Civility in face-to-face classrooms, online courses and in labs, internships, practicum and all other academic settings necessitate respect for the opinions of others and is very important in all academic settings. It is likely you may not agree with everything that happens or discussed in the academic setting; however, courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create a civil and preserve learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum" (Student Guide Book, p 35). To create an optimum learning environment, students have rights and responsibilities.

Student Rights

As set forth in Texas A&M University System Policy 13.02

The rights of students are to be respected. These rights include respect for personal feelings; freedom from indignity of any type, freedom from control by any person except as may be in accord with published rules of the system academic institutions, and conditions allowing them to make the best use of their time and talents toward the objectives, which brought them to the system academic institutions. No officer [university faculty, employee] or student, regardless of position in rank, shall violate those rights, any custom, tradition or rule in conflict will be allowed to prevail.

Students are expected at all times to recognize constituted authority, to conform to the ordinary rules of good conduct, to be truthful, to respect the rights of others, to protect private and public property, and to make the best use of their time toward an education.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library - Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5853
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Students Responsibilities

Class Attendance and Participation Policy

- Class participation has three components: (1) appropriate interactions with classmates; (2) active involvement in class activities and (3) attentiveness
- Students will attend class, reflecting responsibility, inherent in the development as a social work professional. Being on time and prepared when class begins and remaining present throughout the entire class meeting demonstrates emerging professional behavior expected in social work graduates. Roll is taken in each class to document students' attendance.
- Classroom exercises, discussions, role-plays, guest speakers and other in-class experimental exercises are essential for a student's professional learning and continued development of self-awareness. Tardiness (or early departure) of more than 15 minutes will count as one-half absence and two (2) times being late to class or two (2) early departures culminating into one absence.
- A student is absent if he/she arrives more than 30 minutes late to class, leaves 30 minutes early or does not come to class.
- The following penalties for absences (unexcused, or excused, according to university policy) will be administered:

Weekly
(class meets
1X week)

Up to 2
absences: No
Penalty

3 absences: 1
letter grade
drop

4 absences: Class grade of "F"

Bi-Weekly (class meets 2X week)	Up to 3 absences: No Penalty	4 absences: 1 Letter grade drop	5 absences: 1 Letter grade drop	6 absences: Class grade of "F"
Summer 10- week	Up to 1 absence: No Penalty	2 Absences: 1 Letter grade drop	3 absences: Class grade of "F"	

Online, Blended and Web Enhanced Classes: Just as students are required to attend face-to-face classes, students are required to log in and participate in online venues. To receive credit for attendance online via D2L, students must log in and complete assignments as required in the course. Not logging onto D2L (monitored by the instructor) and completing assignments online during the required time is the equivalent of an absence for each week this occurs.

Final Evaluation and Grade Depends on both Classroom attendance and Participation

Inadequate participation or lack of required time commitment in each class significantly affects students' grades. No matter the course venue, students must engage in a comparable amount of time. Expectations of both Face-to-Face classes and those with Online components include time spent reading and studying course material.

POLICY ON DUE DATES:

1) NO assignments will be accepted past the due date. If an assignment is not submitted by the specified due date and time, a 0 will be awarded. In the event of extenuating circumstances, (i.e. medical issues) and proper supporting documentation is provided, an arrangement between the instructor and student will be made for submission of assignments.

(2). ALL written assignments will be submitted in the correct folder, online in Bright Space D2L by the due date and time. DO NOT email an assignment to me unless you have issues submitting to bright space you may email it to meet the due date but will still be required to submit to bright space once the issue is resolved. In the hordes of email I receive daily, many get lost. It is your responsibility to know how and if your

computer software is compatible with Bright Space D2L for uploading assignments. There will be NO MAKE-UP quizzes or exams offered. Quizzes and Exams are offered online and you will need to take those within the designated timeframe. It is your responsibility to know how and if your computer software is compatible with Bright Space D2L for uploading assignments.

Student Conduct

Students preparing to become professional social workers must adhere to the *University Code of Conduct, Department Code of Conduct and National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Code of Ethics*.

University Code of Conduct located in the *Student Guide Book* at <http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf> (pp 34- 66). On the University Website under Campus Life Documents

To become aware of University policies related to student academic and behavioral expectations for students refer to the Guidebook.

Department Code of Conduct

"Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/lab/internship practicum or to block access to online courses and may refer offenses to the [Academic and Professional Issues Committee (API)] or to the Department Head. More serious offences by be referred to the University Police Department and/or the Judicial Affairs Office for disciplinary action" (Student Guidebook p 35)

Social Work students conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Closely linked with professional recognition is the social worker's compliance with the profession's ethical standards. It is imperative for professional social workers to be competent and ethical in practice if the profession is to maintain the public trust. It is essential that each social work student gain a thorough understanding of the ethical principles that guide practice and actively demonstrate in behavior, both in and out of the classroom. Student conduct is to reflect the tenets of *NASW Code of Ethics*

(located at <https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>) on the NASW website: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

There is an expectation of maintaining high standards of integrity and honesty by all Social Work Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Faculty and staff are expected to uphold and support student integrity and honesty by maintaining conditions that encourage and enforce academic honesty. *Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is academic dishonesty.*

The School of Social Work follows University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty (available at <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>) Students are expected to read and understand the University's Academic Dishonesty Policy

The Office of the Provost documents and maintains a record of all incidents of academic dishonesty. Multiple incidents of academic dishonesty will result in a student's dismissal from the program and from the University.

A student who fails to meet the professional expectation of the field for which he/she is preparing may be suspended from further study in that program by the department administering the program (Graduate School Catalog p 36)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive

- Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions 8 Mbps is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is

the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments for the Week
1	June 1-7	UNIT 1: Introductions and Overview of Community Practice	Complete all orientation and introduction activities Read Ch. 1 – Overview of Community Practice Review Ch. 1 PowerPoint Graded Exercise: Online activity Multiple-choice quiz
2	June 8-14	UNIT 2: Theories of Community Practice	Read Ch. 2 – Theories of Community Practice Review Ch. 2 PowerPoint Post to Threaded Discussion Graded Exercise: PP Presentation (min. 15 slides) on assigned theory Multiple-choice quiz

3	June 15-21	<p>UNIT 3: Nature of Community/Social Problems</p> <p>UNIT 4: Different Views of Community</p>	<p>Read Ch. 3 – Nature of Social & Community Problems</p> <p>Review Ch. 3 PowerPoint</p> <p>Post to Threaded Discussion</p> <p>Graded exercise – Individual problem vs social condition discussion & links</p> <p>Read Ch. 4 – Concept of Community in Social Work Practice</p>
			<p>Review Ch. 4 PowerPoints</p> <p>Graded exercise – PP Presentation (min 15 slides) on different communities</p> <p>Multiple-choice quiz</p>
4	June 22-28	<p>UNIT 5: Documenting and Assessing Communities</p>	<p>Read Ch. 5 – Assessment: Discovering and Documenting the Life of a Community</p> <p>Ch. 6 – Using Assessment in Community Practice</p> <p>Multiple-Choice quiz</p> <p>Sections I and II of paper due (draft for feedback)</p>

5	June 29- July 5	UNIT 6: Using Advocacy	<p>Read Ch. 12: Using the Advocacy Spectrum</p> <p>Review Ch. 12 PowerPoints</p> <p>Post to Threaded Discussion</p> <p>Multiple Choice Quiz</p>
6	July 6 – 12	UNIT 7: Organizing in Community Practice (Intervention in Macro Practice)	<p>Read Ch. 13: Using Organizing: Acting in Concert</p> <p>Review Ch. 13 PowerPoints</p> <p>Post to Threaded Discussion</p> <p>Multiple Choice Quiz</p>
7	July 13–19	UNIT 8: Using Self and the Agency in Community Practice	<p>Read Ch. 7: Assertiveness: Using Self in Community Practice</p> <p>Read Ch. 8: Using Your Agency</p> <p>Read Handout on “How to Run Meetings”</p> <p>Multiple Choice Quiz</p>
8	July 20 – July 26	UNIT 9: Using Groups and Networks	<p>Read Ch. 9: Using Work Groups: Committees, Teams and Boards</p> <p>Read Ch. 10: Using Networks and Networking</p> <p>Community Problem/Solution Presentation and paper due</p> <p>Multiple-choice quiz</p>

9	July 27 – Aug 2	UNIT 10: Social Marketing	<p>Read Ch. 11: Using Marketing</p> <p>Review Ch. 11 PowerPoints and Voice Thread</p> <p>Post to Threaded Discussion</p> <p>Graded Exercise: Marketing Product</p> <p>Multiple-choice quiz</p>
10	August 3 – 6	Wrap Up, Evaluations & Assessment	<p>Post to Threaded Discussion</p> <p>COMPREHENSIVE M/C FINAL EXAM</p>