



## School of Social Work

### SWK 2361: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK - ONLINE Summer 2020

*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

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an overview of the history and development of social work as a profession. The course is designed to foster a philosophical, historical, and critical understanding of the social work profession, including social work values, ethics, and areas of practice utilized under a Generalist Intervention Model. Prerequisites: ENG. 1301, ENG.1302

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE(S):**

1. Discuss the historical development of social work in the United States.
2. Distinguish the profession of social work from other helping professions.
3. Identify core values of social work as stated in the National Association of Social Worker (NASW) Code of Ethics.
4. Identify the primary roles and functions of social workers (advocate, broker, facilitator, etc.).
5. Identify practice settings where social workers function and articulate how these settings influence the roles of social workers.
6. Describe the Generalist Intervention Model.
7. Describe how the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners Code of Conduct guides social work practice.
8. Describe how the NASW Code of Ethics guides social work practice.
9. Describe social work's goal of advancing human rights and justice.
10. Describe social work's obligation to serve diverse populations.
11. Articulate the importance of self-care to prevent burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary trauma

### **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES:**

This is the beginning introductory survey course of the social work profession. It is a pre-requisite to application and admission to the BSW program and all upper division social work courses.

### **PROGRAM GOALS:**

1. Prepare students for competent and effective generalist social work practice with diverse client systems.
2. Provide students with a foundation of knowledge for professional development, graduate education and lifelong learning
3. Develop student capability to improve human service delivery systems and promote social justice
4. Socialize student to the profession of social work

## **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 to achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration the following ten competencies for generalist- level practice.

Competency 2.1.1 Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly

Competency 2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice

Competency 2.1.3 Apply Critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments

Competency 2.1.4 Engage diversity and difference in practice

Competency 2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice

Competency 2.1.6 Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research

Competency 2.1.7 Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment

Competency 2.1.8 Engage in policy practice to advance well-being and deliver services

Competency 2.1.9 Respond to contexts that shape practice

Competency 2.1.10 (a)-(d) Engages, assesses, intervenes and evaluates individual, families, groups, organizations, and communities

### **Practice Behaviors**

Each competency (outlined above) describes the knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes that comprise the competency at the generalist level of practice. While content and activities of each course in the BSW curriculum covertly or overtly addresses each of the ten competencies, integrated into each course is a set of behaviors (practice behaviors) representing observable components of one for more competencies. Course content and assessment are associated with the following practice behaviors:

2.1.2.6 Uses supervision and consultation effectively

2.1.10[b].1 Collect, organize and interpret client data

2.1.10[b].2 Assess client strengths and limitations

# Course Structure

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## Texts and Associated Materials

### Required Texts:

Suppes, M.A. & Wells, C.C. (2018). *The Social Work Experience: A Case-based Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare* (7<sup>th</sup> ed). New York: Pearson Publishing. E-TEXT or DIGITAL version REQUIRED.

### POLICY ON DUE DATES:

All assignments are due BY THE TIME POSTED. There will be 5 points deducted PER DAY for any late assignment. All online postings, discussions and activities are due by the time posted in order to receive credit.

### OVERVIEW OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

#### ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW:

The purpose of this assignment is to give the student an opportunity to learn how to conduct an interview and/or assessment. Guidelines for this assignment are attached to this syllabus. Grading for the individual assessment will be as follows:

Content - 80 pts.  
Grammar - 20 pts.  
Total - 100 pts.

#### EXAMS:

There will be four quizzes (50 points each) and a comprehensive final (100 points).

Everyone must take the final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching or definitions, and/or short essay questions. The exams will focus on the readings from the text and from the content of the lectures and speakers in the classroom. Each student is responsible for keeping up with the readings and taking notes from the class. If you miss a class you should ask a classmate for any handouts given by the instructor.

### Grading Scale

Evaluation for course grade will be computed according to the following formula:

4 Quizzes @ 50 points each	200 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	100 points
Assessment Interview	100 points
Total Possible	400 points

Grading and evaluation--In general, a course grade of a "C" represents an acceptable level of work. A course grade of "B" represents a substantial effort and achievement. It is clearly a grade for the better than average product and effort. An "A" is awarded only in the case of both outstanding efforts and quality in the required products.

The grades will be awarded on the following basis:

- A = 450-500 points
- B = 400-449 points
- C = 350-399 points
- D = 300-349points
- F = Below 300 points

NOTE: Promptness in completing assigned tasks and readings is a requirement of this course. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments submitted late will be penalized 5 points per day, beginning with the first day they are due. Assignments over 3 days (actual calendar days) will not be accepted and a grade of "0" will be given for the assignment.

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

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"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.

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](mailto: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:

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

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 eCollege, students must log in and complete assignments as required in the course. Not logging onto eCollege (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.

### **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.

### **Texas Senate Bill – 11: Concealed Handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce Buildings**

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.

### **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>

### **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.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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 <b>point</b> release of that major version)

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			<p>and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> 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.</p> <p>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</p>
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](mailto: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.

## INTERVIEW OR ASSESSMENT ASSIGNMENT

### Instructions:

The assessment should be based on a face-to-face meeting with the person in their own home. They should be assured respect for their confidentiality. You should not share with the individual any concern areas you identify, nor should you make any recommendations to them. Use the outline below both to guide your interview and to organize the written paper. The paper should be 4-5 typed, double-spaced pages. Spelling, grammar, professional appearance, neatness, thoroughness of content, and the appropriateness of your analysis and recommendations will all count toward your grade.

***Selection of Person: This assignment is best completed with someone whom you do not know personally. Do NOT pick a family member or close friend. You may choose an acquaintance or someone with whom you work.***

#### **Description of Person:**

Include the name, (use pseudonyms), gender, age, living arrangement, ethnic/racial group identification, socio-economic level, physical appearance, personality characteristics, health, intellectual and social functioning of the person.

#### **Description of Family of Origin:**

Describe the socio-economic status, occupation/school grade of parents, leisure activities, religious affiliation, civic involvement **of the family in which the person was raised.**

#### **Social Environment:**

Describe the quality of relationships and degree of involvement between the person and: Significant others, family, friends, neighbors, community, involvement in social institutions.

#### **Physical Environment:**

Describe the person's housing, neighborhood, work environment, and/or school environment.

#### **Strengths and Concerns:**

Identify individual strengths and areas of concern, both from your assessment and/or you can ask the interviewee for their assessment

#### **Target Problem:**

Identify the problem area you feel most concerned about. DO NOT discuss this area with the person you're interviewing.

#### **Recommendations:**

Make 2-3 specific recommendations you feel might help this person resolve or manage the problem area you identified.