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SWK 553: Foundation Field Practicum

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dawn Nelson, LCSW-S, ACSW, SAP, CART
Office Location: Mesquite Metroplex, Room TBA
Office Hours: By appointment

University Email Address: dawn.nelson@tamuc.edu
Cell Phone: 972-989-2799
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within a business day

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Forni, P.M. (2002). *Choosing Civility*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

REQUIRED: TK20

If you do not have a TK20 student account you may purchase one of two ways:

- Contact the University Bookstore (students qualifying for Financial Aid may opt to purchase through the Bookstore). Be sure to tell them you need the **SOCIAL WORK TK20** kit book. The teacher certification program also has a TK20 Book so *it is very important you tell them you need the Social Work TK20 book.*

OR

- Login to TK20 and set up your student account by clicking on “Click here to register your student account” – Located on the log-in page. This method of purchase is cheaper than purchasing through the bookstore. Login Social Work TK20 page – www.tamucsw.tk20.com

Software Required

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Sidell, N.L. (2011). *Social Work Documentation*. Washington, DC: NASW Press. (Supplemental).

Sweitzer, H, Frederick, & King, A., (2009) *The Successful Internship, (4th ed.)*, Belmont, CA: Thomson, Brooks/Cole.

Course Description

This first field practicum builds on the experiences acquired in the pre-requisite classes, while it provides the students with the opportunity to learn theories, knowledge and skills required to engage individuals, families (or household), small groups, organizations and communities. Students enrolled in this educationally directed field practicum experience, which is under supervision in a social services agency must work towards developing skills which will merge into the AGP Field I requirements. Students must complete a total of 260 clock hours in the field agency, under the supervision of an MSW. Prerequisites: First full Semester of Foundation Courses completed.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES:

This course builds upon the foundation courses and provides students with experiential opportunities designed to integrate knowledge and theories taught in other courses while expanding their knowledge of social work ethics and values.

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 achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration of the following competencies for Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP). *Students achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration of the following **bolded competencies** for Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP).*

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

Student Learning Outcomes (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 following practice behaviors:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Instructional Methods

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

GRADING

Grades below B are not acceptable and the course must be repeated if a student earns a C or below.

Field Seminar: 80% of grade

Civility Project: 20% of grade

Assessments

SWK 553 Assignments

Overview of Course Assignments

By the end of the Foundation Field Practicum, students will be expected to have completed:

- Learning contract
- Safety Plan
- Strengths-based assessments
- Professional interactions and interventions with individual, family, group, organizational and community systems. Documented as per Field Faculty request.
- Weekly attendance and participation in field seminar

Documentation of these activities will be provided as per field faculty requirements. The documentation must be available for the Field Liaison's review at the mid-semester and final semester electronic visits.

There are two written evaluations of student progress in the field practicum using the Field Learning Contract – in conference with the student, once at mid-term and then at the end of the semester.

1. Field Seminar (1 hour each week)

Each student enrolled in the field practicum is assigned a faculty field liaison from the social work faculty. The function of the faculty field liaison is to monitor the progress of the student in the field practicum, and to assist the student in the integration of classroom learning, theory, and field practicum application of content. Class assignments will be made; completions of the required assignments are considered when evaluating the student's progress.

The field liaison faculty member assigns the final grade for the student in the field practicum. This grade is based on the recommendation of the field practicum instructor (the agency-based field instructor) as well as the direct observations of the faculty field liaison.

Each faculty field liaison member is expected to visit electronically with the student and the student's field practicum agency a minimum of two times during the semesters, or as needed on problematic issues.

All students enrolled in the field practicum are required to meet with the faculty field liaison and other students in a weekly field seminar meeting and/or complete the weekly seminar assignment. The format of the seminars is left to the faculty field liaison, within the following guidelines:

- Field seminar meetings are scheduled at a time every week.
- All students are required to attend the seminar.
- Seminars are scheduled to last one hour.

The purpose of the seminar includes:

- Orientation to field practicum expectations and record keeping.
- Updates on practicum requirements or conditions.
- The opportunity for students to raise and share questions regarding the field practicum, assignments, and expectations.
- The opportunity for students to share with other students their learning experience in the field practicum; to begin the practice of peer consultation on professional problem solving; and to offer support and input to fellow students.
- Offer each student a chance to orient peers to their agency, its location, purpose, and procedures.
- Offers a chance to familiarize students and faculty with the services and referral
 - Processes of the field agency and rural resources available.

- Offers the student and agency mutual exposure to facilitate identifying future employment interests and opportunities.
- Allows agency field students to demonstrate or discuss their approaches to the design and practice of field learning. Allows faculty field liaison to observe students in a variety of professional learning settings.

2. *Choosing Civility* Project:

Each student will read the required text as homework. The class will discuss the information from the book and each student will develop a media presentation. The students will present their project to other students through the D2L Brightspace.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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

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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Instructor will respond to email queries within 2 business days.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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 or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Engagement Policy

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.

To earn a level of competency within a specific course, students must demonstrate both mastery of content and active engagement.

Mastery of content areas is evidenced by successful completion of course assignments such as written papers, group project deliverables, tests/quizzes and other tangible products designed by instructors to evaluate knowledge and skills.

Additionally, the Social Work Profession is built upon human interactions and building human relationships – which is defined as engagement. Engagement is defined as meaningful involvement in interactions with instructor, peers, outside stakeholders as appropriate (such as contacting a social worker to interview for a required assignment). Within the classroom setting, whether virtual or F2F, students must actively participate in 80% of engagement activities as outlined by individual instructors. These activities can include participation in a live, synchronous virtual classes, attending a Face to Face course when appropriate, interacting with peers in posted discussions and collaborating in group interactive projects.

Students must meet standards for content mastery on tangible assignments and meet the threshold of active engagement 80% of the time during a semester. Instructors are experts in each course content area and set the standards for students to meet for successful completion of the course.

As we enter the Fall semester, we are all working under stresses and strains related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative we communicate consistently and frequently. If, for any reason, you are not able to complete assignments or actively engage in the course, you MUST reach out to your instructor and let him or her know.

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>

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Schedule

WEEK	CLASS MEETING	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
1	Discussion	TK-20, Syllabus, Learning Plan, & Safety Plan	TK20 documentation and weekly logs Introduce yourself and ask questions
2	Discussion	Safety Issues	
3	Discussion	Professionalism & Code of Ethics	-Learning Plan Due

			- Choosing Civility Reading Due -Schedule Midterm Field Calls
4	Discussion	Book	Safety Plan Due
5	Discussion	Your Field Experience	
6	Discussion		
7	Discussion	Supervision & Boundaries	
8	Discussion	Your Field Experience	- Schedule Final Field Calls -Choosing Civility Project Due
9	Discussion	Practice within a Macro Context	
10	Discussion	Diversity Issues- Student Case Presentations	-Student Presentations
11	Discussion	Termination Phase & Interruptions in Practice	
12	Discussion	Your Field Experience	
13	Discussion	Paperwork	
14	Discussion		
15	Discussion	Self-Evaluation & Final Thoughts	Self-Evaluation & Thoughts
	NO FINAL		ALL TK20 Documentation Due