



**SWK 510: Clinical Practice in Mental Health**  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
Summer 2025  
Web based

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: **Dawn Nelson, LCSW-S, ACSW, SAP, CART**  
Office Location: **Henderson Hall**  
Office Hours: **By appointment**  
Office Phone: **972-989-2799**  
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Preferred Form of Communication: email  
Communication Response Time: Within 2 business days

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Textbook(s) Required:**

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-5-TR* (5<sup>th</sup> ed. Text Revision). American Psychiatric Association.

(May bring from your agency or borrow one)

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

**Software Required:**

Microsoft Office 365  
Access FREE at:

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<https://inside.tamuc.edu/facultystaffservices/academictechnology/documents/Office-365-Students.pdf>

### **Optional Texts and/or Materials:**

All MSW students must purchase the following study materials to **prepare for the Graduate Comprehensive Exam** they will take in their final semester. You must pass the exam to receive your degree. It is never too early to begin studying for the exam.

### **Comprehensive Study Guide (Masters, Clinical, Adv. Generalist) Version 9.0. Social Work Examination Services.**

To purchase access: <https://swes.net/all-products/#:~:text=Masters%2C%20Clinical%2C%20Adv.%20Generalist>

## **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is (1) to present the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders ("DSM") as a knowledge base for enhancing social workers' understanding of individual biopsychosocial function and (2) to expand social workers' ability to use the DSM-5 to work with at-risk populations across diverse settings and with diverse mental health professionals. Ethical dilemmas inherent in categorizing and labeling will be highlighted, along with cultural concerns in using a homogenous system of diagnostic classes.

### **Prerequisites:**

Students must have completed all MSW foundation curriculum requirements, been admitted to the MSW program, and be in good standing in the MSW program.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES**

This course builds upon practice courses and assessment in SWK 506 Advanced Family Therapy. It builds upon exposure to professional values and ethics, particularly the NASW Code of Ethics.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The 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. Listed below are the competencies and associated knowledge, skills,

values and cognitive and affective processes that comprise the expected outcomes for this course.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

In this course, you will utilize the Learning Management Systems (LMS) D2L for instructional and learning opportunities, submitting assignments, participating in online synchronous and asynchronous discussions, accessing resources, and completing quizzes/tests. Additionally, you will need the knowledge and skills to use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook Email. If

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you have any issues with using the various systems or software, you must contact support services and notify the Instructor of the technical issue.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be delivered via synchronous and asynchronous sessions via D2L. It will consist of live class sessions, pre-recorded lectures, group engagement activities, and various assignments, including experiential learning and practical application of the content areas. In addition, small lectures, discussion activities, and workshops may provide instruction during this course.

### **Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course**

As a student in this course, you are responsible for engaging in active learning and reaching out to the Instructor if problems or challenges interfere with optimal learning. Communication is vital when engaged in a fully online, virtual environment.

Expectations for success include:

1. Always demonstrate professional behavior, including respect for the Instructor and peers; being open to feedback and guidance throughout this class and the program.
2. Adhered to the School of Social Work and University student code of conduct and NASW Code of Ethics.
3. Begin reading the assigned text and supplemental readings as soon as possible, focusing on completing all readings prior to engagement with the Instructor or peers.
4. Prepare to engage in live class sessions, discussions, and other activities so you can be a contributor as well as a receiver of knowledge and skills.
5. Actively participate in engagement activities, including live virtual class sessions, online discussions, and interactive learning opportunities -as this is vital for learning and success in both this course and the program.
6. Work ahead when possible. Completing assignments ahead of the due date so you are prepared to submit on the due date.
7. Sign in to the D2L course shell multiple times weekly to access updated announcements or posted resources.
8. Check your university email daily. This is the university, department, and Instructor's official method of communication.
9. Be open and focused on the "process" and not the "product," as earning this degree requires time, effort, work, growth in knowledge, skills, and abilities, along with personal and professional attributes.

### **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

**A = 90%-100% of total points**

**B = 80%-89%**

**C = 70%-79%**

**D = 60%-69%**

**F = 59% or Below**

<b>Assessments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Assessment Diagnosis & Interventions	100 pts.

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Exams (2 @ 100 pts.)	200 pts.
Weekly Discussions (10 x 10 pts.)	100 pts.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400 pts.</b>

Late work will have an automatic 15-point deduction. All work must be completed by the last day of class.

## Assessments

### 1. Assessment, Diagnosis & Intervention

**SEE RUBRIC: APPENDIX A**

Write a complete intake assessment on a client with a DSM diagnosis. Develop a treatment plan that would last 6 sessions with this client and discuss the types of interventions deemed useful to help the client during each of the sessions and include a termination plan.

### 2. Exams

There are 2 exams in this course. Exams are open book and open note. In prior class, there is an in-class exam review and discussion.

### 3. Role Play Activity/Discussions

**SEE RUBRIC: APPENDIX B**

All students **MUST** participate in weekly discussions during each week to receive credit. The calendar shows the starting date for each week and the discussion is due the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. **No late work is accepted for this assignment.** (10 weeks x 10 points each; 100 points total for the course.)

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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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**

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 D2L, please contact D2L 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**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor via email. The Instructor will respond to email queries within two 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 require the Instructor to modify it during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Ethical Behavior**

The School of Social Work expects all students to conduct themselves in an ethical, professional manner in the classroom and field settings consistent with the [NASW Code of Ethics](#).

#### **University Code of Conduct**

East Texas A&M has established standards of conduct to create and foster an environment that facilitates student learning and development. Students and university student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and is consistent with the educational goals and mission of the university. This Code of Student Conduct ("Code") focuses on personal responsibility and accountability for students' actions and the impact those actions may have on the greater community. To access student academic and behavioral expectations for students refer to the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to

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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 (or copy/paste the following URL in your web browser:

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

If a student believes the final grade is unfairly impacted by attendance requirements, an appeal can be made. This appeal process is explained in "Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation" - Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M 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:

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)  
[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

## **University Rules on Research**

Students involved in conducting research and/or scholarly activities at East Texas A&M must also adhere to standards set forth in [University Procedure 15.99.03.R1 Ethics in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work](#).

### **AI use in the course**

East Texas A&M acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that can generate text or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the course instructor.

Any use of such software must be documented. Undocumented use constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow the use of such software entirely for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided, the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

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

## **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

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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**

East Texas A&M

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

**Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connections to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

**School of Social Work &  
Council on Social Work Education-Specific Policies  
Course Engagement**

*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.

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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 the Instructor, peers, and 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 may include but are not limited to, participation in 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 of the time set during a semester by the Instructor.

Instructors are experts in each course content area and set the standards for students to meet to successfully complete the course.

### **Student Conduct**

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

#### **Department Code of Conduct**

The Academic and Professional Issues Committee (API) hearing is the formal path of due process for a student in regard to the concern being expressed. A student will be referred to the School of Social Work's API by faculty, field instructors, or faculty field liaisons when a concern arises regarding academic and student conduct and/or professional preparation. When "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 that program" as demonstrated through ethical and/or legal violations; aberrant disregard for School of Social Work Code of Conduct or other concerns as determined by the [Academic and Professional Issues Committee](#).

Graduate Students have the right to appeal to the Graduate Dean according to [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.39](#).

Undergraduate Students have the right to appeal to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services according to [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.41](#)

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## Appendix A

### Grading Rubric: Assessment

Criteria	Level 4 30 points	Level 3 24 points	Level 2 21 points	Level 1 18 points	Criterion Score
Criterion 1 Biopsychosocial History	Complete biopsychosocial history	Missing 1-2 components of biopsychosocial history	Missing 3 or more components of biopsychosocial history	Major items are missing	/30
Criterion 2 Assessment and DSM-5-TR Diagnosis	Strong assessment and correct diagnosis for symptoms	Missing 1-2 parts of assessment and/or sub-components of diagnosis are missing or wrong	Assessment and/or diagnosis is inadequate	Both assessment and diagnosis are inadequate	/30
Criterion 3 Treatment Plan	Strong, well-planned treatment plan	Adequate treatment plan but needs more details	Treatment plan is missing some items and/or sessions	Treatment plan is missing many items	/30
Criterion 4 Professional Writing	Professionally written with no grammar errors	Minor mistakes, but overall is professionally written	Professional writing needs improvement or proofreading	Lacks professionalism or major mistakes	/10

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## Appendix B

### Grading Rubric: DISCUSSION RUBRIC

Discussion	10 points	7.5 points	5 points	2.5 points	
Class “audience” responds with clinical	Respond with clinical expertise	Responds with positive yet missing knowledge	Responds with incorrect knowledge of the material	Response is not within the same week	/10

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## COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

<b>Schedule - Week of</b>	<b>Readings(s) (All readings are from Handouts &amp; DSM V</b>	<b>Assignments/Activities</b>
Week 1 – 6/2	Download & Review Syllabus History of DSM V Week 1(PPt1) <b>Read Intro - pgs. 5-28 - DSM V - TR</b>	Review Syllabus Complete Week 1 Discussion Review PowerPoint 1 (PPt1)
Week 2 -- 6/9	Assessment, Diagnosis & Treatment <b>Review pgs. (841 – 857).</b>	Review Assessment & DSM Diagnosis Handout Review of Psyso History Handout Complete Week 2 Discussion Review PowerPoint 2 (PPt2)
Week 3 – 6/16	Bipolar & Depressive Disorders <b>Read pgs. (139-175) &amp; (177 – 214).</b>	Inventory of Depression Complete Week 3 Discussion Review PowerPoint 3 (PPt3)
Week 4 – 6/23	Anxiety Disorders and OCD <b>Read pgs. (215-261) &amp; (263 – 294).</b>	Complete Week 4 Discussion Review PowerPoint 4 (PPt4)
Week 5 – 6/30	Schizophrenia and Psychosis <b>Read pgs. (101-138).</b>	<b>Exam # 1</b> Complete Week 5 Discussion Review PowerPoint 5 (PPt5)
Week 6 – 7/7	Trauma; Dissociative Disorders <b>Read pgs. (295-328) &amp; (329 – 348).</b>	Complete Week 6 Discussion Review PowerPoint 6 (PPt6)
Week 7 – 7/14	Neurodevelopmental Disorders; Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders <b>Read pgs. (35-99) &amp; (543 – 665).</b>	<b>Case Study Review</b> Substance Use Assessments Complete Week 7 Discussion Review PowerPoint 7 (PPt7)
Week 8 – 7/21	Personality Disorders <b>Read pgs. (733-778).</b>	<b>Assessment 1, Diagnosis and Treatment Plan Due (Annette)</b> Complete Week 8 Discussion Review PowerPoint 8 (PPt8)
Week 9 – 7/28	Sexual Dysfunctions Gender Dysphoria Feeding and Eating Disorders <b>Read pgs. (477-509), (511 – 520) &amp; (371 – 397).</b>	Complete Week 9 Discussion Review PowerPoint 9 (PPt9)
Week 10 – 8/03	Pharmacology	<b>Exam #2</b> Pharmacology Handout Complete Week 10 Discussion

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