



SWK 597-07/08W: SOCIAL WORK IN HEALTHCARE

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Rebecca Judd, Ph.D. LMSW-IPR
Office Location: Online and Henderson Bldg.
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: 9034683047
Office Fax: 9034683221
University Email Address: Rebecca.Judd@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **EMAIL**
Communication Response Time: Within 2 Business Day

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

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

Software Required

- D2L (in MyLeo)
- Microsoft Office
- Access at: [Student Instructions to Sign Up Free for Microsoft Office](#)

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/allproducts/#:~:text=Masters%2C%20Clinical%2C%20Adv.%20Generalist>

Course Description

There is a substantial number of social workers employed across the healthcare spectrum, yet when we look at curriculum in social work schools across the country – the major focus is on mental and behavioral health, often omitting physical health. This course is designed to close this gap and prepare healthcare social workers to effectively work with individuals through a lens of “health” which is defined by WHO as “... a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. While we cannot isolate mental and emotional health, the behavioral choices and physical health of individuals, this course addresses the structural, systemic barriers and challenges for obtaining optimum health for all. This course focuses on the systems that make up U.S. healthcare and developing knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for social workers to have an impact on the “... state of complete physical, mental and social well-being of all individuals and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES: n/a

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate understanding of the U.S. Healthcare System
2. Students will be able to identify and discuss career opportunities in the U.S. Healthcare System
3. Students will be able to problem solve and advocate for systemic changes to improve overall physical health of individuals.

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 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 asynchronously. It consists of 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 be introduced to 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.

Following are suggestions for achieving success in this course:

1. Adhered to the School of Social Work and University student code of conduct and NASW Code of Ethics.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Work ahead when possible. Completing assignments ahead of the due date so you are prepared to submit on the due date.
6. Sign in to the D2L course shell multiple times weekly to access updated announcements or posted resources.
7. Check your university email daily. This is the university, department, and Instructor's official method of communication.
8. 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%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Assessments	Value
Content Engagement: Before and After Reflective Postings (40% of class grade)	100 pts
Article Review Paper (30% of class grade)	100 pts
Popcorn and a Movie (30% of class grade)	100 pts
Total	300 pts

Assessments

Content Engagement: Before and After Reflective Postings (40% of final grade) The American Healthcare System is multi-faceted and complex. Which policies (national, state, and organizational), resources, intervention techniques health social workers must gain understanding of depends on the populations with whom they work and institutions for whom they work. Engagement Activities will include asynchronous discussion board, interactive video chats and sharing of knowledge, unique ideas and resources which is key for successful outcomes in healthcare, more so than other settings. For each unit you will be prompted to post your ideas, beliefs and opinions on the topic before engaging in the material. Then you will be prompted to post after engaging in the material. This is my version of discussion postings and feel it is best use to reflect your learning before and after engaging in the material – very much like would happen when in a F2F classroom. **See Appendix**

A Core Assignments: (60% of final grade)

Article Review Paper

Review three articles related to some aspect of current health care policy on any issue or topic of interest (wellness promotion; obesity; quality of healthcare as outlined by centers for Medicare/Medicaid services etc). Write a 3-5 page paper summarizing the articles/topic. The paper should provide:

- A brief summary of the insights gleaned from the issues discussed in the article
- Your thoughts and observations about the issues
- How the social work profession can use its influence and advocacy skills to impact the issue and policy presented in the article

Grading rubric can be found in D2L in the assignment resource folder under the course menu

Popcorn and a Movie

To help us take a broader look at the factors created and contributing to an unhealthy world and to inspire thoughts about creating a "culture of health" you will watch the movie Wall E (available through Google Play or Amazon and write a reaction paper. Instructions can be found in D2L in the assignment resource folder under the course menu.

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Course Outline/Calendar

(Week) Date	Topic	Reading Assignments	Assessments
<p>Note: Each Module Covers Two Weeks</p> <p>Module 1: 06.01.26 – 06.07.26 06.08.26 – 06.14.26</p>	<p>Introduction To Course</p> <p>Introduction To Healthcare Continuum in The United States</p>	<p>TBD</p>	
<p>With successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify and describe the different levels of healthcare across the continuum in the United States. ● Explain costs and who pays for healthcare. ● Debate health care as a right vs privilege. 			
<p>Module 2: 06.15.26 – 06.21.26 06.22.26 – 06.28.26</p>	<p>Roles and responsibilities of social workers across the healthcare continuum</p>		
<p>With successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:</p> <p>Describe the roles and responsibilities and career opportunities of social workers in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● an acute hospital care setting ● Research medical settings ● Extended hospital care ● Long term care settings: Skilled nursing home vs Assisted Living Settings ● Outpatient settings: Home health, day programs 			
<p>Module 3: 06.29.26 – 07.05.26 07.06.26 – 07.12.26</p>	<p>Vulnerable populations</p>	<p>TBD</p>	
<p>With successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss social justice in healthcare for individuals from racial and ethnic minority heritages. ● Explain challenges for those with chronic illness. ● Identify ethical and legal aspects of reproductive rights, health, and social policy. ● Describe interventions when working with stigmatized populations in healthcare settings: mental illness; drug abuse, individuals with criminal histories. 			
<p>Module 4: 07.13.26 – 07.19.26 07.20.26 - .07.27.26</p>	<p>Health and wellness</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Resource popcorn and movie assignment due 07/19 @ 11:59 p.m.</p>

With successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Define global health.
- Discuss how macro issues (climate change, pandemic, inequities across the world) impact health outcomes.
- Identify evidence of how the food industry in the United States impacts both individual and societal health.

Module 5: 07.28.26 -08.06.26	Future of healthcare and social work	TBD	Article review paper due 08/02 @ 11:59 p.m.
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With successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Identify three challenges facing health over the next decade.
- Identify three ways social workers can impact the challenges facing health over the next decade.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=univ_ersalmenu

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@etamu.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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
 - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
 - Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
 - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software 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

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 University 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 ETAMU 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.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection 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

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering

preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statement:

School of Social Work Mission Statement: