

**School of Social Work**

**SWK 541: Social Justice for Oppressed Populations**

**SCHEDULE**

*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*

Instructor:

Office Location

Office Hours

Contact Information

Overview of Course

**Course Description**

This course provides students with knowledge about social work with diverse populations, mechanisms of social oppression, and social work’s efforts to bring about social justice. The emphasis in this course will be on developing an understanding of (a) those client groups who, because of factors of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and disability status are particularly oppressed in our society, and (b) those client groups who perpetuate such oppression against individuals due to race, ethnicity, and gender or disability status. In addition, the course will also develop culturally relevant macro and micro strategies of empowering these diverse groups

**Course Objective(s)**

1. Students will expand their awareness of the significance of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and disability as they impact individual and group opportunities for success and well-being in this country.
2. Students will examine their self-identity and values as regards to social work values, ethics and professional practice.
3. Students will learn to critically analyze individual and group strengths based on respect for and appreciation of cultural differences.
4. Students will learn to identify historical, political, and socioeconomic forces that maintain racism, sexism, socioeconomic status and biases toward populations at risk.
5. Students will develop specific intervention micro, mezzo and macro strategies that promote economic and social justice for populations at risk.

**Relationship to Other Courses**

This course builds on foundation courses and enhances all subsequent/additional social work courses by providing a basis from which development and analysis of social work interventions may be formed.

**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 nine 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 compromise 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 nine competencies, integrated into each course is a set of behaviors (practice behaviors) representing observable components of one for more competencies. Course content and assessment reflects the following practice behaviors:

2.1.2.1 Makes ethical decisions by applying standards of NASW Code of Ethics and as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles

2.1.2.3 Tolerates ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts

2.1.4.2 Has sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups

2.1.4.3 Recognizes and communicates her or his understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences

2.1.5.2 Understands the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination

2.1.5.3 Is skilled at engaging in practices that advance social and economic justice

2.1.9.1 Is skilled at continuously discovering, appraising, and attending to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments and emerging societal trends in order to provide relevant services.

2.1.10[a].2 uses empathy and other interpersonal skills

Course Structure

**Texts and Associated Materials**

**Required Texts**:

Rothenberg, P. S. (2014). *Race, class and gender in the United States: An integrated study.* (9th ed)*.* New York: St. Martin's Press.

**Additional Readings Suggested**:

Devore, W. & Schlesinger, E. G. (1996). Ethnic sensitive social work practice (8th ed). MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**Overview of Course Assignments**

1. **REACTION PAPERS (3 AT 25 POINTS)**

Students will write three brief reaction papers (1-2 pages, double-spaced). Students will react to three chapters selected by each student, from the Rothenburg text. The due dates for the different sections of the book are listed in the course outline. Students will upload the paper to Drop Box and provide a one paragraph summary of their reaction under Reaction Discussion during the Module with reading was assigned. For example if you choose to react to a chapter from Part III of the book, then you will post under Module Two’s Reaction Discussion. Please read each other’s reactions, and add to the discussion for Class Participation points

1. **INTERVIEW OF ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (75 points)**

Students will interview a leader or employee of an organization that advocates for or assists an oppressed or special needs population group. The student will write a 3 - 4 page paraphrased summary of the interview that includes information received and personal reflections on the experience, and share the key findings with the class. Upload to Drop Box and post a one- paragraph summary under Advocate Interview Discussion. A suggested outline for questions will be available in Doc Sharing.

1. **LITERATURE REVIEW (100 points)**

Students will write a paper, which provides current statistics and a literature review focused on a specific ethnic or oppressed population. The conclusion should contain suggestions on possible micro, mezzo and macro interventions based on the student’s research. The literature review must include at least eight professional journal articles as well as information from web sites that are related to government or professional organizations. The student must use at least ten references.

The paper should follow APA style and be 10 to 12 pages in length.

The paper will be graded using the following point system:

Issues of Form: Percentage of Grade

Required length 10%

Professional grammar, punctuation, spelling/ APA format 25%

Issues of Content: 65%

Evidence of scholarly research

Subject thoroughly covered, e.g. a complete bibliography with footnotes in the text which reflect the breadth of research done

Evidence of critical analysis and practice application

Connections made to various social, economic and/or political theories, which have been presented in the course

1. **MID-TERM EXAM (100 points)**

The mid-term exam will cover all course material from class “lectures”, class discussions, eCollege postings, and readings to date. Multiple choice, T/F, short answer, and brief essay:

1. **FINAL EXAM (100 points)**

The final exam will cover all material from class lectures, class discussions, eCollege postings, and readings from the mid-term to date. Multiple choice, T/F, short answer, and brief essay:

**Grading Scale**

Course Requirements: To complete this course, students will be required to successfully complete class assignments. Attendance for all class meetings and participation are essential to integration of course material.

Reaction Papers (3) 75 points Interview of Social Justice Advocate 75 points Review of the Literature Paper 100 points Mid-term exam 100 points

Final exam 100 points

Class Participation 50 points

Total: 500 points

Points: Grade:

450-500 A

400-449 B

350-399 C

300-349 D

Below 300 F

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.

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 LIbaray - Room 132

Phone (903)886-5150 or (903) 886-5853

Fax 9903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CRebecca%5CGoogle%20Drive%5CCSWE%20Reaffirmation%20Documents%5CTask-force%5CStudentDisabilityServices%40tamuc.edu)

**Students Responsibilities**

**Class Attendance and Participation Policy**

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| --- |
| * 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:
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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 t o 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 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*](http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf) (pp 34- 66). On the University Website under Campus Life DocumentsTo 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 PolicyStudents are expected to read and understand the University's Academic Dishonesty PolicyThe 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 how fails to meet the professional expectation of the field of Social Work may be suspended from further study by the School of Social Work.***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, D2Lsupports 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](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) *(version 17 or later)* <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 orhelpdesk@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**Click here to Chat with Brightspace SupportIf 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. |

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