



Yeshiva University
WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2015

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FOUNDATION AND ADVANCED CURRICULUM

Foundation Curriculum	Advanced Curriculum
Social Welfare Organization	Social Welfare Policy
Human Behavior and the Social Environment I & II	Psychosocial Pathology or Administration
Cultural Diversity	Jewish Social Philosophy
Social Work Practice and Evaluation	Social Work Values and Ethics
Research	Applied Methods in Social Work Research
Elective One	Elective Three
Elective Two	Elective Four
Foundations of Social Work Practice I & II	Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals & Families I & II <i>or</i>
Foundation Field Work I & II	Group Work I & II <i>or</i>
	Community Social Work I & II
	Advanced Field Work I & II
	Integrative Seminar I & II <i>or</i> Integrative Essay

REQUIRED AND ELECTIVE COURSES (60 CREDITS)

Please be aware that when courses are offered in an on-line format, students who want to register for these courses should feel fairly comfortable using computers, social media, and downloading software and videos/DVDs specific to these courses. You can prepare ahead of time before the on-line courses begin by familiarizing yourself with Yeshiva University's on-line instructional format, MOODLE.

FIRST YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

SWK 6003 Foundation of Social Work Practice I
SWK 6004 Foundation of Social Work Practice II
SWK 6531C Foundation Field Work I
SWK 6532C Foundation Field Work II
SWK 6101 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
SWK 6102 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II
SWK 6201 Social Welfare Organization
SWK 6135 Cultural Diversity
SWK 6401 Social Work Practice & Evaluation Research

Plus two Electives

SECOND YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

SWK 6013/6023/6033 Practice I
SWK 6014/6024/6034 Practice II
SWK 6535C Advanced Field I
SWK 6536C Advanced Field II
SWK 6111 Psychosocial Pathology OR SWK 6252 Administration
SWK 6133 Jewish Social Philosophy
SWK 6402 Applied Methods in Social Work Research
SWK 6134 Social Work Values & Ethics
SWK 6210 Social Welfare Policy
SWK6901/6902 Integrative Seminar I & II or
SWK 6900 Integrative Essay

Plus two Electives

ELECTIVE CHOICES

SWK 6139 Immigration
SWK 6221 Working with Individuals and Families with Disabilities
SWK 6241 Social Work in Health Care
SWK 6630 Social Work Practice in Schools
SWK 6691 Alcohol, Drugs and other Addictions
SWK 6684 Child and Family Welfare
SWK 6686 Gerontology
SWK 6689 Spirituality in Social Work Practice
SWK 6281 Law and Social Work
SWK 6354 Psychosocial Social Dimensions of AIDS
SWK 6702 Coping with Loss
SWK 6682 Evidence-Based Mental Health Practice
SWK 6704 Social Work Practice with Children
SWK 6810 Social Work Practice with the Military
SWK 6681 Community Mental Health
SWK 6820 Palliative Care: SW Practice with Advanced Serious Illness
SWK 6824 Culturally Competent Social Work Interventions
SWK 6822 Economic Literacy: The Meaning of Money

SWK 6035 **SW Practice in Organizations and Communities**
SWK 6685 **SW Practice with Trauma & Interpersonal Violence****
SWK 6141 **Family Systems****
SWK 6352 **Supervision**
SWK 6113 **Advanced Psychosocial Pathology**
SWK 6328 **Social Work with Groups**
SWK 6678 **Trauma Informed Child Welfare Practice**
SWK 6823 **The Treatment of Eating Disorders****
SWK 6821 **Clinical Practice with Military Families****
SWK 6813 **Leadership in Social Work Practice**

***Prerequisite Foundation Practice I and Foundation Fieldwork I
Bold indicates advanced electives*

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Certificates require THREE special electives and ONE field placement in the field of practice.*

CERTIFICATE IN JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE (CJCS)

SWK 6136 Jewish Response to Communal Needs
SWK 6191 Major Concepts in Jewish Cultural History
SWK 6180 Organizational Structure in the American Jewish Community
SWK 6145 The Changing Jewish Family

CERTIFICATE IN CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE (CCWP)

SWK 6684 Child & Family Welfare
SWK 6685 Social Work Practice with Trauma and Interpersonal Violence**
SWK 6704 Social Work Practice with Children
SWK 6691 Alcohol, Drugs, and other Addictions

CERTIFICATE IN THE PRACTICE OF GERONTOLOGY (CPG)

SWK 6686 Gerontology
SWK 6702 Coping with Loss
SWK 6820 Social Work Practice in Palliative Care
SWK 6241 Social Work in Health Care

CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH THE MILITARY (CSWPM)

SWK 6810 Social Work Practice with the Military
SWK 6702 Coping with Loss
SWK 6685 Social Work Practice with Trauma and Interpersonal Violence**
SWK 6821 Clinical Practice with Military Families**

CERTIFICATE IN JEWISH PHILANTHROPY (CJP)

SWK 6136 Jewish Response to Communal Needs
SWK 6191 Major Concepts in Jewish Cultural History
SWK 6819 The Art and Science of Philanthropy
SWK 6705 The Jewish Tradition of Giving

**Students pursuing the Certificate in Jewish Philanthropy are required to take all four electives*

***Prerequisite Foundation Practice I and Foundation Fieldwork I*

Bold indicates advanced electives

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**** NEW ELECTIVE COURSES – SUMMER 2015 ****

SWK6035 – Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities

This course will address the purposes and skills of program development and community organizing for social workers whose primary practice and interest is working with individuals and families. The historical aspects of social action and clinical practice in the countries represented in class will be explored. We will utilize interactive, didactic and social media formats as well as active application of the community organizing phases and skills in assessing specific aspects of the Washington Heights community and its neighborhoods. The processes and work learned will be framed so that students can replicate them in their own agencies and communities as they practice in both micro and macro environments.

SWK6221 – Working with Individuals and Families with Disabilities: A Clinical Perspective towards Research Topics

This course will provide students with an introduction to research topics in the field of disabilities. Students will review the history of the field of disabilities from the perspective of social change, policy, clinical implications and interventions and ethical considerations. Each student will have an opportunity to develop a proposal for original research in the field of disabilities.

SWK6678 – Trauma Informed Child Welfare Practice

This course will introduce students to the core concepts (general theory and foundational knowledge), informing evidence-based assessment and intervention for traumatized children and adolescents who are in the child welfare system. Strength-based practice will be highlighted along with a focus on the identification of protective and promotive factors that foster resiliency and post-traumatic growth. Trauma is broadly defined, and includes children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events including, abuse and neglect and witnessing interpersonal crime (e.g. domestic violence), community violence and other traumatic events who have come into contact with the child welfare system. The course will highlight the role of development, culture and empirical evidence in trauma-specific assessment, referral and interventions with children, adolescents and their families within a child welfare context. It will address the level of functioning of primary care giving environments and assess the capacity of the community and the child welfare system to facilitate restorative processes.

FIRST YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

SWK 6003 - Foundations of Social Work Practice I

This is the first of a two semester sequence that provides students with introductory knowledge of social work methodology within the context of agency-based practice. The focus of this course is to help students build beginning professional relationship and assessment skills. The course provides a framework for the beginning student to gain an understanding of how to help people in any setting using a multiplicity of skills grounded in an ecological systems approach. Core principles and concepts such as starting where the client is; the worker's conscious use of self; and social work as a planned change process in which knowledge, values, skills and purposes determine professional actions are studied in depth and provide the foundation for practice skills. This course is taken in conjunction with the field practicum. Broad based practice skills are introduced including basic interviewing skills, relationship building, assessment, problem solving, sensitivity to issues of diversity and their impact on practice, and culturally competent practice with vulnerable and oppressed groups.

SWK 6004 - Foundations of Social Work Practice II

This second foundation course builds upon material covered in Foundations I and focuses on designing interventions based on bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessments and theories of practice. The course provides a deeper exploration of clinical work with individuals, families, groups and communities with special attention given to several theories that guide social work practice and the application of practice skills to specific case materials. Evaluating one's own practice and termination of the student/client relationship are discussed. This course is taken in conjunction with the second semester of the field work and provides an opportunity for integration of theory and practice for beginning social work students.

SWK 6531C – Foundation Field Work I

SWK 6532C – Foundation Field Work II

The purpose of First Year Foundation Field Work is to develop social work competencies through the professional relationship with clients. First year students have placements in an agency where they acquire and hone practice skills with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Students apply knowledge and values in their practice with clients and constituents and develop engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation skills. To appropriately meet the challenges of the real life situations of clients and constituents in the field, students are expected to exercise professional judgment, utilize the field instruction supervisory conference and draw from insights gained through the production of professionally conceived process recordings. Uppermost for students should be their regard for meeting their ethical responsibilities with clients. This should be demonstrated by serious involvement in efforts to utilize knowledge, values and skills which further the development of the conscious use of self and awareness of the impact of interventions on clients. The practice skills identified for first year students are presented in terms of the core roles, knowledge, and skills common for all of social work; in terms of the method specific skills which are the necessary foundation for advanced social work practice in method; and in terms of the phases of practice -- beginning, middle and ending phases. First year students are required to be in a field placement for a minimum of 600 hours during the academic year – 21 hours per week.

SWK 6101 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment I

This foundation course emphasizes the reciprocal and transactional influences between people and their environments in the context of biophysical, familial, institutional, societal and social factors. This interaction forms the basis of an ecological approach to human development. The course brings into focus current knowledge and theories regarding human behavior and the social environment as they influence each other. The emphasis is placed on differences and similarities in the life experience and lifestyles of men and women and underrepresented groups. Topics covered include: the nature of self and the importance of human relationships; conflict, choice, and change; will and determination; the family; differences and commonalities with regard to gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, class, religion, age and abilities; and coping with crises. This course helps students develop increased awareness of themselves and a greater sensitivity to the impact of their use of self on others.

SWK6102 - Human Behavior and Social Environment II

The second of this foundation course in human behavior and the social environment focuses on the normal process of human development from a broader ecological perspective. The developing individual is viewed as an active, growing person in transaction throughout the life course within a changing family, community, and society. The emphasis on community and environment with their complex social, organizational, physical, cultural, religious, economic and value influences, sets the stage for an expanded study of human development. From conception to death each stage of life is explored theoretically, empirically and experientially within an ecological framework of community and the larger environment. The developing child is seen not only as the recipient of influences, but as an active contributor to his/her own developmental and environmental context. Both person and environment are conceived of as shaping and impacting upon the other in a transactional rather than linear manner.

SWK 6135 - Cultural Diversity

This required course is designed to heighten students' knowledge, awareness, skill, and understanding of differences among people, and to raise students' consciousness and sensitivity to complexities resulting from difference. Ethnicity and race will be studied in the context of power and powerlessness, racism, sexism, homophobia, heterosexism, classism, and ageism. Through a process of self-examination, students will explore themselves, their own biases and values, and the society in which they live, develop an appreciation for the multifaceted meanings of diversity, and cultivate professional alternatives for combating discrimination, stereotyping and oppression across age, race, gender, sexual orientation, class, physical and mental disability, religion and spirituality, and other diversity factors. Social work practice issues related to diversity are presented as a foundation for working with diverse populations, understanding issues of oppression and distributive justice, developing cultural competence.

SWK 6201 - Social Welfare Organization

This foundation course begins preparing students to function as informed and competent professional practitioners who implement social policies and programs and, where appropriate, work towards policy change. Students learn the contextual framework of the social work profession, and the history, social structures and social processes necessary for the development of practice competency within the policy arena. Students will learn basic social welfare concepts, study the development of social welfare in the United States, and examine major social welfare institutions. Economic inequalities in U.S. and international societies will be studied, along with strategies to lessen global poverty and deprivation. Students will begin the study of social policy analysis that

deepens their understanding of the political processes relevant to shaping and influencing the institution of social welfare.

SWK 6401 - Social Work Practice and Evaluation Research

The need to evaluate social work interventions in a systematic way has become a necessity since it is essential to knowing which interventions work with specific client systems. Responsible practitioners need to evaluate the effects of what they do, primarily to protect their clients. This course imparts to students an understanding and appreciation of a scientific, analytic approach to building knowledge for practice and for evaluating service delivery. Students will learn the relationship between single subject research and practice, the fundamentals of the language of social work research, the elements of research designs, data analysis techniques used in single subject research, skills required to use research literature and how to communicate research concepts. Research is presented as a logical extension of service delivery, rooted in the ethical imperative to ensure that the methods employed in service delivery are effective.

SECOND YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

SWK6013 – Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals & Families I

This advanced clinical practice course is designed to help students develop conceptual, practical, theoretical and ethical frameworks that will inform their clinical skills with individuals, families and couples in social service agencies. Specific practice theories are explored for their applicability to a refined assessment of client needs. Students formulate therapeutic interventions based on assessments that include an appreciation of the impact of the social, political and agency context; race, ethnicity, social class and status, gender, sexual orientation, age, abilities and religion; professional values and ethics; and relevant practice research findings on the populations they work with and for. Along with Advanced Field Work I, this course continues to build an integration of theory with practice, and reinforces the importance of on-going practice evaluation.

SWK 6014 – Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals & Families II

In this course, students will acquire a theoretical framework for specific practice approaches and will develop a better understanding of the critical components of the bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment of individuals and families. This course focuses on integrating practice theory with actual practice experiences, applying a range of intervention techniques with a range of client populations, and examining the complex nature of the client/worker relationship. There is particular emphasis throughout on applying professional values and ethics, issues of diversity, populations at risk and social justice. The course specifically uses the family, different normative psychosocial stages and particular diagnostic categories to elucidate the integration of clinical theory and practice.

SWK6111 - Psychosocial Pathology

Psychosocial Pathology is a co-requisite required course for Advanced Clinical Practice I and Social Group Work I majors (who may chose to take Administration as the co-requisite required course). This course focuses on the distinctions between what is commonly thought to be normal and that which is viewed as “abnormal” behavior. Pathology is defined as behavior that deviates from the average or norm or is considered unusual, strange, and socially unacceptable. The initial

identification of individuals, whose symptoms and level of functioning indicate that they have a psychologically or sociologically based disorder, is often a social work function. Therefore, it is crucial that students have the necessary skills and knowledge to assess behavior, and to understand how to use the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, (DSM V). Social workers need to be able to accurately assess clients in order to expedite referrals and to provide treatment in conjunction with mental health workers from other disciplines. The basic premise of the course is that all assessments of psychosocial pathologies must take into consideration three elements of behavior: 1) symptoms; 2) level of functioning; and 3) social and cultural diversity.

SWK 6023 - Social Group Work I

This course educates students for responsible social work practice with particular competence in the social group work method. The social group work specialization provides students with the knowledge base to begin to formulate groups, selecting group members, building mutual support, developing mutual goals and purpose. A major emphasis in this course is development of the professional use of self to assure the evolution of disciplined practice based on purpose, sanction, knowledge, values and skills. The course is integrated with field learning through case presentations, group simulations and class discussion.

SWK 6024 - Social Group Work II

The course focuses on the students' development of practice skills in relation to theoretical constructs. Students will be able to demonstrate differential use of skills in moving the group process toward successful conclusion and to demonstrate the ability to work with differing group models in a variety of settings and with diverse populations. Special issues include social work values and ethics in group work practice, and consultation for the development of group services. The course is integrated with field practice through case presentations, group simulations and class discussion.

SWK 6033 - Community Social Work Practice I

Students who choose this specialization will gain skills, knowledge and an understanding of community social work practice within the context of diverse communities. Students learn basic and advanced practice principles, concepts, theories, models and approaches. With emphasis on vulnerable and oppressed populations, students learn to practice across a continuum of human relationships and behaviors existing in bureaucratic environments and small and large systems such as groups, organizations, communities and societies. Students learn to integrate social justice and other core values into their practice as they learn to use primary interventions such as planning and social policy; locality and community development; social action; administration; grants writing; networking and other organizing approaches.

SWK 6034 - Community Social Work Practice II

This course uses theories, models and methods of strategic practice with small and other sized groups, organizations and communities. Students have the opportunity to learn specific intervention tactics that contribute to achieving a practice strategy. Students learn to sustain growth in formal and informal relationships in order to achieve practice goals, objectives, and strategies. Students are introduced to primary concepts such as client/consumer/constituent, initiatives, program planning, power, leadership, administration, participation, conflict, cooperation, motivation, agency, grant writing, and policy analysis. Students learn to maintain conscious utilization of self throughout the semester in work with vulnerable populations and to consciously work for social and economic justice. Students learn practice competency by implementing a community intervention (project, program, or service) by the end of the course.

SWK 6535C Advanced Field I
SWK 6536C Advanced Field II

The purpose of Second Year Field Work is to develop depth in competency attainment within a concentration area. Students select one of the following concentrations: (a) clinical social work practice with individuals and families; (b) clinical social work practice with groups; (c) community social work. Second year students have field placements in agencies with assignments in their area of concentration in order to deepen their skills in their professionally purposeful relationships with individuals and families, with groups, or with communities. They build on skills of engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation as these are specific to their clients and constituents within their concentration area. Knowledge and values are utilized differentially to further the conscious use of self and the unique relationship with clients and constituents. To appropriately meet the challenges of the real life situations of people they are serving in the field, students are expected to continue to exercise professional judgment and to utilize the field instruction supervisory conference at an advanced level. Students should draw from insights gained through the production of professionally conceived process recordings which reflect deepened understanding of their interventions and self awareness. Uppermost for students should be their regard for meeting their ethical responsibilities with clients. This should be demonstrated by consistent involvement in the utilization of knowledge, values and skills which further the development of the conscious use of self and awareness of the impact of interventions on clients. Second year students are required to be in a field placement for a minimum of 600 hours during the academic year – 21 hours per week. Second year advanced standing students are required to be in a field placement for a minimum of 840 hours during the academic year – 28 hours per week.

SWK 6252 - Administration

Administration is a co-requisite course for students enrolled in Community Social Work and Group Work majors may also take this course. ***The course is an elective for all other students.*** Administration of formal organizations is influenced by the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of social services. Social services are needed to help vulnerable individuals, families; groups, communities and organizations overcome inequality, unfairness or oppression that occurs because of diversity factors or other characteristics.

SWK 6402 - Applied Methods in Social Work Research

This required research course focuses on problem formulation, conceptualization and operationalization of variables; use of measurement instruments; logic of research design including sampling and design selection; ethical and legal issues; quantitative and qualitative modes of observation; analysis of data; use of computers and computer programs; and research report writing. The student participates in an individual research project and learns the basics of conducting social work research: the ability to conduct a lit review and skills in writing about research. The research project is usually either a student administered survey or a secondary analysis of a sample of a large survey sample of a large survey. Research is presented as a logical extension of service delivery, rooted in the ethical imperative not to harm clients and to ensure that the methods employed in the service delivery are effective.

SWK 6133 - Jewish Social Philosophy

This required course is designed to move students toward enhanced self-discovery by challenging them to confirm, confront, and articulate their own values and spiritual and philosophical beliefs. The classroom environment becomes a living learning environment that challenges students to confront beliefs and values different from their own, to engage with others in an informed and authentic manner, and in the process, to discover the value systems that they bring to their work with clients. The philosophical content, anchored in Jewish social thought, helps students to develop a philosophy of helping. Such philosophical themes as spirituality, the dual nature of the human being, conflicting conceptions of time, good and the problem of evil, loss and suffering, the Holocaust and other genocides, sin and repentance/behavior change, and social justice are studied from the value perspectives of Judaism, other religions and philosophies, and social work.

SWK 6134 – Social Work Values and Ethics

This course focuses on value conflicts and ethical dilemmas in social work practice. Value conflicts emerge when the values of society, the social work profession, clients, agencies, religion and personal values are juxtaposed. The value conflicts are identified, converted into ethical dilemmas, illuminated through ethical theory, and resolved through ethical decision-making models. This course formalizes the study of values and ethics into models of value analysis and ethical decision-making. The models are applied to concrete issues and practice situations combining theory and practice in ethics. Students learn how to discern value conflicts and ethical dilemmas that arise in their work with clients. This course reinforces the commitment to prepare social workers of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds to learn how to reason and deal with the complexities of moral and ethical issues in practice, policy, and society.

SWK 6210 - Social Welfare Policy

This course focuses on policy analysis, policy practice and advocacy. The course is divided into three components. The first part is an overview of social work roles in policy practice and the organizational context in which such practice often takes place. The second concerns the process of policy formulation and implementation. Students are provided with the tools necessary to analyze and evaluate existing social welfare policies at the federal, state, local, and agency levels within a distributive justice framework. The third component concerns the skills needed to influence policy decisions with particular attention to advocacy. Issues concerning the promotion of social and economic justice as well as the value and ethical issues that social workers confront in social welfare policy development and implementation activities are explored.

SWK 6901/6902 – Integrative Seminar I & II

Integrative Seminar I & II is a one-year long capstone course that is required for graduating MSW students. It is an opportunity for students to have a guided experience in integrating their learning and demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge and skills in simulated practice. The course fulfills Wurzweiler's requirement to complete a final experience that includes use of content from all core courses prior to graduation. As such, students will attend a seminar and complete a practice project which includes continuous case conference and a simulated licensing exam. Students will demonstrate their practice competence by applying skills in work with individuals, families, groups and the community. Students must attend all classes, participate in case conference and take the exam in order to pass the course. Grading for the course will be "P" or "F". Students cannot pass this course unless they meet all requirements.

SWK 6900 – Integrative Essay

The Integrative Essay is written during the student's final semester. It is the expounding of an idea, or set of ideas, encountered during the student's education for professional practice. Researching and writing the Essay is an opportunity to engage oneself in scholarly exploration; it is not merely an opportunity to describe a situation or recite experience. The Essay is written under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The Essay is meant to be an integral part of the educational experience. Social work education requires that each student experience a growth in awareness and understanding of self. To this end, the Essay should be preceded by the writer's exploration of his/her motivation towards, feelings about, and practice of social work. It should be an opportunity to integrate all aspects of the student's total experience including the acquisition of knowledge, the field practice, and the development of the professional self. Guidelines to be followed in preparing the Essay can be found on the Wurzweiler website.

ELECTIVE CHOICES

SWK 6821 – Clinical Practice with Military Families

This advanced elective focuses on the specific problems faced by families and children of those who serve in the military. Students will learn about emerging clinical approaches to social work practice with this special population. The course will explore the nature of war, the culture of the military and its impact on loved ones/families/caregivers of our military. The course will look at theories, research and intervention strategies for social workers who choose to work with this growing population given the many war fronts and military stations around the world. This elective has SWK 6810 Social Work Practice with the Military as a prerequisite, and is part of the Certificate in Social Work Practice with the Military.

SWK 6822 – Economic Literacy: The Meaning of Money

This elective helps clients, students and practitioners to understand the very personal “meaning of money,” how the economy works, and the real possibility of asset building in today’s world-wide recession. We all need greater economic literacy so that we can provide our clients with information, concepts and tools that can help them achieve economic security. Understanding government benefits like SSI, Medicaid/Medicare or Unemployment benefits can greatly enhance our work with families struggling with budgets, mortgages, bankruptcy, credit card debt, savings plans, and retirement benefits. These are all essential components of our advocacy work with the poor, the near poor and the working class clients who are faced with these issues on a daily basis.

SWK 6823 – The Treatment of Eating Disorders

This advanced elective course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of eating disorders as bio-psycho-social disorders, and will focus primarily on methods and approaches to treatment within the confines of clinical social work practice. Students will gain an understanding of the etiology of eating disorders and accompanying personality issues from a developmental perspective. Diagnostic criteria will be fully covered and students will be able to identify specific eating disorders in their clinical practice. Students will become familiar with the underlying language of an eating disorder and available treatment options including the benefits of working on a treatment team with this population. All aspects of high quality treatment for eating disorders will be addressed and students will leave this class with a solid base for understanding the complexity of eating disorders from a clinical and societal perspective.

SWK 6824 – Culturally Competent Social Work Interventions

This new course introduces students to the “Cultural Competence Toolkit” that can help you achieve cultural competence in your practice with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. Culture impacts how people exhibit symptoms of mental illness, the use of coping mechanisms, social supports, and the willingness to seek care. Lack of cultural competence can contribute to barriers to engagement or continued underutilization of available mental health services. It is widely understood that culturally competent services are necessary in order to improve the mental health system in the U.S. Students will be instructed in the use of the specialized Toolkit which provides them with a structured method for modifying Evidence-Based Practices to better meet the needs of the diverse clients and communities they serve.

SWK 6813 Leadership in Social Work Practice

Many situations throughout a student’s professional and personal life cycle require Leadership skills. Contemporary life, with its recurrent fiscal and disaster driven human crises has made the need for effective leaders more urgent in all spheres of life. This course is designed to explore key concepts and models of leadership and their application to social work practice. The course builds on established and emerging theories from several disciplines which include business, sociology, psychology, ethics and the allied health professions. Authentic and Trustworthy leadership models are discussed in depth as they are very congruent with the values and skills students acquire during their social work education. Case examples from human service organizations, current events, videos, guest speakers and interactive tools and exercises are used to foster the students’ abilities to understand their own leadership styles, to assess power dynamics, to make effective decisions, develop a vision and motivate others to follow shared goals and promote individual and organizational health and effectiveness

SWK 6113 - Advanced Psychosocial Pathology

Building on the content of Psychosocial Pathology, this elective course offers students the opportunity to develop a more advanced knowledge of psychosocial pathology and psychosocial issues pertaining to treatment. Integration of theory and clinical practice with assessment, diagnosis and treatment is facilitated by case examples, readings, the use of audiovisual aids, and didactic presentations. The basic premise of the course is that all assessments and treatments of psychosocial pathology include: (1) a humanistic and ethical perspective that adheres to the social work Code of Ethics; (2) a consideration for social diversity which includes race, gender, religion, sexuality, and ethnicity; (3) an understanding of age related life stages; (4) an awareness of the impact of socioeconomic conditions; and (5) an awareness of how clients may experience social work and mental health interventions.

SWK 6139 - Immigration

This course examines social policies and programs that affect Immigrants and refugees. Social work practice with immigrants and refugees is studied in an international context that encompasses political, economic and social factors. The history of immigration to the United States and the history of immigration laws and social policies affecting immigrants and refugees are studied with attention to current social justice issues. The impact of United States foreign policy, media, and ethnic tensions on the life circumstances of immigrants and refugees is explored with a focus on the situation of immigrants in the greater New York City area. The particular needs of newcomers are identified along with appropriate practice interventions. This course provides an understanding of the diversity of immigration experiences in addition to understanding specific issues of oppression and social justice that apply to immigrants.

SWK 6141 - Family Systems

This course provides a conceptual framework of a systems approach to social work practice with families. It provides an overview of family life taking into consideration the developmental life cycle of families and the profound impact that societal and cultural influences have on a family such as mental and physical illness, alcoholism and domestic violence. The course will provide an overview of assessment and interventions with families from a systems perspective.

SWK 6241 - Social Work in Health Care

This course provides the student with a conceptual, ethical and practice framework for social work practice in health care. It provides an overview of the United States health care system, the unique knowledge and skill base of social work in health care, the bio-psycho-social-spiritual impact of illness on patients and their family members, and the special psychosocial needs of populations most often served and underserved in medical social work. The course also provides an overview of common ethical dilemmas unique to social work practice in health care.

SWK 6255 - Advanced Administration

This course is primarily geared for those who plan to serve in a management capacity in a human service agency. Emphasis is on public and nonprofit organizations, through which the practice of social work is largely, though not exclusively, carried out. The content builds upon and expands that covered in SWK 6252 Administration, and assumes an understanding of the organizational context, roles, and dynamics of administrative practice. Consideration is given to the political and practical opportunities and constraints involved in such efforts, and the social workers' leadership role in influencing and managing organizational change. Various strategies of organizational change are reviewed.

SWK 6281 - Law and Social Work

This course introduces students to the field of law as it relates to social policy and social work practice. Students learn the role of law in society, and how law affects social welfare programs and services. The first part of the course examines the role of law in social change and social justice. Through an analysis of Supreme Court decisions, the interplay between law and social change in issues involving race, class, gender, and sexual orientation are examined. Students will learn basic constitutional law principles, including equal protection and due process. The second part of the course focuses on the legal environment in social work practice, with particular emphasis on the skills and knowledge necessary for using the law to advocate for clients. Advocacy skills in administrative and court settings will be taught through an examination of the hearing process, family law, health and mental health law and professional practice issues.

SWK 6328 - Social Work Practice with Groups

Social Work Practice with Groups is designed to increase students' knowledge and skill in social work practice with groups. The course covers the generic knowledge and skills that social workers need to work with a variety of groups. An important aim of the course is to assist students in recognizing the efficacy of practice with groups in a variety of settings. Special issues include values and ethics in group work practice and social justice concerns. ***This elective is for non-Group Work majors.***

SWK 6352 - Supervision

Social work supervision is rooted in the history of the profession and in the agency context of social work practice. The functions of supervision, which include education, staff development, administrative accountability, and practice oversight, are complex and require specialized knowledge and skills. Emphasis is primarily on the organizational context of supervision, and on the theories and practice of supervision that pertain to a variety of social work settings. Ethical and contextual policy issues are emphasized throughout the course to inform how supervision is practiced and the changing purposes it may serve. Issues of workplace diversity and developmental needs of professionals are also emphasized. The types of programs and services offered by different agencies and the types of populations served are highlighted as these affect the supervisory relationship.

SWK 6354 - Psychosocial Dimensions of AIDS

This course gives students the opportunity to learn about the latest information available about HIV/AIDS, to explore personal and societal values, and to develop an understanding of the social issues faced by those who are HIV infected, their families and society as a whole and to develop and participate in research and prevention projects. This course is open to students who are currently working with those who are HIV infected or students who just want to learn more about this illness.

SWK 6630 - Social Work Practice in Schools

This course is intended for students who plan to work in schools or in agencies that are school based or school linked. It is a practice and policy course because social work practice in schools is so strongly influenced by state and Federal education laws. It elaborates and builds upon basic skills and knowledge learned in foundation courses. This course seeks to familiarize students with the roles social workers assume in schools; the culture of primary, middle, and high schools; the psychosocial and developmental needs of the students; and the pressing issues facing schools today, including violence, diversity, racism, homophobia, overcrowding, poverty, and the changing relationship between family, school and community.

SWK 6681 - Community Mental Health

This elective is designed for students interested in practicing in the mental health field as providers of direct services, program planners, supervisors, administrators and policy analysts. The course provides an historical review of mental health services development globally and in the United States with accompanying community practice models, financial and regulatory structures and how they shape mental health programs. The focus is on current issues with respect to vulnerable populations including the seriously and persistently mentally ill; the homeless mentally ill; the mentally ill chemical abuser; the mentally ill offender; the HIV positive individual with mental illness and, seriously emotionally disturbed children. The course examines the roles of consumers and their families as partners and advocates in developing programs.

SWK 6682 - Evidence Based Mental Health Practice

This course is aimed at developing the knowledge and skills necessary for working with individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness using recovery-oriented evidence-based practices. Students will become familiar with evidence-based practice, within a recovery-oriented paradigm, as a general approach to practice as well as specific evidence-based interventions to use with individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness. Students will learn to examine research literature to determine the various levels of support for specific interventions and essential principles for translating research into

practice. In addition, they will identify the appropriate treatment outcomes that reflect effective, quality, mental health practice. Each evidence-based practice presented will also be examined for its utility with diverse groups. Providing assessment and treatment to a diverse group of individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness is the focus of this course.

SWK 6691 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Addictions

This elective course introduces the student to the field of addictions and includes an overview of the policy issues, etiology, manifestations, practice settings, and treatment approaches to addiction/dependency. There are no prerequisites for this course which may be taken as an elective during the first or second year of study. All social workers, at some point in their careers are likely to come into contact with the issues or consequences of addictions, whether in direct practice, group work, or community organizing and planning. This is because addictions are intertwined with many other social problems and psychosocial conditions, such as family violence, child welfare, AIDS and mental health. The course emphasizes the multiple causation of the misuse of addictive substance, the biological, social, and psychological consequences of substance abuse, and the impact of addictions on the family, community, and larger society. Particular attention is paid to the policy and programmatic responses to this social problem, the role of the courts, and differing philosophies and practices regarding treatment.

SWK 6684 - Child and Family Welfare

This course examines the social welfare policies, programs and services to families and children, historically known as "child welfare services." A central theme is the impact of social problems, economic inequity and discrimination on family well-being and how these forces have affected the development of services to families and children. The course is divided into four units. The first unit is an overview that explores changing definitions and expectations of the family, and how such changes are shaped by the economy, cultural values, and other forces. The effects of poverty and discrimination on the well being of families, and in particular minority and single parent families, are also examined. The second unit examines the primary social service delivery systems designed for children and families, including adoption, foster care, child protective services, and the juvenile justice system. The third unit focuses on specific and contemporary social problems facing children and families today, including teen pregnancy, violence among youth, and domestic violence. The fourth and final unit focuses on preventive and supportive services to children and families, including day care and school based services.

SWK 6686 – Gerontology

Dramatic demographic shifts suggest that social workers in the future will inevitably interface with older people. It builds upon knowledge of biology and psychosocial development of the middle and late stages of adulthood, and highlights the contemporary manifestations of ageism. Students are also encouraged to apply practice principles to such challenging phenomena as depression and social isolation in old age, nursing home placement, and elder abuse. The course identifies the core knowledge base necessary for working with older adults and their families. It also explores the theoretical underpinnings, attitudinal factors and ethical and economic aspects of social gerontology that are relevant to understanding this field of practice. Social policies which have profound effects on successful aging are analyzed. The ethical and social justice dilemmas of resource allocation end of life decision making, physician assisted suicide, euthanasia, caregiver burnout, and poverty and vulnerability among diverse elderly are explored.

SWK 6689 - Spirituality In Social Work Practice

Spirituality is an important aspect of human experience and development. Spirituality reflects a holistic perspective that addresses the interrelationship between spirituality and the biological, psychological and social dimensions of human experience. "Social work scholars usually distinguish between spirituality and religion. Spirituality relates to a universal and fundamental aspect of what it is to be human – to search for a sense of meaning, purpose, and moral framework for relating with self, others and the ultimate reality. In this sense, spirituality may express itself through religious forms, or it may be independent of them. Religion is an institutionalized pattern of beliefs, behaviors and experienced, oriented toward spiritual concerns, and shared by a community and transmitted over time in traditions (Canda and Furman, 1999).

SWK 6702 - Coping with Loss

This course is designed to explore aspects of social work practice with clients experiencing loss and grief in a variety of situations. Since society generally associates grief with death, grief which accompanies life events such as separation from home, divorce, retirement, or chronic illness, is frequently not addressed by clients or professionals. The grieving processes are intertwined with each individual's place in their life span, their strengths, vulnerabilities, cultural orientations, values and resources. The use of contemporary knowledge for strengthening the coping skills of grieving individuals, families or groups is emphasized. Areas of study include skills of assessment and treatment which are explored using films and personal and case materials. Strategies and interventions in working with a culturally diverse array of vulnerable populations confronting loss, for whom services and programs need to be planned, are highlighted.

SWK 6704 - Social Work Practice with Children

This course helps students develop conceptual, practical, theoretical and ethical frameworks that inform their practice with children, ages 0-12, and their families. Students must have previous clinical experience working with children or must currently have children assigned to them as part of their field experience when taking this advanced elective. Specific theories of development and practice are explored for their applicability to a refined assessment of client needs. Students formulate therapeutic interventions with the children and their families based on assessments that include an appreciation of the impact of agency context, ethnicity, gender, race, social class, biological developmental issues, as well as current and relevant practice research findings.

SWK 6685 - Social Work Practice with Trauma and Interpersonal Violence

This course examines interpersonal violence in childhood and adulthood, specifically childhood sexual abuse, childhood physical abuse, intimate partner abuse (domestic violence), rape and sexual assault, and adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. With careful attention to the dynamics and consequences of trauma on victims, this course will expose students to key concepts such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Complex PTSD, dissociation, and repressed memories. Students will learn about individual and group intervention strategies specific to trauma, including crisis intervention, cognitive therapy, feminist approaches, and mutual aid group work approaches, among others. Through a unit on Secondary Traumatic Stress, students will learn about the personal effects of trauma work, the concepts of traumatic counter-transference and transference, and will be exposed to self care strategies.

SWK 6810 - Social Work Practice with the Military

This elective focuses on the specific problems of those who serve in the military and the response of social workers to those needs. The course explores the nature of war, its impact on those who

are wounded, physically and mentally, and their loved ones/caregivers. The course looks at theories, research and intervention strategies for social workers who choose to work with this population. Students will be introduced to a theoretical orientation for stress management which acknowledges the stressors of war and the adaptations made by those engaged in battle, especially the returning war veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan many suffering with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury and substance abuse problems. Intervention strategies specifically designed for work with the war injured and their families/caregivers will be introduced.

SWK 6820 – Social Work Practice in Palliative Care

This course will provide a comprehensive study of issues related to palliative and end-of- life care. Palliative care is an exciting, relatively new specialty in health care social work, and presents dynamic practice opportunities for social workers with a knowledge base in this arena. This course will integrate an interdisciplinary approach to caring for individuals facing life-limiting and serious chronic illness and their families. Readings, class discussion, and student research will include medical, psychosocial, legal, and ethical perspectives.

Certificate in Jewish Communal Service

SWK 6136 - Jewish Response to Communal Needs

This first semester elective course is part of the Certificate Program in Jewish Communal Service. There are two foci in this course: the needs of American Jews, and the ways the community organizes itself to meet those needs. Needs include the strengthening of Jewish identity and the sense of belonging to an ethnic/religious group; relationship to Judaism as a religion and way of life; the quality and meaning of the Jewish family in its multiple forms; the role of women in Jewish life; and the effects of intermarriage on the family and community. Israel occupies a major component of American Jewish identity and in the promotion of Jewish continuity. The course concludes with an analysis of the organizational structure of the Jewish community in response to its multifarious needs.

SWK 6180 - Organizational Structure of the American Jewish Community

This course will begin with a critical review of the historical, religious traditional perspective of Jewish community organization and trace its impact on contemporary American Jewish community organization. It is important that students gain an understanding of the forces (Judaic and American) that have shaped and continue to shape American Jewish community organization from its inception until this very day. Students considering a career in Jewish communal service will gain a broad understanding of the religious historical roots, politics, leadership roles (volunteer and professional), funding sources and policy formulating mechanisms that impact the development and viability of the American Jewish community organization structures.

SWK 6191 - Major Concepts in Jewish Cultural History

This course introduces students to the broad sweep of the Jewish historical experience, and focuses on developing skills necessary for working within the Jewish Community. This course is divided into two broad sections. The first section examines organizational dynamics and various leadership styles. The student is expected to draw on the knowledge gained in previous semesters to assist in the seminar style discussions on leadership styles. The second part of this course aims to focus on developing an understanding of community and community work, as well as the various roles available for social workers within the Jewish communal service system.

SWK 6145 - The Changing Jewish Family

This course will explore the Jewish family from biblical through modern times utilizing a systems and ecological perspective as the theoretical framework for social work practice. The course will follow the family through the developmental stages of the life cycle and will address the unique characteristics of the Jewish family system and its adherence to life cycles from a religious and cultural perspective. It will explore the various aspects of family identity and the impact of Judaism on the development of the family, its relationship to the larger culture and the impact of immigration, acculturation and assimilation on the family system with specific attention to the Jewish family experience. Issues such as mental and physical illness, caring for aging parents and the "Sandwich Generation", alcoholism, drug addiction, and domestic violence will be addressed. In addition, unique issues that have changed the structure of the Jewish family will be discussed such as inter-religious marriage, cross-cultural marriage, later marriage and 'non' marriage, cross-cultural adoption, the aging Jewish population, and the impact of the Holocaust on generations of family members.

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