Social Work Course Descriptions

Dynamics of Human Behavior  SOW 3103-001
This course introduces students to a life-span approach to human development within the context of families, groups, organizations, and communities. Emphasis is on the interplay of biological, cultural, psychological, and social factors that influence human behavior. The course will survey the major theories of human development with particular attention given to the psychology of the individual and the sociological significance of the individual's environment; and will address the unique situations of diverse groups, including ethnic/racial minorities, women, sexual minorities or gay and lesbian persons, the poor, the chronically ill, and the disabled. An ecosystems perspective will be used to examine three interrelated areas of life, that is, life transitions, environmental pressures, and interpersonal processes.

Introduction to Social Work  SOW 3203-001
This course provides an overview of the field of social welfare and the profession of social work. It characterizes persons having needs and illustrates how these needs are met (or unmet) through social welfare institutions. The course introduces the value base of social work practice and defines the major methods used in generalist practice, with individuals, families, groups and communities.

History of Social Welfare SOW 3230
This course introduces the student to the history of social welfare from the period of the Ancient Greeks and Romans to the Elizabethan Period and its influence on the American Social Welfare System. Students will be exposed to the development of American social welfare policies from the 1700s to the present. The role of politics and economics will be critically examined. In addition, students will become familiar with the political process and the role that the individual citizen can play in influencing policies, including lobbying and monitoring legislation.

Social Policy  SOW 3232-001
This course provides an introduction to the major social welfare programs in the United States, describes the history, trends, and current problems of existing programs, and addresses the controversies and conflicts surrounding them. Students will be encouraged to: (a) critically analyze social welfare policies, (b) become aware of value systems and the role they (the systems) play in the development of attitudes toward social welfare programs, and (c) adopt a politically oriented approach to social work practice.

Social Work Practice I  SOW 3341-301
This is the first of a three course practice sequence. It provides an overview of generalist practice, a problem-solving approach, systems theory and an ecological perspective. Students will become familiar with Social Work Practice in seven identifiable stages: engagement, data collection, assessment, intervention, evaluation, termination, and follow-up. Application of social work knowledge, skills, values, and human diversity will be highlighted as they pertain to each stage. This course provides knowledge of contemporary theories of counseling individuals and knowledge of practice evaluation as a part of the general method of practice.

Interviewing and Recording SOW 3350-301
This course provides foundation knowledge and practice of interviewing and process recording for generalist social work practice. This course is organized as an experiential laboratory to build good interviewing and writing skills. Two components of the course are interviewing and recording.

Mastering one skill at a time will be emphasized (versus) a traditional method of demonstrating competence in all areas simultaneously. This "shaping" process of skill development will be done by using written materials, specific instructions for improvement, immediate and concrete feedback through the use of videotaping sessions, video models demonstrating examples of a particular skill usage in
practice and supervisory comments. Students will thus be able to learn each skill on a cognitive, experiential and observational level.

The second component of the course focuses on process recording of numerous in vivo interviews conducted by students, role plays and other written assignments according to the American Psychological Association (APA style).

**Self Awareness Lab SOW 3801-301**

The course is designed to help students develop awareness of self and the use of self to empower others in social work practice. The student will examine his/her identity, interpersonal relationships, problem-solving skills, styles of communication, and values.

**Social Work Practice II SOW 4322-301**

This course continues the learning process of social work skills, thought to be more clearly understood in relationship to selected group processes, structures and functions. Students shall examine the use of groups in helping individual members solve problems and in helping groups accomplish goals. The classroom will become a laboratory for students to practice and develop additional social work skills. In addition, students will establish relationships with an organized group to observe and analyze group work activities.

**Social Work Practice III SOW 4343-301**

Social Work Practice III prepares students to use the general method of social work practice with organizations and communities. Community organizing is viewed as a political process aimed at empowering those who may currently have little involvement in decisions affecting their lives. Community development is viewed as the attainment of both problem solving skills and the development of organizations that can provide long term capacity to address problems. In this perspective, the goals of community organizing are to enhance the potential of individuals to solve problems confronting them and in the process, strive to enhance democracy through a more equitable division of resources.

**Research Methods SOW 4403-001**

Methods of Research in Social Work Practice is the first in a two course sequence required for all undergraduate BSW majors. The course is designed to provide competency in problem solving processes through utilization of research methodologies. The course concentrates on the appropriate language, knowledge and skills associated with generalist social work practice in the defining of and resolution of problems relevant to professional practice and evaluation of practice effectiveness. Substantive topics include: values, ethics and philosophical issues in research; problem formulation; methods involved in problem solving; procedures for collecting and analyzing data and writing of the research report.

**Measurement in Social Work Practice SOW 4414-001**

The objective of the research sequence in baccalaureate (BSW) programs of social work education is to teach students to be "intelligent consumers" of research (Council on Social Work Education [CSWE], 1974). Baccalaureate students are expected to learn how to read and understand research studies so they can apply research results to their own professional practice (Task Force on Social Work Education, 1991).

Research Methods II in social work practice and research is the second course in a two part sequence of research courses. Measurement in social work practice and research provides a review of the scientific approach to social work research and in-depth knowledge and application of quantitative and qualitative data analysis in social work. Students are required to apply steps in the scientific method by carrying out the research proposal developed in the prerequisite SOW 4403, Research Methods I.
Field Experience  SOW 4510-601

Field experience is the practicum portion of social work education. In the field setting, students are provided educationally directed learning experiences in social service agencies or community settings under social work supervision. Students apply, test and integrate principles, theories, skills and values presented in earlier courses as they work with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities in field settings. A minimum of 576 clock hours in field experience are required for the Bachelor Degree in Social Work (BSW).

Integrative Field Seminar SOW 4522-301

A weekly seminar, accompanying SOW 4510 Field Experience offered to facilitate discussions of prior learning (social work curriculum) with agency practice in field placement. Each student will select cases from placement for discussion (with confidentiality) throughout the seminar. Emphasis is placed on the professionalization of students.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Human Sexuality  SOW 4152

Sexuality is an important part of human growth and development. It is imperative that social workers and others acquire knowledge of human sexuality as a sphere of human development and an appreciation for its biopsychosocial significance to the well being of all persons in our society. This course covers human diversity, sexual variance and the span of human sexuality and psychosexual development. The course is divided into four primary areas including a historical view of sexuality as a science, sexual anatomy, sexual health and sexual coercion.

Social Work Practice in Health Care SOW 4602-001

This course focuses on social work practice (from an ecosystems perspective) in health settings. Issues related to the overall health care delivery system are explored, including legislation and policy, structural factors, the contributions of other disciplines, and organizational and professional standards. Special attention is given to the specific skills and tools used by social workers in health care settings; and the increasingly challenging ethical, financial, and quality of care issues associated with the delivery of health care services. Finally, the needs of special populations are emphasized, particularly the problems and perspectives of the elderly, ethnic/racial minorities, disadvantaged persons, women, chronically ill/disabled children and adults, and people who are HIV positive and who have full blown AIDS.

Mental Health Services  SOW 4613-001

Perceptions of "Who We Are" permit persons either to avoid the need for mental health services or subject themselves to the definitions and treatment models of the current system. This course will define and describe the current models of service and underlying theories; and examine the mental health perspectives being advanced by four ethnic minority groups, women, gay and lesbian persons.

SOW With African American Families  SOW 4622-001

Theories, practice and research relevant to African American families are examined around the socio-cultural forces impacting family structures and functions. Particular attention is given to misconceptions and myths about African American families in contemporary America. The generalist method of social work practice, the problem solving process and the eco-systems theoretical framework are utilized to provide a conceptual framework for practice with African American families.
Social Work With The Aged SOW 4643-001
Beginning with a review of the dimensions of aging in the United States and worldwide, selected problems of aging are identified. Societal responses or services are examined for elderly persons with and without adequate finances, with emphasis on special populations at risk as older persons.

Children and the Law SOW 4651-001
This course focuses on the impact which State and Federal laws have on social workers in various child welfare settings; five (5) Florida Statutes dealing with the protection of children (including child abuse and neglect, medical/mental health care, juvenile justice, family law/custody issues and rights of biological parents and children); and social work roles in the formation of laws related to children.

Social Work With Children SOW 4654-001
The course defines child welfare as implemented in American agencies serving children. Units of study include an historical perspective and an examination of the principal supportive, supplementary, and substitutive child welfare services: home-based and family services, protective services, day care, homemaker service, foster care, adoption, and institutional child care. Child welfare services to be studied include home-based care, homemaker services, day-care, protective services, foster family-care, adoption and institutional care.

Youth in Crisis SOW 4657-001
This course provides an overview of the impact of violence on our nation's youth. Students will examine how domestic violence, physical abuse and sexual abuse, sexual battery and other forms of violence affect the development of our adolescents. Society's role in perpetuating violence as well as political moves to address violence will also be explored.

AIDS: Impact On The Life Cycle SOW 4682-001
This course provides an overview of the HIV and AIDS epidemic; information and knowledge related to HIV testing, ARC treatment and prevention, and associated legal and ethical issues. Students will examine the effects of AIDS on children, women, adolescents, substance abusers, incarcerated individuals, African Americans and other specific groups, and provides knowledge and information on the entire span of human sexuality and psychosexual development.

Chemical Dependency SOW 4700-001
The nature and incidence of substance abuse; treatment modalities utilized; the influence of organized crime; the politics of the drug "war," and efforts towards prevention are the focus of this course. To facilitate a greater understanding of human diversity, substance abuse will emphasize poor racial/ethnic groups: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans.

Selected Topics in Social Work SOW 4930-001
Selected Topics in Social Work is a title used to offer a course which is not currently in the Master Course File. A course plan is developed and the subject matter is announced to students prior to registration. Simultaneously, the course plan is submitted to the Common Course Numbering System, so that the course information will be available when offered again.