SOCIAL WORK COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SW250. African American Experience 3(3,0). This course is designed to provide students with a sense of history and pride regarding the contributions of African Americans to social welfare and social work practice. The course focuses on the contributions of African Americans in initiating, planning and developing social welfare programs and services during the harsh period in US history when segregation, social and economic injustices toward people of color was acceptable. Prerequisite: Junior status. (S)

SW300. Introduction to Social Work. 3(3,0). This course is a survey course examining the concepts, attitudes, resources, functions and activities in the field of social work. It stresses values, ethics, definition and function of the social welfare system. It also presents the history of social welfare services in the United States, contemporary issues in social welfare, the impact of racism, oppression, poverty, discrimination and gender on such programs. Thirty (30) hours of volunteer agency service is required. Students apply for admission to the program during this class. Prerequisites: None. (F,S)

SW301. Human Behavior and the Social Environment I. 3(3,0). This is the first of two courses in the human behavior in the social environment sequence. Students apply theories and knowledge from the liberal arts to understand biological, social, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development from conception to adolescence stressing the fundamental concepts of person-in-environment, human ecology, social systems and strengths. Students utilize conceptual frameworks to guide their understanding of problem identification, assessment, intervention, and evaluation. Prerequisite: SW300. May be taken with SW300 with approval from Program Coordinator. (S).

SW302. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II. 3(3,0). This course expands upon the theories and knowledge taught in SW301 and incorporates theories specific to understanding biological, social, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development from adolescence through old age of the life cycle and the adjustment tasks common to each stage. The concepts of person-in-environment, human ecology, social systems, and strengths continue to be a focus. Students utilize conceptual frameworks to guide their understanding of problem identification, assessment, intervention and evaluation. Prerequisite SW301. Taken concurrently with SW303, SW304 and SW305. (F).

SW303. Human Diversity and Social Work. 3 (3,0). Students examine and understand the dimensions of diversity as the intersectionality of multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender and gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. The cognitive and sensitivity focus of the course will help students address concepts of individuality, oppression, equality, privilege and power as ways of helping them clarify attitudes and values as they deal with clients and other systems in their efforts to enhance social and economic justice. Prerequisite: SW301. Taken concurrently with SW302, SW304 and SW305. (F).

SW304. Social Welfare Policy and Services. 3(3,0). Social welfare policies and issues that affect social work practice and the problems which social workers confront is the focus of this course. Students examine the historical development and structure of social welfare policies and services through which society and organizations attempt to manage, control, minimize, and/or eliminate social problems, their consequences, and effects. Social workers are charged with the responsibility to become change agents. This course helps students explore their roles as practitioners in the development and implementation of social policies and programs that further social and economic justice. Prerequisite: SW 301. Taken concurrently with SW302, SW303 and SW305. (F).

SW305. Orientation to Professional Development. 3(1,2). The course is a laboratory course. Course content will include issues related to student readiness to enter field instruction and professional practice. This course reinforces the communication process in social work and the skills needed in conducting
professional interviews. Professional decorum, professional practice behaviors, stress and time management skills are some of the topics to be covered. The ethical principles embedded in the NASW Code of Ethics are reinforced. Role plays, case scenarios, mocked interviews provide students with opportunities to demonstrate the professional use of self. Prerequisite: SW301. Taken concurrently with SW302, SW303, SW304 (F)

SW306. Social Work Research and Statistics I. 3(3,0). This is the first of two courses in research and statistics. This course introduces students to the social work research process. Topics include basic principles in social work research, problem formulation, designing research questions and hypotheses, data collection and analysis and social work research ethics. Quantitative and qualitative research is emphasized. The intention of both courses is to prepare students to use research as a means of informing and improving their professional practice and to conduct research to add to the profession. Prerequisites: SW302, SW303, SW304, and SW305. Taken concurrently with SW 307 (S)

SW307. Social Work Practice I. 3(3,0). This, the first course in the practice sequence, reinforces students' knowledge of generalist social work practice with individuals and small groups. The focus of theory is on problem solving with individuals and small groups and examines a number of theories including ecological systems, empowerment theory and strengths theory. Using the General Intervention Model (GIM), role plays and video-taped interviews to analyze case situations, students demonstrate beginning skills in the planned change process- engagement, data collection, assessment, intervention, evaluation, and termination. Prerequisites: SW302, SW303, SW304 and SW305. Taken concurrently with SW306 (S)

SW 400. Social Work Research and Statistics II. 3(3,0). This course provides students with advanced skills in (a) conceptualizing research problems in practice, (b) completing research in such areas as needs assessments, program evaluation and single subject research; and (c) using inferential skills of data collection and analysis. Students understand and apply quantitative and qualitative research measures to a proposal initiated in SW306 and completed during the field and seminar courses. The techniques of single subject research and ethical standards in research are reinforced. Prerequisites: SW306 and SW307. Taken concurrently with SW401, SW402 and SW403 (F)

SW401. Social Work Practice II. 3(3,0). This course focuses on a generalist approach to social work practice with families and individuals -at- risk because of substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty, handicapping conditions, poor housing, oppression and discrimination, and unsafe communities. Special attention is given to intervention with individuals and families with special needs including gays and lesbians, people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, and women. Practice focuses on identifying, analyzing, and implementing ethically sound, evidence-based interventions and evaluating outcomes of interventions. Prerequisites: SW306 and SW307. Taken concurrently with SW400, SW 402 and SW403 (F)

SW402. Field Instruction I. 6(0,6). Under the supervision of a professional social worker, students spend 16 hours per week in an agency or an approved setting to acquire experience in direct generalist social work practice, thereby giving them an opportunity to apply theory to practice with individuals and small groups. Prerequisites: SW306 and SW 307. Taken concurrently with SW400, SW401 and SW403 (F).

SW403. Social Work Seminar I. 2(2,0). A seminar to accompany SW402. Pulling from their field experiences, students demonstrate entry knowledge, values and skills of generalist social work practice with individuals and small groups. Here, students integrate and apply theoretical frameworks learned in
classroom and field instruction. **Prerequisites:** SW306 and SW 307. Taken concurrently with SW 400, SW401, and SW402..(F)

**SW 404. Social Work Practice III. 3(3,0).** This third course in the practice sequence builds upon the conceptual base of the material presented in SW307 Social Work Practice I and SW 401 Social Work Practice II. It reinforces students’ knowledge of generalist social work practice. The emphasis is on organizations and communities and provides a bridge between micro and macro levels of intervention. The course parallels and enhances the field practicum by providing a range of macro theories and methods. Students use knowledge and skill to respond proactively to macro-level problems appropriate for beginning generalist practice. **Prerequisites:** SW400, SW401, SW402 and SW403. Taken concurrently with SW405 and SW406. (S).

**SW405. Field Instruction II. 3(3,0).** This is the second part of the Field Instruction sequence. Students build upon field learning experiences from the preceding semester and demonstrate more advanced knowledge, values and skills as generalist social work practitioners who understand and employ strategies to advance social justice. While continuing with their intervention with individuals and groups, students focus on macro experiences. Students spend 16 hours per week in an approved setting. A total of 220 clock hours are required for the completion of the two semester field instruction experience. **Prerequisites:** SW400, SW401, SW402 and SW403.Taken concurrently with SW 404 and SW 406. (S)

**SW406. Social Work Seminar II. 2(2,0).** A seminar to accompany SW 405. This seminar is interconnected with Field Instruction II and pulling from their Field I experiences, students demonstrate greater understanding of macro level intervention and an ability to synthesize classroom theoretical knowledge with real practice situations. Students also discuss pertinent issues and concerns and share new insights **Prerequisites:** SW400, SW401, SW402 and SW403. Taken concurrently with SW404 and SW405 (S)

**Social work electives**

**SW415/SOC416. Gerontology I. 3(3,0).** A survey of the field of social gerontology with particular focus on cross-cultural values affecting the position and status of the aged; the biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging; the impact of the aging population on American society, and social problems relating to aging. **Prerequisites:** None. (Alternate F, S)

**SW416/SOC416. Gerontology II. 3(3,0).** The principles and techniques essential in social work practice with the elderly, as well as concentration on death, dying and working with the dying individuals and their families. **Prerequisites:** None. (Alternate F,S)

**SW417. Substance Abuse. 3(3,0).** This course is a survey course which examines, primarily from a family systems perspective and approach, the use, abuse of and addiction to substances, (alcohol and drugs) both legal and illicit. A balanced perspective on treatment, spanning disease and maladaptive behavior is presented. **Prerequisites:** None. (Alternate F,S)

**SW418. Child Welfare. 3(3,0).** This course focuses on the history of child welfare in the United States and social changes, issues and problems facing children, youth and their families. Students will examine the role of child welfare policies, programs and practices that attempt to address these issues, including services to the child in his/her home, foster care, adoption, protective services and school social work. **Prerequisites:** None. (Alternate F, S)

**SW 419. Disability Issues in a Multi-Cultural Society. 3(3,0).** Important issues/topics related to disabilities in a contemporary multi-cultural society will be explored. There will be discussion of
historical and contemporary thinking and assumptions of people and policy. Exercises, field, classroom discussions and guest lecturers will be used to help sensitize students to living with a disability. Prerequisite: Junior or seniors standing (Alternate F, S)

SW420. Special Topics. 3(3,0). This course offers selected students an opportunity to have intensive focus on a selected topic in social work. Students will research topics of interest and present their findings orally and in writing. Open to social work majors with a 3.00 average, or by recommendation of faculty advisor. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing (Alternate F,S)

SW421. Health Care Issues in Social Work. 3(3,0). This course examines gender, social class, race and ethnicity as predisposing factors of health status, health behavior and health care delivery. Students are expected to consider undeserved population groups and their health status from a perspective of social change. Prerequisite: Junior or senior status. (Alternate F, S)

SW422. Grief, Dying and Death. 3(3,0). This course is designed to introduce students to a wide array of issues and strategies of intervention and grief counseling. Students will be prepared to work from an informed perspective that demonstrates an understanding of the special needs and communications of the dying and those who work with them. Prerequisites: None. (Alternate F, S)

SW423. International Social Welfare Policy. 3(3,0). Students will study the structure of the international system and its influence on international institutions, agency structures, geopolitical, psychosocial dimensions, and global social welfare issues and services. Prerequisites: None. (Alternate F, S)

SW424. Women’s Issues. 3(3,0). This course examines, from a multicultural perspective, the biopsychosocial issues impacting women in our society. The course will specifically address such issues as health, poverty, employment, career choices, violence, substance abuse and how these affect women. In addition, the course will address gender specific treatment programs. Prerequisites: None. (Alternate F, S)