

SOCIAL WORK COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work (Cr. 3). This course focuses on the various roles and functions social workers perform and highlights the dynamism and vitality of the social work profession. It offers practical information about jobs available in specific areas. The course will cover the spectrum of social work roles and functions, the nature of social work practice, and best career opportunities for the future. Inter-disciplinary relationships, technology, and the unique qualities of social work are all highlighted. Course Prerequisites: None.

SOWK 2211: Policy I (Cr. 3). This an introductory course, the first of a two-course sequence, to social welfare policies and programs. This course is designed to provide a foundation for the BSW program and enhance the student's comprehension of the historical context of social policies which undergird the delivery of social welfare services. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work; SOWK 3443: Interviewing & Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 23382: HBSE II; SOWK 3442: Practice II; SOWK 3444: Research I.

SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness (Cr. 3). This course is designed to address self-awareness and effective learning that is necessary to become an effective professional social work practitioner. Further, it is designed to enhance students' development of self and the use of self to empower others in social work practice. Students will examine their identity, interpersonal relationship skills, problem solving skills, styles of communication, and value system. It is a laboratory group experience designed to help social work students gain awareness and understanding of self as a helping person. Course Prerequisites: Liberal Arts Foundation courses; SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work; SOWK 3443: Interview & Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I.

SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work (Cr. 3). This is the second introductory course to the field of social welfare and the social work profession. It is a survey of programs and services developed as a response to human needs, from both an historical and political perspective. The course provides a foundation for the BSW Program and helps student comprehend the *NASW Code of Ethics* and the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, *Statement of Principles*. This course explores a wide range of human problems, intervention strategies and professional practice choices from a generalist perspective. This course also focuses on the problem solving process for people who are oppressed, marginalized, and/or underserved. Course Prerequisites: Liberal Arts Foundation courses; SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 3443: Interviewing and Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness.

SOWK 3211: Policy II (Cr. 3). This is the second in a two-course policy sequence. The course focuses on the policy formulation process and evaluates its components. The interactions and relationships between and among the pluralistic social, political and economic systems and subsystems in society are analyzed. Particular attention is given to the marginalized, oppressed, and underserved populations of Southwest Georgia. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Intro to SW; SOWK 3443: Interview & Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness; SOWK 3382: HBSE II; SOWK 3442: Practice II; SOWK 2211: Policy I; SOWK 3444: Research I. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 4441: Practice III; SOWK 4306: Research II.

SOWK 3300: Foundational Values and Ethics in Social Work (Cr. 3). This required social work course focuses on the values and ethics inherent in the social work profession. The course focuses on discovering and practicing the foundational knowledge and skills required to identify ethical issues, the skills needed to resolve ethical dilemmas, and the capacity to make decisions when confronted with conflicting duties and choices that occur within the context of professional social work at all levels of practice.

SOWK 3381: Human Behavior I (Cr. 3). This first course in the human behavior and social environment sequence is designed to orient students to theoretical content on the person-in-the-environment focus in social work practice. An ecological model with a lifespan approach is utilized to explore the periods from conception through late adulthood in order to understand individuals as they develop throughout the life cycle and have membership in families, groups, communities and organizations. Course Prerequisites: Liberal Arts Foundation courses; SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work; SOWK 3443: Interviewing and Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness (Co-Requisites for Social Work Majors only).

SOWK 3382: Human Behavior II (Cr. 3). This second course in the human behavior and the social environment sequence is designed to further expand the social work student's knowledge of theoretical content of the person-in-the-environment focus upon which social work practice is based. An ecological model utilizing the lifespan approach is offered as the organizing framework to understanding individuals as they develop and have membership in families, groups, communities and organizations. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work; SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work; SOWK 3443: Interviewing and Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310 Self-Awareness. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3442: Practice II; SOWK 2211: Policy I; SOWK 3444: Research I.

SOWK 3441: Practice I: Individuals and Families (Cr. 3). This is the first of three practice courses in the core social work curriculum. It is an overview of generalist social work practice at the micro level of intervention. The course prepares students to engage individuals from a holistic view throughout the helping process. This includes the generalist practitioner's knowledge, values and skills in working with individuals. The course also incorporates the development of interviewing and active listening skills in order to assist students in providing competent services to individuals who are underserved, marginalized or oppressed. Course Prerequisites: Liberal Arts Foundation courses; SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work; SOWK 3443: Interviewing & Recording; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness.

SOWK 3442: Practice II: Groups (Cr. 3). This is the second of three practice courses required in the core social work curriculum. This course provides an overview of social work generalist practice at the mezzo level of intervention. The student learns effective intervention tools to apply when working with groups. Students examine the use of groups in helping individuals solve problems and accomplish group goals. The classroom becomes a laboratory for students to practice and develop group social work skills. Students develop the knowledge and skills involved in group development, maintaining group dynamics, and group leadership. The course builds upon the generalist practice methods mastered in Social Work Practice I: Individuals and Families. The course prepares students to work with diverse populations who are oppressed, marginalized or underserved in rural Southwest Georgia. Course Prerequisites: Liberal Arts Foundation Courses; SOWK 1385: Careers in SW; SOWK 3381: HBSE; SOWK 2412: Introduction to SW; SOWK 3443: Interviewing & Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3382: HBSE; SOWK 2211: Policy I; SOWK 3444: Research I.

SOWK 4441: Practice III: Communities and Organizations (Cr. 3). This is the third of three practice courses in the core social work curriculum. The course focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary for competent practice at the macro level of social work. Students examine the structures, functions, processes and interventions at the community and organizational levels of practice. Students examine strategies for helping communities and organizations solve problems and accomplish its goals. The classroom becomes the laboratory to develop macro social work skills. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 1385: Careers in SW; SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Intro to SW; SOWK 3443: Interviewing & Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness; SOWK 3382: HBSE II; SOWK 3442: Practice II; SOWK 2211: Policy I; SOWK 3444: Research I. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 4306: Research II; SOWK 3211: Policy II.

SOWK 3443: Interviewing and Recording (Cr. 3). This course provides foundation knowledge and skills in interviewing and process recording for generalist social work practice. It is organized as an experiential laboratory to build competent interviewing and recording skills. The major emphasis of the course is on the development of strong verbal and written communication skills. Interviewing skills are critically analyzed for their appropriate application with populations who are diverse due to age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, sex or sexual orientation. Course Prerequisites: Liberal Arts Foundation courses; SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness.

SOWK 3444: Research I: Research Methods in Social Work (Cr. 3). This is the first of two courses in the social work research sequence. This course focuses on the scientific methods of basic research, including definitions of problems, interventions, and outcomes in measurable terms. Formulation and testing of hypotheses are included in this course. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 1385: Careers in Social Work; SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Introduction to Social Work; SOWK 3443: Interviewing and Recording; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3382: HBSE II; SOWK 3442: Practice II; SOWK 2211: Policy I.

SOWK 4306: Research II: Measurement in Social Work Practice (Cr. 3). This is the second of two courses in the social work research sequence. This course provides basic instruction in the use of conceptual and quantitative tools for the description and interpretation of data. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 1385: Careers in SW; SOWK 3381: HBSE I; SOWK 2412: Introduction to SW; SOWK 3441: Practice I; SOWK 2310: Self-Awareness; SOWK 3382: HBSE II; SOWK 3442: Practice II; SOWK 2211: Policy I; SOWK 3444: Research I. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 4441: Practice III; SOWK 3211: Policy III.

SOWK 4472: Integrative Field Seminar (Cr. 3). This field seminar class is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to facilitate the systematic integration of the concepts, methods, policies, skills, and values involved in generalist social work practice. This course provides linkage between the classroom and field settings. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 1385; SOWK 3381; SOWK 2412; SOWK 3443; SOWK 3441; SOWK 2310; SOWK 3382; SOWK 3442; SOWK 2211; SOWK 3444; SOWK 4441; SOWK 4306; SOWK 3211; and all electives. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 4470: Field Practicum.

SOWK 4470: Field Practicum (Cr. 12). This field course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to systematically integrate the generalist social work practice concepts, methods, policies, skills, and values learned in the classroom setting to an agency setting. The course is in an agency setting with supervision from a trained field instructor. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 1385; SOWK 3381; SOWK 2412; SOWK 3443; SOWK 3441; SOWK 2310; SOWK 3382; SOWK 3442; SOWK 2211; SOWK 3444; SOWK 4441; SOWK 4306; SOWK 3211; and all electives. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 4472: Integrative Field Seminar.

ELECTIVES

SOWK 3210: Social Work Economics: Global Outcomes (Cr. 3). This course critically examines the theoretical assumptions of the neo-liberal school of economics and presents other options in the area of both economic theory and political economy. Theory consists of concepts formulated by individual thinkers or think tanks – based on data collection and the analysis of patterns which appear in the data or by direct observation. Political economy consists of laws and policies of an economic system that promote greater economic justice for community and global action. This course will assist students in comprehending and comparing economics from a global view as it relates and affect the U.S. in general. Course Prerequisites: Sophomore or Junior status.

SOWK 3275: Forensic Interviewing* (Cr. 3). This course provides the student with interviewing techniques in forensic social work settings. This course gives a comprehensive overview of courtroom strategies and behaviors, the intersection of laws and ethics, civil litigation, peer adjudication, recording and the legal regulation of social work, as well as the courtroom situations for the Department of Public Welfare. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 3443: Interviewing and Recording; open to Social Work and Criminal Justice majors.

SOWK 3291: Family and Child Welfare Services* (Cr. 3). This course is designed to explore myriad aspects of child welfare services. The course gives a brief overview of child welfare from early 1800 on into the present time. The course focuses on child welfare issues related to diverse populations who are oppressed, marginalized, as well as the underserved in rural Southwest Georgia. Course Prerequisites: Liberal Arts Foundation courses; SOWK 1385; SOWK 3381; SOWK 3441; SOWK 2310; SOWK 3443. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 3442: Practice II Groups; SOWK 3444: Research I.

SOWK 3350: Social Gerontology (Cr. 3). This course is a survey of cross-cultural views on aging, social implications of the aging population, social adjustments to the process of aging, and societal reactions to and provisions for persons in later life. Course is cross-listed with SOCIO 3350.

SOWK 3353: Counseling the Aged (Cr. 3). This course is an overview of counseling techniques related to the problems in later life to increase the quality of life for the aged. Course is cross-listed with SOCIO 3353.

SOWK 3383: Social Work with Families* (Cr. 3). This course is designed to provide the opportunity for students to analyze the subject of family dynamics/development as a social issue, and to explore policy implications. Utilize family systems employing the strengths perspective, as well as the multigenerational and developmental framework.

The course will explore challenges faced by contemporary families as they move through the life course. A social systems approach to the family and its diversity will be utilized. This course will elaborate on the process and content of theoretical and practice foundations in social work with families.

SOWK 3384: Children and the Law (Cr. 3). This course is an elective that is designed to review family policy and how it impacts the tasks performed by social workers working with children in child welfare settings. The interventions taught include the micro and macro levels. Students will strengthen their practice skills with regard to confidentiality, comprehension of the law, court preparation and courtroom testimony. The course will further provide an understanding of the implementation and effect of court rulings on policy and practice. The course reviews the judicial process, the nature of case law and its integration with social welfare practice.

SOWK 3385: Social Work with Children (Cr. 3). This course is designed to provide students with a generalized concept of “at-risk” youth. Students will be given an overall perspective on the ecological and societal factors that contribute to placing children and adolescents at risk of future dangerous or negative outcomes. Students will synthesize information on the practical application of prevention, intervention, and treatment approaches. The course will look at the youth from a holistic, strength-based, child-centered family perspectives.

SOWK 3391: Issues in International Social Work (Cr. 3). This course will analyze key economic, political and social issues currently affecting social work in an international context. It will explore the role of social work addressing these issues both internationally and locally.

SOWK 3400: Mental Health Services (Cr 3). This course provides an overview of the contemporary context of social work practice in mental health. It introduces social work students to the scientific, technological, historical, economic, legal, ethical, sociopolitical, and cultural factors that shape contemporary mental health practice. It also addresses the specific ways managed mental health care has impacted social workers and clients with a host of restrictions that have adversely affected the quality of availability and provided services.

SOWK 4292: Service Delivery System and the Aged (Cr. 3). This course is designed to provide human service professionals with knowledge regarding resources and services required by the aged. Techniques on how to effectively provide services to the elderly population will be covered in this course. The course focuses on direct service goals for elderly clients, caregivers, and family members, with attention to improving service coordination, access, quality, and efficiency.

SOWK 4293: Social Work in Health Care (Cr. 3). This course provides a common outline and framework for practitioners’ analyses of social work with various populations in acute care, long term care, rehabilitation, community-based residential care, and mental health settings. It introduces social work students to a range of clients and provides an overview of many social work settings and services in the health care arena.

SOWK 4310: Global Research (Cr. 3). This course is a third research course in social work that is interactive and provides a platform for exploring current social welfare issues that will assist in comparing states, countries and public attitudes about some of the most important social welfare issues facing society both at home and abroad. It is an avenue for practical technological skills to be integrated with global issues pertaining to social welfare. Course Prerequisites: SOWK 3210: Social Work Economics/Global Outcomes; SOWK 3391: Issues in International Social Work. Course Co-Requisites: SOWK 4306: Research I; SOWK 4460: International Social Welfare Policy.

SOWK 4423: School Social Work Practice (Cr. 3). This is the first of two courses on school social work. This course is a practice class specific to working in the schools, whether public or private. It addresses practice, policies, and research, giving students a clear understanding of social work in an educational setting, K – 12. Students will examine how theory, policies and research can be utilized therapeutically to resolve problems and accomplish goals for students in grades K through 12. This course provides a laboratory atmosphere for students to practice and develop additional social work skills prior to becoming more actively involved in hands-on experience when enrolled in SOWK 4424: School Social Work Services.

SOWK 4424: School Social Work Services (Cr. 3). This course is the second of two courses on school social work. It is a service-oriented course where students will actively interact with a social worker in a public or private school environment to use skills and techniques in order to gain hands-on experience. The course provides an opportunity

for students to practice and develop knowledge related to school social work services and interventions that is an important part in the normal routine of a social worker in the public/private school, K-12, environment.

SOWK 4435: Death and Dying (Cr. 3). This course focuses on several issues regarding the treatment and non-treatment of the dying or those who wish to die. Students will gain knowledge regarding the stages of grief and the phases of death and dying. Practice skills will be utilized in working with families experiencing grief and their stages of grief, as well.

SOWK 4450: Selected Topics in Social Work (Cr. 1-3). This course provides an opportunity for senior-level social work students to select from among pre-identified social work topics relevant to the mission, goals, and practice behaviors of the BSW program that are of interest to them and the major professor. This course fosters the development of scholarly research for presentation on campus as well as at regional, state, or national professional conferences or meetings. Approval of the faculty is necessary prior to registering for the course. Course Prerequisites: Senior-year social work major.

SOWK 4460: International Social Welfare Policy (Cr. 3). The course will analyze key economic, political, and social issues currently affecting social work in international context. It will explore the role of social work in addressing these issues both internationally and locally.

SOWK 4494: Social Work and Chemical Dependency (Cr. 3). This course is designed for students interested in analyzing their present values and knowledge as it relates to chemical dependency. The practice course will increase students' skills, attitudes, knowledge, and values to foster their development into effective and ethical addiction practitioners.

SOWK 4495: Human Sexuality (Cr. 3). This course provides an in-depth review of theories of human sexual behavior, including psychological, biological, sociological, evolutionary, feminist, homosexual and bio-sexual theories. It discusses changing societal attitudes and how those attitudes have impacted sexuality research, as well as classic early researchers and theories and less widely-known contributors, particularly female researchers and modern trends, including internet-based sexuality research.

SOWK 4496: HIV/AIDS – Global Impact (Cr 3). This course will explore the social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS from a global perspective. The course will also explore myths and facts surrounding HIV/AIDS. Further HIV/AIDS will be defined and prevention methods will be explored. The course will discuss the implications for future social work practice.