

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus:

SOWK 2103 Introduction to Social Work

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory: None

Prerequisite: SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology.

Prerequisite or Corequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or equivalent.

Effective Catalog: 2015-2016

I. Course Information:

A. Catalog Description

Addresses historical roots of the social work profession and social welfare. The person-in-environment perspective is discussed as the framework for social work knowledge, values, skills, the social work profession, ethics, fields of practice, and the settings in which social workers are employed. Commitment to diverse and at-risk populations and social/economic justice is highlighted.

B. Additional Information - None

II. Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of social work as a profession.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical principles necessary for the social work profession.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the theories in the discipline.
4. Identify the diversity in the social work fields of practice.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.
6. Demonstrate Generalist Practice and core competencies. (Competency 2.2)
**The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires 10 Core Competencies, a Code of Ethics, and Generalist Practice requirements.*

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills

Students will demonstrate appropriate written and verbal communication skills through papers and oral presentations concerning course focus and in accordance with instructions.

Ethics

Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of social work (nationally and internationally) as a discipline, and as a profession. Standard ethical conduct reflected by the CSWE and related international Social Work associations will be addressed.

Technological Skills

Students will use the library and internet resources to research literature to complete research papers, written assignments, and to prepare for class discussions. The use of a variety of technological resources will be a graded component of these written and verbal activities.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will be introduced to global and cultural perspectives with respect to the social work profession and in accordance with the CSWE core competency requirements. Written and verbal activities will require that students demonstrate an understanding of these global and cultural perspectives.

III. Major Course Topics:

- A. Human Behavior
- B. National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
- C. Social policy
- D. Social welfare
- E. Advocacy in Social Work
- F. Social Work Research
- G. Diversity in Social Work Profession
- H. Families and communities
- I. Topics relevant to Americans with disabilities
- J. Social work and the justice system
- K. Social work practice