

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**

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**General Syllabus:**

**SOWK 3513 Special Populations: Social Work and the Criminal Justice System**

Credit Hours: 3      Lecture Hours: 3      Laboratory: None

Prerequisite: Admission to BSW, CJ 1013 Introduction to Criminal Justice System, and junior standing, or departmental permission.

Effective Catalog: 2015-2016

**I. Course Information:**

**A. Catalog Description**

Examination of roles, opportunities, and concerns for the practice of social work in the structures and procedures of the law.

**B. Additional Information- None**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes:**

**A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly. (Competency 2.1.1)
2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. (Competency 2.1.2)
3. Advance human rights and social and economic justice. (Competency 2.1.5)
4. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services. (Competency 2.1.8)
5. Respond to contexts that shape practice. (Competency 2.1.9)
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the Workers Code of Ethics  
<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/CODE/Default.asp>.
7. 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:

### **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.

### **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.

### **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. Social and Economic Justice
- B. Criminal Justice System and Social Work