

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**

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**General Syllabus:**

**SOWK 3833 Special Populations: Advocacy for Geriatric Care**

Credit Hours: 3      Lecture Hours: 3      Laboratory: None

Prerequisite: Admission to BSW, junior standing, PSYC 2963 Developmental Psychology: A Life Span, and one of the following: 6 hours upper level SOWK courses or 6 hours upper level PSYC courses, or departmental permission.

Effective Catalog: 2015-2016

**I. Course Information:**

**A. Catalog Description**

A biopsychosocial perspective on the functioning and needs of older adults. Content covers geriatric social work, advocacy, and basic rights unique to elderly patients. Assessment, intervention, abuse and neglect, social support, and issues relating to death and dying will be addressed. Course is equivalent to PSYC 3833 Special Populations: Advocacy for Geriatric Care, may only be taken once for credit.

**B. Additional Information – None**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes:**

**A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. (Competency 2.1.2)
2. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments. (Competency 2.1.3)
3. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. (Competency 2.1.10 a,b,c,d)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the Workers Code of Ethics  
<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/CODE/Default.asp>.
5. 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. National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
- B. Geriatric Social Work
- C. Advocacy for the geriatric population
- D. Unique populations
- E. Biopsychosocial issues in the elderly
- F. Substance abuse in the elderly
- G. Topics relevant to Americans with disabilities