

SOCIAL WORK (SW)

Visit the [Course Schedule Search website](#) to find out when courses will be offered during the academic year.

Read more about the courses within this subject prefix in the descriptions provided below.

SW 802 - Aging and Society

Credits: 3

This course is designed to formalize students with biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives of aging and social services and policies for older people. This course covers a broad range of theories and contemporary issues in the field of aging. It also focuses on the strengths and limitations of existing programs and policies such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, and other community services. Comparisons to developments in other countries will be made throughout the course to provide a broader context for understanding aging and programs/policies in the U.S.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 803 - Social Work and Spirituality

Credits: 3

Spirituality has recently begun to emerge as a critical anchor of a holistic approach to social work which views individuals, couples, families, groups, and communities in a bio-psycho- social-spiritual context. This course provides a framework of knowledge, values, skills and experiences for spirituality sensitive social work. Students will develop skills and insight in responding competently and ethically to diverse spiritual and religious perspectives in social work settings. Utilizing psychodynamic and narrative frameworks, this course will address ways of assessing and working with an individual's spiritual belief systems and attending to the ways in which spiritual beliefs and practices provide a window into a client's inner world. Consideration regarding the impact of spiritual and religious systems in relation to diversity (e.g. by gender, social class, ethnicity and culture, and sexual orientation) will be included.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 804 - Adolescents with Emotional and Behavioral Challenges

Credits: 3

This course focuses on the characteristics and needs of youth with emotional and behavioral challenges based upon socio-cultural and ecological theories, and provides exposure to family- and youth-driven practices and approaches that represent System of Care values and principles.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 805 - Child and Adolescent Risks and Resiliency: Program, Policy and Practice

Credits: 3

In this course, students apply an anti-oppressive lens in exploring the major social work practices, policies, and programs in the fields of child welfare and child/family services. Students will be introduced to current research related to the impact of trauma across the lifespan, with an emphasis on risk/resiliency factors within the family system. Students will learn how past/current child welfare policy and practice perpetuates social injustice, oppression, and trauma. Alternative approaches to support children and caregivers within the family, home, and community will be emphasized.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 807 - Child Maltreatment

Credits: 3

This course introduces students to advanced concepts in child welfare with an emphasis on child maltreatment assessment and child protective services. The course addresses emerging assessment practices, data informed child protective service provision, the role of technology in child welfare practice, and workforce development.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 808 - Mental Health Aspects of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

Credits: 3

Students will 1) develop an understanding of the mental health aspects of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD), 2) understand the challenges in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions in people with IDD, 3) understand specific clinical presentations as well as treatment and support adaptations for mental health problems in individuals with IDD, 4) gain insight into the application and adaptation of evidence based and evidence informed practices when working with individuals with IDD and co-occurring mental health conditions and their systems of support and 5) understand the role of social work in supporting individuals with IDD and mental health conditions in various practice contexts.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 809 - First Responders

Credits: 3

First responders hold a special status in our society. Society looks to first responders to protect our lives, provide for our safety and medical assistance. First responders are not always seen, but we expect them to be there to resolve any crisis. But what impact does this have on the mental health of first responders? This course will look at the role of first responders and the potential mental health impacts of this job. How do first responders navigate these issues and what can we do to help?.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 810 - SW and the Digital Age

Credits: 3

This course focuses on the ever-changing landscape of technology as it relates to the Social Work field. Students will explore topics such as telehealth, online communities, assistive technology as well as digital advocacy. Ethical implications of the integration of technology into Social Work will be explored throughout the course. Students will work independently or collaboratively at a distance to create a multi-media project focused on a topic of interest within Digital Social Work.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 812 - Understanding Developmental Disabilities

Credits: 3

Analysis of the complex social contexts of people with developmental disabilities. Explores and questions traditional approaches and the current service system. Examines family and community services and resources.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 813 - School Social Work**Credits:** 3

The course examines the school as a social institution that serves to educate and socialize children into US society and the role of the social worker in the school setting. Readings, activities, and discussions provide practical skills and theory for school social work practice. The course content addresses the history of school social work, integrating social work values into a school setting, systemic needs within school settings, the importance of networking and professional collaboration, and working with diverse and at-risk youth and their families. Students also examine the role of social workers in helping students, schools, and families adjust to and cope with trauma, special education needs, and related topics.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 815 - Affirming Practice with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ People****Credits:** 3

This course addresses the task of clinical practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, intersex, two-spirit, genderqueer, pansexual, and beyond (LGBTQ+) people on both personal and professional levels for the social worker. The class makes use of personal narratives, as well as theoretical and clinical practice readings. Students are expected to explore and examine their own attitudes, beliefs, and assumptions about LGBTQ+ people.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 816 - Addiction Assessment****Credits:** 3

This course focuses on the screening, assessment, and diagnosis of addictions and co-occurring disorders. Topics covered include: substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders; including clinical evaluation, screening, assessment, barriers to assessment, and differential diagnosis of co-occurring disorders, motivational interviewing, engagement in the assessment process, assessing from a strengths perspective, DSM diagnosis, trauma informed practice, culturally competent counseling, documentation and treatment planning, policy effecting engagement from a town/city, state and national perspective, and service coordination and referral.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 817 - Understanding Suicide****Credits:** 3

The focus of this course is to better understand the public health problem of suicide, with particular emphasis on prevention, intervention and postvention approaches. Students will gain an understanding of suicide epidemiology and underlying theory, as well as risk and protective factors for suicide. In addition, this course will outline public health approaches and evidence-based practices for suicide prevention. Students will develop skills in assessment and management of suicide risk, intervention and treatment techniques with suicidal individuals as well as postvention approaches to dealing with suicide loss.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 818 - SW & Creative Arts****Credits:** 3

This course will focus on the uses and potential uses of many forms of art in social work practice. Students will learn how to apply art forms such as music, theater, literature, art, poetry, movement, and dance into practice through exploring A. self-awareness and personal growth of the professional social worker, B. a strengths approach to practice with individual clients, and C. social awareness and social change. This course will be an advanced generalist elective. Students will have the opportunity to develop an art portfolio, completing a new project each week, having the opportunity to reflect personally as well as professionally on the application of these methodologies to practice.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 819 - Addiction Treatment****Credits:** 3

This course focuses on treatment for addictions and co-occurring disorders. Topics covered include: interventions, pharmacology, treatment outcomes, treatment with specific populations, trauma informed practice, group practice, working with mandated individuals, cognitive behavioral therapy, barriers to treatment, documentation with an emphasis on treatment planning, resource development, and policy effecting treatment outcomes from a town/city, state and national perspective.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 820 - Social Welfare Policy I****Credits:** 3

The aim of this course is to prepare students to act as informed human service professionals through a better understanding of social problems, social welfare policy, and the American social welfare system. Students are provided with an overview of the origins and development of social welfare policy in the United States, the political processes in our federal and state systems, and the values and ethics which shape our present social welfare system. The course also helps students examine ways they can influence policy formulation while advocating for human rights and social/economic justice.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 821 - International Social Work****Credits:** 3

This course introduces the growing field of international social work. It addresses the impact of globalization on social work practice, provides an overview of the social work profession around the world, and considers current challenges and suggested ways social workers can contribute to solutions. Human rights and globalization are dominant themes underlying international social work and serve as unifying concepts for examining various global issues. The focus of the course is on global social issues with particular attention to human rights, development, racism, status of women and children, climate change, immigrants and refugees, HIV/AIDS, and aging populations. Linkages between international and domestic social work practice are emphasized, making the course relevant to all students and their future practice.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 824 - Positive Youth Development Through Sport Social Work and Recreation**Credits:** 3

Grounded in critical positive youth development and experiential learning theory, this course focuses on how to promote the healthy youth development through the use of sport, recreation, and adventure-based activities. Students will develop knowledge to enhance their skills related to designing, implementing, facilitating, and evaluating sport-based programming and practices to promote the development of normative life skills (e.g., emotional regulation, social skills, teamwork) and social justice life skills (e.g., antiracism, LGBTQ+ allyship, mental health help-seeking behaviors).

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 830 - Social Work Practice I****Credits:** 3

This course is to introduce students to the basic values, theories, and skills of social work practice. This is accomplished through the use of lectures, discussions, readings, written exercises, and using laboratory and practice sessions. The intent is for students to use the experiential parts of the course (laboratory and interview simulations) to apply the conceptual and theoretical knowledge gained from lectures, class discussions and readings.

Co-requisite: SW 880**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 831 - Social Work Practice II: Practice in Small Groups and Community Organizations****Credits:** 3

This course is a continuation of SW 830 and introduces the student to the study of social work intervention and change strategies when working with groups and communities. In addition, the organization is examined as a target for change. The overall process of change including identification of problems, assessment, choice of intervention strategies, evaluation, and termination are considered with groups, organizations, and communities. All processes of change are considered from a community-based, person-in-environment and strengths perspective.

Co-requisite: SW 881**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 840 - Implications of Race, Culture, and Oppression for Social Work Practice****Credits:** 3

This foundation course is designed to increase students awareness of historical, social, political, economic and cultural aspects of micro- and macro-level oppression directed at minorities. Course materials focus on insidious societal forces that shape and profoundly alter life experiences of large numbers of people, with special attention to social relationships that promote the welfare of some, while limiting opportunities and choices for others, including racial and ethnic minorities, children, women, the poor, persons with disabilities, GLBTQ individuals, and others. Students consider practice issues in multicultural SW.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 850 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment I****Credits:** 3

This course will employ multicultural and critical perspectives to understand individuals, families, and their interpersonal and group relationships, life span development, and theories of well-being, stress, coping, and adaptation. This course will emphasize knowledge about individuals and small social systems, including the implications of this knowledge for all domains of social work practice. Students will be introduced to the concepts of risk and protective factors, with relevant examples at the individual and small system levels. Students will also consider the implications of this knowledge for intervening in social problems and supporting rehabilitation once problems have developed. Major components of the course will be concerned with the processes of oppression, privilege, and discrimination, as well as factors that help people and small social systems to change. The knowledge presented will include the interrelationships between smaller and larger social systems, and in particular, how biological factors and the larger social and physical environments shape and influence both individual and family well-being.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 851 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment II****Credits:** 3

In this course, students learn about human behavior and development within the context of the life cycle from a macro systems perspective. The course examines how complex interactions among various levels of social systems impact individual development through the lenses of social, racial, economic, and environmental justice. It also explores societal forces that, though often invisible, significantly shape the life experiences of large populations. HSBE II places special emphasis on social relationships that promote the welfare of some while limiting opportunities and choices for others. The semester addresses how class, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, and other aspects of diversity influence the development and behavior of larger systems.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 860 - Research Methods in Social Work****Credits:** 3

Research is the tool by which we build a base of evidence to support our interventions; hence research is an integral part of all social work practice. This course provides an overview of research methodologies used in social work practice, policies, and research, enabling students to become critical consumers and creators of research as it applies to social work practice, programs, and policies. Students will explore both qualitative and quantitative research methods, including surveys, interviews, and observational studies. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the ethical considerations, social justice and anti-racist considerations in research design and data collection techniques, and the importance of evidence-based practice. This includes challenging oppressive research designs and participant engagement, building decolonized research strategies.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 865 - Adventure Therapy: Facilitation and Processing of the Experience**Credits:** 3

This class will familiarize students with a variety of active assessment facilitation and processing skills which can be used with clients when engaging in adventure therapy. Students will be given multiple opportunities to practice these skills to gain a better understanding of their own facilitation and processing skills, and how to use adventure activities as a therapeutic tool in the clinical practice. Active participation required. Open to both social work and non-social work graduate students.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 870 - Intimate Partner Violence****Credits:** 3

This course examines intimate partner violence or domestic violence from its historical roots to the present. In accordance with an historical and contextual approach, we examine theories that explain and describe the phenomenon, research that attempts to define it, as well as social policies, social movements, and intervention from a social work perspective. Intimate partner violence (IPV) also known as domestic violence, cuts across racial, ethnic, and class boundaries and impedes victim's well-being and social participation. IPV includes many physical assault, sexual assault, emotional, verbal, and economic abuse and coercive control.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 871 - Trauma-Informed Practice in School Settings****Credits:** 3

This course introduced students to the core concepts that inform evidence-based assessment and intervention for traumatized children, adolescents, adults and their families in school settings. Strength-based practice is highlighted with a focus on the identification of protective and promotive factors that foster resiliency and post-traumatic growth. The course highlights the role of development.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 880 - Internship I****Credits:** 3

This two-semester requirement provides supervised learning and practice within social work programs in a wide range of program settings. Students spend 16 hours per week in an internship placement. Individual internship placements are arranged with each student by the internship coordinator. In order to receive credit, students must satisfactorily complete both SW 880 and SW 881. A concurrent integrative seminar is required. In this weekly seminar, attention is given to the development of generalist social work skills, discussion of social work ethics & values, and the development of appropriate professional relationships. The importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in social work is also addressed. A primary goal is to integrate classroom learning with the internship experience.

Co-requisite: SW 830**Grade Mode:** Graduate Credit/Fail grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 881 - Internship II****Credits:** 3

This course is a continuation of SW 880, Internship I. Students must satisfactorily complete both internship experience semesters to receive credit for either course. Students spend 16 hours per week in the internship placement begun in SW 880. Individual internship placements are arranged with each student by the internship coordinator. In order to receive credit, students must satisfactorily complete both SW 880 and SW 881. A concurrent integrative seminar is required. In this weekly seminar, attention is given to the continued development of basic social work skills, professional development and ethical decision-making, cultural competence and self-care. A primary goal is to integrate classroom learning with the internship experience.

Co-requisite: SW 831**Grade Mode:** Graduate Credit/Fail grading**SW 885 - Study Abroad****Credits:** 3

Students in this course examine the historical development of social welfare in another country including an analysis of the underlying values and attitudes that dictate practice and policy decisions. The course includes agency site visits, lectures, themed readings and visits to important cultural sites. Only open to first and second year MSW students.

Co-requisite: INCO 889**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 897 - Special Topics in Social Work and Social Welfare****Credits:** 2 or 3

Seminar for graduate students. Topics may include: A) Drugs and Chemical Dependency; B) Intimate Partner Violence C) Social Action in Education Settings D) Social Action in the Dominican Republic. May be repeated for different topics.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes**SW 900 - Advanced Standing Practice and Internship Seminar****Credits:** 3

This seminar, held concurrently with field placement, is designed to orient and prepare advanced standing students for advanced practice and field courses. The general aim of the seminar is to bridge the undergraduate and graduate curriculum and to review foundation year concepts, theories and skills. This review includes a re-examination of the dynamics of the change process and of the strengths perspective. We will consider the skills essential to practice including assessment, contracting, intervention and termination with client systems. We will explore the development of social work identity and of professional relationships with supervisors, colleagues and agencies. A primary focus is on deepening the understanding of social work values and ethics including the development of ethical decision-making skills, empathic connection between worker and client, self-reflection, as well as the recognition of the importance of culturally competent practice.

Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading**SW 901 - Internship Continuation****Credits:** 0

This course represents the continuation of the online Master of Social Work internship courses (SW 880, SW 881, SW 982, SW 983). SW students who are registered for one of the four required internship courses are also registered for SW 901 and are considered full-time. The grade for each course is awarded upon completion of the entire two semester internship experience.

Grade Mode: Not graded

SW 926 - Social Welfare Policy II**Credits:** 3

This course is an extension of Social Welfare Policy I. Both courses view social welfare policy as the framework in which social work services are developed and delivered. That is, policies provide the context for direct practice. Social Welfare Policy II examines policy analysis as a process with underlying theory and methodology. This process emphasizes political advocacy in the pursuit of human rights, and social and economic justice. The course integrates policy and practice, in part, through student research and analysis of specific social problems and client populations relevant to the student's volunteer, work, and/or field internship experience. Students must have successfully completed the foundation Social Work Policy course.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 930 - Advanced General Practice III: Clinical Assessment and Intervention****Credits:** 3

Advanced generalist practice with individuals, families and groups is the first of the two required advanced practice classes. The major objective of the advanced generalist practice curriculum is to educate practitioners to work towards the restoration and enhancement of human functioning and prevention of maladaptive functioning. This course emphasizes a deepened understanding of the differential treatment process and an expanded knowledge of intervention approaches. The aim of the course is to further deepen knowledge and skills, particularly with a concentration on evidence based practices, interdisciplinary work and ethical practice. Students must have successfully completed the two foundation year practice courses.

Co-requisite: SW 982**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 931 - Advanced Generalist Practice IV: Community and Administrative Practice****Credits:** 3

This macro social work course utilizes foundation year curriculum content to provide an advanced examination of social work practice in larger systems. Students will develop knowledge, values, and skills in areas of community analysis, community organization, community capital, empowerment and the use of power, sustainable communities, evaluation of program and community interventions, organizational development, fundraising, and use of social media. Strategies of cultivation, mobilization and sustaining resources that empower underserved constituent groups will be studied. Course content will be rooted in both historical and current contexts in providing administrative and technological tools to undertake change efforts across organizational and community systems. Class sessions and assignments will provide opportunities to learn skills in community and administrative practice through a variety of teaching methods and tools including book chapters, case studies, journal articles, news articles, documentary films, PowerPoint presentations, and class discussion. The student is expected to be active in the learning process and come to class prepared to engage in meaningful discussions of the material.

Co-requisite: SW 983**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**SW 952 - Human Behavior and the Social Environment III****Credits:** 3

This course is designed to acquaint master's degree students with the epidemiology, classification, and etiology of the major mental illnesses; with a primary objective to develop the student's diagnostic skills in the field of psychopathology. Students will examine historical, structural, and systemic discriminatory and oppressive practices and policies, as well as examine personal bias toward marginalized populations to diagnose from a culturally sensitive standpoint more appropriately. At course conclusion students will have an effective working knowledge of the bio-psycho-social basis of the major mental disorders, the behavioral symptomatology that characterizes them, the use of psychotropic medication in treatment (brief overview), and their classification according to the current DSM system. Students will be able to evaluate symptomatology through a critical, anti-oppressive lens.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 957 - Fund Development and Grantwriting****Credits:** 3

This course is designed to introduce students to various fundraising strategies to support nonprofit health and human service organizations. Students are provided with an overview of philanthropy and nonprofit organizations in the United States, effective fundraising and individual donor strategies, and ethical and legal issues related to fundraising. Student use a case-study approach for planning, developing, and writing successful grant proposals to fund health and human services programming.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 962 - Data Analysis and Statistics****Credits:** 3

This course introduces students to statistical techniques and data analysis within the context of social work and human services, focusing on both descriptive and inferential statistics. Students will learn to critically interpret and analyze statistical data, with particular attention to how biases—both conscious and unconscious—can influence research outcomes. Emphasizing ethical considerations, anti-oppressive research practices, and the promotion of social justice, the course prepares students to conduct research that serves marginalized and oppressed communities. Topics covered include data ethics, probability, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and more, with SPSS software used for practical data analysis. Through a flipped classroom model, students will engage with online lectures and practice datasets before class, applying their knowledge in hands-on activities, discussions, and projects. Assignments include article critiques, quizzes, and in-depth projects analyzing real-world data. This course equips students to engage in practice- and research-informed social work, contributing to anti-racist, anti-oppressive practice and policy evaluations. Prerequisite: Introductory Social Work Research Methods (SW 860 or equivalent).

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 965 - Program and Practice Evaluation****Credits:** 3

A one semester course, basic introduction to evaluation methods in the context of social work practice and social welfare. Students develop and conduct evaluations of practice, programs, and policies. Course provides skills required for practice and program evaluation. Students must have successfully completed Social Work Research one and two.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

SW 974 - Social Work Supervision**Credits:** 3

Prepares students for a supervisory role in human service agencies. Basic principles of administrative, supportive and educational supervision are reviewed and related to the student's own experiences in supervision or as a supervisor.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 975 - Theory and Practice of Family Therapy****Credits:** 3

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the theory and practice of family therapy. Major approaches to be examined include structural, strategic, systemic, brief, narrative family therapy, and social constructionism. Students have an opportunity to present cases they are currently working with in their internships and are able to practice family therapy techniques with the use of a team coaching them from behind a one-way mirror.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 979 - Social Work and the Law****Credits:** 3

Social work practitioners routinely encounter and interact with the legal system in their work. The course provides knowledge of, and learning about, the differences between the legal and social service networks, the realities of work involving the law, and legal issues, as well as an understanding of those aspects of the legal system most likely to impact clients and their families.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading**SW 982 - Internship III****Credits:** 4

This two semester requirement provides advanced practice experience in a wide range of social work settings. Students spend 24 hours per week in an internship agency setting. Individual internship placements are arranged with each student by the internship coordinator. In order to receive course credit, students must satisfactorily complete both semesters (SW 982 and SW 983). A concurrent integrative seminar is also required. The goal of the weekly seminar is to assist students in conceptualizing and integrating the multiple theoretical issues and practice concepts of course work and the practicum. Students are expected to take major responsibility for the semester, using the instructor as a resource. Topics addressed include: self-awareness and values, anti-oppressive social work practice, and ethical decision-making. Students must have successfully completed the first internship year and Internship Seminars 1 & 2.

Co-requisite: SW 930**Grade Mode:** Graduate Credit/Fail grading**SW 983 - Internship IV****Credits:** 4

This is the second part of the two semester requirement and provides advanced practice experience in a wide range of social work settings. Students spend 24 hours per week in an internship placement. Individual internship placements are arranged with each student by the internship coordinator. In order to receive course credit, students must satisfactorily complete both semesters. A concurrent integrative seminar is also required. The goal of the seminar is to assist students in conceptualizing and integrating the multiple theoretical issues and practice concepts of course work and the practicum. Students are expected to take major responsibility for the semester, using the instructor as a resource. This is part two of the advanced year-long internship course. Students must have successfully completed the first half of internship and Internship Seminar 3.

Co-requisite: SW 931**Grade Mode:** Graduate Credit/Fail grading**SW 992 - Special Projects and Independent Study****Credits:** 1-3

Projects, research and reading programs in areas of concentration. Sixty days advance approval of the student's plan of study by adviser and proposed instructor required. 24 credits in social work coursework required.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**Special Fee:** Yes