STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
BSW PROGRAM
Class Meeting Time and Location

SWK 470.101
Course Title: Social Work Practicum I
Fall 2020

Faculty: Bruce McNellie
SWK Office: #
Phone:
Email:

Office
Hours:

Pre-requisites: SWK 350, SWK 450, SWK 415 and all general education requirements, Social Work Major, senior level and in good standing.

Co-requisites: SWK 480, SWK 490

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students are engaged in supervised social work practice with individuals, families, and groups in a social service agency. Students employ a problem solving approach to prepare them for Generalist Social Work practice and are under the direct supervision of a professional agency social worker for 235 hours during the semester.

REQUIRED TEXT:
Senior Field Practicum Manual. Revised 2017

COVID-19 MASK POLICY
Mask (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.
II. CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

The BSW program at SFASU features generalist social work practice, defined as follows:

Generalist practice is grounded in the liberal arts and the person-in-environment framework. To promote human and social well-being, generalist practitioners use a range of prevention and intervention methods in their practice with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities based on scientific inquiry and best practices. The generalist practitioner identifies with the social work profession and applies ethical principles and critical thinking in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Generalist practitioners engage diversity in their practice and advocate for human rights and social and economic justice. They recognize, support, and build on the strengths and resiliency of all human beings. They engage in research-informed practice and are proactive in responding to the impact of context on professional practice.

Briefly, generalist social work practice:

• Is multi-level to include individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
• Is multi-theory, allowing for the free selection of theories as appropriate
• Utilizes a problem identification and solving focus that follows a problem-solving framework
• Utilizes multiple interventions at multiple levels, as appropriate
• Addresses the complexity of individual, family, group, organizational, and community system interactions
• Requires an integration of awareness, competence, and professional response to issues of values, ethics, diversity, culture, social justice, and populations-at-risk
III. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO)

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior.
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice.
5. Engage in Policy Practice.
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.
7. Assess, Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.

*Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS, 2015) from the Council on Social Work Education

IV. (Student Learning Outcomes: SLO)

In a seminar setting, students will:

1. Student will make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context. (Competency 1)
2. Student will use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations. (Competency 1)

3. Student will demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication (Competency 1).

4. Student will use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes. (Competency 1)

5. Student will use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior. (Competency 1)

6. Student will apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. (Competency 2)

7. Student will present themselves as learners and engage clients and constituencies as experts of their own experiences (Competency 2).

8. Student will apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies. (Competency 2).

9. Student will apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels. (Competency 3).

10. Student will engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice. (Competency 3).

11. Student will use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research. (Competency 4).

12. Student will apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative
research methods and research findings. (Competency 4).

13. Student will use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery. (Competency 4).

14. Student will identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services. (Competency 5).

15. Student will assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services. (Competency 5)

16. Student will apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice. (Competency 5)

17. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies. (Competency 6)

18. Student will use empathy, reflection, and interpersonal skills to effectively engage diverse clients and constituencies. (Competency 6)

19. Student will collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies. (Competency 7)

20. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies. (Competency 7)

21. Student will develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within clients and constituencies. (Competency 7)

22. Student will select appropriate intervention strategies based on the assessment, research knowledge, and values and preferences of clients and constituencies. (Competency 7)

23. Student will critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies. (Competency 8)
24. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in interventions with clients and constituencies. (Competency 8)

25. Student will use inter-professional collaboration as appropriate to achieve beneficial practice outcomes. (Competency 8)

26. Student will negotiate, mediate, and advocate with and on behalf of diverse clients and constituencies. (Competency 8)

27. Student will facilitate effective transitions and endings that advance mutually agreed-on goals. (Competency 8)

28. Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice select and use appropriate methods for evaluation of outcomes. (Competency 9)

29. Student will apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the evaluation of outcomes. (Competency 9)

30. Student will critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention and program processes and outcomes; and apply evaluation findings to improve practice effectiveness at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. (Competency 9)

31. Student will apply evaluation findings to improve effectiveness at the micro, mezzo and micro levels. (Competency 9)

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Through on-site supervision by an agency field instructor, students engage in educationally directed practice activities in a social service agency via a 250-block placement taken concurrently with (SWK 480 and SWK 490.) The agency field instructor provides structured educational supervision to the student for at least one hour per week. Students are also required to apply classroom theory and concepts with professional social work practice, thus practice activities, related seminar discussion and written assignments are
designed to aid the student in this process. Students can expect their respective faculty liaison to visit their agency at least three times during the semester. Additional liaison visits may occur should problems/needs arise. The assigned faculty liaison is also a resource to the Agency Social worker and is utilized to assist in the identification and development of appropriate educational learning experiences for the student in agency setting.

VI. COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

This course will utilize Desire2Learn (D2L) to support the delivery of course content. You will need basic skills regarding the use of a word processor and web browser. You must have access to a computer that meets the university’s minimum computer system requirements (see http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu/gettingstarted.html for details or the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Computers are available to you through a number of labs across campus (see www.sfasu.edu or the instructor for details).

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1  Review of syllabus, class assignments, evaluation and grading procedures
School, agency, and student expectations; adult learning theory
Role transition of student to advanced professional social worker
Review of Generalist Practice
CSWE Standards/Competences and Behaviors

Professional Use of Self/Supervision
Licensure Exam
Concepts of professional growth and development:
Self-awareness: Assessing practice strengths/weaknesses; learning styles
Planning for professional growth and development
Affiliation with professional social work organizations
Developing the Individual Learning Plan
Supervisory roles, functions, and responsibilities
Administrative, educational, and supportive supervision
Using supervision effectively
Challenges of supervision in agency

Week 2  Key Elements and Challenges of Social Work Practice
Group process of essential elements of practice and challenges encountered in practice
Review of Key Elements of Practice in the agency
Establishing the Helping Relationship
Communication Techniques
Interviewing Skills
The importance of differential assessment
Identifying and implementing specialized treatment interventions
The role of theory in practice
Challenges of Practice
Beginning anxiety
Balancing family life and graduate study/field
Keeping personal and work issues separate
Caretaking and rescuing
Dealing with resistive, hostile, or difficult clients
Understanding the agency culture and “fitting in”
The effect of helping roles on personal life and family
Managing effective working relationships with colleagues, administrators, and agency staff
Effective communication and approaches to managing conflict

Week 3
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Generalist Practice with Individuals**

**The Agency System: Individuals**

**Knowledge**
The impact of other systems on Individuals in the agency
Various Theoretical Orientations within a Micro Focus
Social problems and issues related to individuals in society
Theories of Human Behavior of Individuals

**Values**
Ethical and Professional Behavior in working with Individuals
Ethical Decision-Making Strategies

Week 4
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Skills-Individuals**
Engaging, Assessing, Interventions and Evaluation of Individuals in the Agency Setting
Identifying and managing practice issues related to Diversity and Difference in
Practice with Individuals in the agency setting
Advancement of Human and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
Policy in Practicing with Individuals in the agency setting

**Cognitive and Affective Processes Check (Individuals)**
Understanding and Application
Agency Examples and Case Studies

**Week 5**
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Generalist Practice with Families**

**The Agency System: Families**

**Knowledge**
The impact of other systems on Families in the agency
Various Theoretical Orientations within a Mezzo Focus
Impact of changing family life cycle on families
Assessing the level of family functioning

**Values**
Ethical and Professional Behavior in working with Families
Models of Ethical Decision-Making Strategies

**Week 6**
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Skills-Families**
Engaging, Assessing, Interventions and Evaluation of Families in the Agency Setting
Identifying and managing practice issues related to Diversity and Difference in Practice with Individuals in the agency setting
Advancement of Human and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
Policy in Practicing with Families in the agency setting

**Cognitive and Affective Processes Check (Families)**
Understanding and Application
Agency Examples and Case Studies
Week 7
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Generalist Practice with Groups**

**The Agency System: Groups**

**Knowledge**
The impact of other systems on Groups in the agency
Various Theoretical Orientations within a Mezzo Focus
Concepts relative to tasks groups

**Values**
Ethical and Professional Behavior in working with Groups
Models of Ethical Decision-Making Strategies

Week 8
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Skills-Groups**
Engaging, Assessing, Interventions and Evaluation of Groups in the Agency Setting
Identifying and managing practice issues related to Diversity and Difference in Practice with groups in the agency setting
Advancement of Human and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
Policy in Practicing with Groups in the agency setting

**Cognitive and Affective Processes Check (Groups)**
Understanding and Application
Agency Examples and Case Studies

Week 9
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Generalist Practice with Organizations**

**The Agency System: Organizations**

**Knowledge**
The impact of other systems on Organizations in the agency
Various Theoretical Orientations within a Macro Focus
Handling consumer complaints/abuse/rights issues
Organizational change and politics

Values
Ethical and Professional Behavior in working with Organizations
Models of Ethical Decision-Making Strategies

Week 10
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

Skills-Organizations
Engaging, Assessing, Interventions and Evaluation of Organizations in the Agency Setting
Identifying and managing practice issues related to Diversity and Difference in Practice with organizations in the agency setting
Advancement of Human and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
Policy in Practicing with Organizations in the agency setting

Cognitive and Affective Processes Check (Organizations)
Understanding and Application
Agency Examples and Case Studies

Week 11
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

Generalist Practice with Communities

The Agency System: Communities

Knowledge
The impact of other systems on Communities in the agency
Various Theoretical Orientations within a Macro Focus
Concepts relative to practice in communities
Strategic planning/identification of risk factors in communities
Use of technology and consultation in working in with communities
Locality development, social planning, social action, policy and advocacy

Values
Ethical and Professional Behavior in working with Communities
Models of Ethical Decision-Making Strategies

Week 12
Group process of students’ challenges, issues, and successes in the agency
Group process of assigned topics, concepts, and issues relative to field:

**Skills-Communities**
Engaging, Assessing, Interventions and Evaluation of Communities in the Agency Setting
Identifying and managing practice issues related to Diversity and Difference in Practice with communities in the agency setting
Advancement of Human and Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
Policy in Practicing with Communities in the agency setting

**Cognitive and Affective Processes Check (Communities)**
Understanding and Application
Agency Examples and Case Studies

**Week 13**
Collaboration with professionals from other disciplines (Inter-professional Teams)
Representing the agency and the social work profession
Surviving as a Social Work Professional
Preventing burnout:
  Maintenance of Cognitive and Affective Processes

**Week 14**
Competency Exam/ Program Evaluations

**Week 15**
Individual Presentations Assignment Demonstration of Generalist Practice

**Week 16**
Individual Presentations Assignment Demonstration of Generalist Practice

**VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students are required to complete a 235-hour block placement in an approved social service agency/program during their final semester of the BSW program. Students are required to adhere to agency policies while in the agency setting and are bound to University requirements. Practice activities take place in the agency setting under the direction and supervision of the Agency Social Worker. Students and Agency Field Instructors attend a mandatory orientation prior to the agency placement. Students are expected to intervene with individuals, families and groups singularly and/or with other agency professionals. Agency Field Instructors provide at least one hour of structured supervision and consultation weekly.
In conjunction with agency practice, students attend a two-hour weekly seminar, which provides opportunities to examine, discuss, and analyze field practice experiences in relation to concepts and theories previously learned in the classroom. Specific written and oral assignments are incorporated in the student learning process to facilitate the integration of academic content with practice experiences. Required seminar assignments include the following:

**GRADING:**

All field instruction and integrative seminar courses utilize the same grading format. The field instructor provides structured educational supervision to the student for at least one hour per week. Students can expect their respective faculty field liaison to visit their agency at least three times during the semester. Additional liaison visits may occur should problems/needs arise. The assigned faculty field liaison monitors the student’s progress, as well as evaluates the student’s performance in field. Student field performance is evaluated at the initial, midterm, and final liaison visit. Midterm and final evaluation are based upon the faculty liaison's evaluation of performance criteria specified in the Student Field Performance Evaluation, Individual Learning Plan, as well as written assignments and class participation in seminar. The field instructor and student provide feedback to the faculty field liaison to aid in the evaluation process through completion of the Student Field Performance Evaluation. Students’ performance in field and seminar assignments/participation comprise a final grade. The Director of Field Education assigns the final grade.

**GRADING**

Grades from the Seminar assignments will be combined with Field Instruction evaluation grades and class attendance points to produce a common grade for SWK 470, SWK 480, and SWK 490. Class grades will be determined in the following way.

**Field Assignments**

- **Social Policy Assignment** 100 points
- **Research Assignment** 100 points
- **Human Behavior Assignment** 50 points
- **Generalist Practice Paper** 150 points
- **Case Presentation** 50 points
- **Vocabulary Test** 50 points
Seminar Attendance/Participation 150 points

Field Instruction Evaluations

First Evaluation 100 points
Second Evaluation 200 points
Third Evaluation 300 points

MAXIMUM POINTS 1250 points

GRADING SCALE:

A=1250-1100
B=1099-975
C= 974-850
D= 849-738
F= 737 or less

The same letter grade based on accumulated points will be assigned to SWK 470, SWK 480 and SWK 490.

COMPLETION OF ALL FIELD HOURS IS REQUIRED FOR THIS CLASS. FAILURE TO COMPLETE ALL FIELD HOURS IN CURRENT SEMESTER WILL REQUIRE REPEAT OF COURSE.

A grade of WF is not given in field. Students will repeat course if not completed successfully.

IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Honesty and representing one’s knowledge and abilities appropriately are important ethical principles of the social work profession. All incidents will result in a grade of “0”. Given the
limited number of graded assignments in this course, a “0” could have serious consequences for the student’s academic standing.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the Student Academic Dishonesty policy (SFA Policy 4.1) on http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

Please also read the Academic Integrity Policy on the SFA Graduate School’s website at http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (SFA Policy 5.5)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please read the complete policy on Course Grades: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf

Acceptable Student Behavior

The BSW Student Handbook and Academic and BSW Professional Integrity Code outline acceptable student behavior. Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct of Conduct (SFA Policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, visits to agencies, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate or
inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please see the following link for the complete policy:
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf

X. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, read Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (SFA Policy 6.1)
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accomodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf

Bibliography


International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) http://www.ifsw.org/


