

Social Work (SW)

Courses

SW 100 Social Welfare: A World View Travel Course: 3 semester hours

All countries have some form of social welfare. The policies, program structure, and availability of resources may vary, but the issues of concern are often shared. Some of these universal issues include homelessness, mental illness, juvenile delinquency, aging and long-term care, child maltreatment and domestic violence. A social worker's understanding of the US social welfare system will be enhanced by exploring how other countries view social welfare problems, and work toward their solutions. This course is built as a travel course that will tour cultural and historical sites throughout selected countries, visit social service agencies, and attend lectures and complete reading specific to the country's system of social welfare. In addition to visiting social service agencies, students will participate in a service project. The majority of student time will be directed toward experiential opportunities. Fulfills the social work elective. Additional travel costs apply.

SW 115 Introduction To Human Services: 3 semester hours

This course is an introduction to the array of people, programs, and organizations whose intent is to respond to human needs of various kinds and intensity. It deals with both professional and non-professional activities. The course provides a basic framework for understanding the ideology and operation of human service systems. In addition, the student will develop a beginning understanding of the relationship between social policy and various approaches to human service programming to meet the intent of those policies. Through exposure to the service system in Linn County and this area of the state, the student will become informed about the service needs that exist and the responses to those needs. Social Work majors who believe they have completed and equivalent to this course should contact the instructor to discuss whether they are required to take this course. (offering winter term.)

SW 210 Substance Abuse: 3 semester hours

This course describes commonly abused drugs and specific mental illnesses, how they interact, and the resulting impact on individuals, families, and communities. The course will introduce theories of the addictive process, prevention and treatment options for both substance abuse and mental illness, and the dilemma of dual diagnosis. This course is not intended to provide specific counseling of therapeutic skills, but a general knowledge base essential to social work and other disciplines. Prerequisite: SO 122, PS 101 and at least sophomore status. Exemption from prerequisites by consent of instructor. (Not offered every year).

SW 225 Aging In America: 3 semester hours

An overview of gerontology, including the major theories used to explain the biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging. The status of the aged in America today will be examined from an historical perspective. Current issues and trends related to finances and retirement, health, living environments, and politics will be presented. Emphasis will be placed on the uniqueness of successive aging generations and students will be utilizing the knowledge acquired in the course to formulate ideas and proposals for responding to the needs of the future aging population. Format will be a combination of lecture and class discussion. Prerequisite: SO 122.

SW 226 Social Welfare Policies and Programs: 3 semester hours

This course examines the development of major social welfare policies and programs in the United States. It seeks to sharpen the student's ability to analyze the relationship of policy to social program, and the economic, political and ideological influence on policy and programs in the fields of housing, health, mental health, substance abuse, unemployment, and corrections are studied. Prerequisite: PO 111 and sophomore status.

SW 232 Social Work Practice I: 3 semester hours

This is the first course in the social work practice sequence. After examining the historical and current purposes and function of the social work profession within the context of the social welfare institution, students are exposed to an ecological systems approach to entry level generalist social work practice. Emphasized are the value and knowledge base of the profession; the nature and importance of the professional helping relationship; the bases of diversity and its role in social work practice; generalist practice with a variety of client populations and in a variety of fields of practice; and a direct and indirect intervention with both small and large systems. Students will be exposed to the general method of practice, and there is a detailed treatment of worker actions at the various stages of the method. Case studies (written and video) will stress the applicability to populations of varied racial and cultural background. There is also a 30 contact hour observation and counter component in this course. This course is prerequisite for all other social work practice courses. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

SW 235 Family Child Welfare: 3 semester hours

This course analyzes the dilemmas and issues that confront child welfare practitioners as they carry professional roles. It will provide a theory base from which to proceed in service delivery, emphasizing the special work done in family preservation and out of the home care. Legal, social, and economic-political developments that influence this field of practice are included. Recommended: PS 124, SW 226. (Not offered every year).

SW 245 Basic Helping Skills: 3 semester hours

This is an experientially-based course focusing on the values, knowledge, and skills necessary to work in the helping professions. The course provides a model of helping, including communication and basic interview techniques for working with individuals, families, and groups. Class format offers role-plays, simulation exercises, audio-visual feedback, discussion and lecture. The course is open to all majors. First priority goes to students who need this course to complete a requirement for their major. Prerequisite: PS 101 and sophomore status.

SW 250 Human Sexuality: 3 semester hours

This course constitutes an overview of the many dimensions of human sexuality: biological, cultural, social moral, psychological, and emotional. The aim of this course is to increase students' knowledge and understanding of both the sexual individual and the sexual society in hopes that they can develop the awareness and skills to enhance their own life and the lives of those around them. Topics include sexual dysfunction, changing sex roles, sexual variations and orientation, issues of reproductive freedom, sexuality transmitted diseases, and the exploration of sex and sexuality. Prerequisites: An introductory course in psychology or one in human biology or permission of the instructor. (Not offered every year).

SW 265 Diversity in America: 3 semester hours

This course takes a broad view of minority groups in contemporary America. It will address socioeconomic barriers facing such groups as women, ethnic and racial minorities, gay men and lesbian women. Emphasis will be given to developing and understanding of and sensitivity to the minority experience and an appreciation of diverse cultures and life styles. First priority goes to students who need this course to complete their major.

SW 280 Marital and Family Interaction: 3 semester hours

This course is an examination of marriage as expressed in contemporary American society. It will treat such topics as legal aspects of marriage, dating and mate selection, motivations of couples to be married, patterns of adjustments to marriage, stages in the life cycle of marriage, and stresses commonly associated with the stages. It also will deal with such contemporary phenomena as contract and open marriages, the high incidence of separation, divorce, and remarriage and dual career marriages that include or exclude children. The emphasis will be on the dynamics of the interpersonal relationship. Prerequisites: PS 101, SO122 or equivalent, or relevant life experience.

SW 300 Human Behavior and the Social Environment: 3 semester hours

The emphasis of this course is to provide the student with a social systems framework for analyzing and understanding the transactions between humans and the systems in their environment. Students will be expected to draw on content they have had in prerequisite courses, applying it to the framework. Their information base also will be supplemented by reading and discussion. Although the content of this course is developed within a social work framework, it is relevant to many students. Prerequisites: PS 101, SO 122, BI 123 (or equivalent), PS 124.

SW 320 Social Work Practice II: 3 semester hours

Students will use the systems model of social work intervention to study effective generalist involvement with individuals and families. The purpose of social work at these levels and related worker roles and tasks will be emphasized. Theories of intervention will be examined for their contribution to an eclectic knowledge base appropriate to the demands of contemporary social work practice. A strengths-based orientation to practice with diverse populations is emphasized. Prerequisites: SW 232, SW 226 and present enrollment in or prior completion of SW 245 and SW 300.

SW 330 Social Work Practice III: 3 semester hours

This course examines social work practice with large systems. Students explore change models specific to working with organizations and communities. Each system is studied to understand its internal organization and functioning, and its linkages with other community systems. Special attention is also given to the role of politics: the effect of politics on social workers, clients, and human service agencies; the social worker's fit with political activism; and the strategies to affect change within the political arena. Students use their critical thinking skills to assess, implement, and evaluate change in organizational, community, and political activities; to acknowledge the presence and etiology of social, political, and economic injustices; and to recognize change opportunities that provide for empowerment of oppressed groups. Prerequisites: SW 232, SW 226, SW 300, PO 111, and current enrollment or prior completion of PO 326.

SW 346 Group Theory And Practice: 3 semester hours

This course is an experimental approach to examining interpersonal dynamics in organized groups by studying such concepts as conflict, communication, decision-making, authority, creativity, conformity, and group development. Study will be directed toward acquiring basic skills and knowledge needed to become an effective participant and facilitator in groups. Attention will be given to both task-oriented and growth-oriented groups. This course is interdisciplinary; Social Work majors who believe they have completed an equivalent to this course should contact the instructor to discuss whether they are required to take this course. Prerequisite: PS 101 or SO 122.

SW 361 Foundation Field Instruction: 6 semester hours

This educationally directed, field-based course is designed to provide an introduction to the application of theory to social work practice. Students will have an opportunity to experience both direct and indirect service with individuals and large and small systems. Students will spend 12 hours per week in the field placement where they will be supervised by an agency staff member and a Social Work faculty member. Students will be expected to do related readings, assignments, and recording of service delivery experiences. A concurrent seminar will meet two hours per week. This course is graded pass/fail. Prerequisites: SW 226, SW 232, SW 245, SW 300, and PO 326.

SW 435 Senior Seminar: 3 semester hours

An examination of current issues in Social work practice and social welfare policies with emphasis on integration of field experience and content covered in courses required for the social work major. Topics researched are analyzed in light of the major themes and content areas developed throughout the social work curriculum. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all other courses required for major.

SW 445 Social Work Independent Study: 3 semester hours

Limited to social work majors.

SW 461 Advanced Field Instruction: 10 semester hours

This educationally-directed practical experience builds on the junior field instruction and allows students to increase their ability to practice social work in a community agency. Students will spend 24 hours per week in the field placement where they will be supervised by an agency staff member and a social work faculty member. Students will be expected to do related readings, assignments, and recording of service delivery experiences. A concurrent seminar will meet two hours a week. The course is graded pass/fail. Prerequisites: SW 320, SW 361, and full acceptance into the major; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in SO 215.

SW 462 Senior Field II: 4 semester hours

This course is an educationally directed field experience in some aspect of generalist social work practice. It will involve the student in a social service agency for 12 clock hours per week per term. Students will be expected to do related readings, recording of case or agency experiences, and meet with agency supervisors and department faculty for educational guidance. This course is graded pass/fail. This does not substitute for SW 461 and must be taken concurrently or subsequently to SW 461. It does not satisfy the elective requirement for the major. Prerequisite: permission of department faculty.