

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - FALL TERM, 2009-2010

B.A.S.W. PROGRAM

Required

SOCWRK 1000 - Introduction to Social Work **3 cr.**

Explores social work in terms of what the profession seeks (its goals); what it does to achieve those goals (its direct practice methods); which principles are to be reflected in all professional social work activity (its values and ethics); how the profession evolved (its history); which social issues are of particular concern to social workers (its special mission re: poverty, racism, sexism, among others); what types of agencies/services involve professional social workers (its fields of practice); and how effective is professional social work (its evaluative systems).

SOCWRK 1005 – Foundations of the Welfare State **3 cr.**

Engages students in analyses of the nature and impact of economic/political/social ideologies and forces which shaped the evolution (up to 1935) of western and other civilizations' responses to the poor, unemployed, sick and disabled, displaced, children- and families-at-risk, widows and orphans, racial/ethnic groups, among others, in its midst.

SOCWRK 1010 – Practice Model: Helping People Help Themselves **3 cr.**

Guides students in value-based, culturally-sensitive, generalist model professional skill development in utilizing effective techniques of worker-client communication; structuring helping interviews; establishing, maintaining, and terminating effective working relationships; and applying the data collection-assessment-intervention-evaluation processes involved in generalist practice with client systems of various sizes.

SOCWRK 1013 – Social Work with Groups **3 cr.**

Guides students in value-based, culturally-sensitive, conceptually framed professional skill development in preparing knowledgeable assessments of the needs of treatment-oriented and task-oriented groups as client/client systems; establishing facilitative worker relationships with such groups; guiding group activities and processes so as to maximize group goal(s) attainment; and applying techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of practice activity with groups.

SOCWRK 1015 - Human Behavior and Social Environment **3 cr.**

Engages students in analyses of bio-psychological and socio-cultural factors which facilitate and/or inhibit effective human interactions with such systems in the social environment as family, group, neighborhood and community, employment, housing, health care, and education with special emphases upon evaluating the impact of social class, gender, sexual orientation, and racial/ethnic group membership.

SOCWRK 1020 - Introduction to Social Work Research **3 cr.**

Engages students in exploration and analyses of such research concepts as research methods, measurements, sampling and surveying, single-case designs and guides value-based, culturally-sensitive professional skill development in scientific inquiry, problem-formulation, planning and implementation of research designs, analysis of data, and assessment of research.

SOCWRK 1024 - Practicum Seminar and Lab 1

3 cr.

Engages students in analyses and evaluation of their own value-based, culturally-sensitive professional growth and development re: knowledge, values, and skills of generalist practice as evidenced by their application in the field of theories, methods, and techniques learned in prior and concurrent academic and field work. Engages students in the exploration of such topics as field instruction, supervision, and evaluation; understanding social agencies and the social service delivery systems of which they are a part; and the applicability of specific generalist practice methods and techniques to the client systems with which the students interact in field placement.

SOCWRK 1025 - Practicum 1

6 cr.

Engages students in first term senior year structured, educationally- and agency-supervised field placement assignments involving entry-level generalist practice activities with clients in a human service agency for three 8-hour days per week, 13 weeks. Engages students in development and implementation of field learning objectives, activities, and evaluative processes which continue value-based, culturally-sensitive, conceptually framed development of professional knowledge, values, and skills.

Electives

SOCWRK 1030 - Directed Study

1-6 cr.

Provides the opportunity for student-initiated, faculty-guided student learning experiences which significantly supplement the social work curriculum and conform to academic course content expectations.

SOCWRK 1059 - Child and Family Advocacy

3 cr.

This course will have a dual emphasis on a) the wide variety of legal issues (including effective courtroom appearances) that affect the child and family, and b) identifying and mobilizing the needed agency and community resources that will support and enhance children's services. In either area, there will be a focus on the social worker's role as an active advocate for children and families, and on the skills needed to carry out this role.

SOCWRK 1063 – African-American Health Issues

3 cr.

Course will focus on African-American health issues from analytical, theoretical and practical perspectives. These perspectives will be introduced through cross-examination of health topics which are critical to the African-American population, the development of health policies and conceptual models for health promotion and disease prevention.

SOCWRK 1079 - Child Welfare Services

3 cr.

Engages students in the study of child welfare, its historical roots, the services provided to families and children, the problems and policy issues in the current child welfare system and culturally competent practice. The study will focus on the etiology, rationale for service, and the current and future provision of services, with emphasis given to legislative mandates for service.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - FALL TERM, 2009-2010

M.S.W. PROGRAM

Core Courses

SWGEM 2034 - Foundations of Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations **3 cr.**

This foundation practice course focuses on issues of diversity and oppression by utilizing empowerment as an over-arching framework for social work practice. Students will be prepared to respond to the needs of diverse populations including racial and ethnic groups as well as responding to issues regarding gender, disability and sexual orientation.

SWBEH 2063 - Human Behavior and Social Environment **3 cr.**

Utilizing systems paradigms as an organizing framework, this course explores the bio-psychosocial development of individuals in the context of family and community. The goal of this course is that each student develop an understanding of the complexity of human behavior within social work environmental context and in relation to stages of human development.

SWWEL 2081 - Social Welfare **3 cr.**

This course focuses on the history and development of the social welfare system in the USA. Attention will be paid to: the concepts used to discuss and explain social welfare institutions' policies and programs; the mechanisms and structures used to deliver social services and the factors that have tended to constrain or facilitate the attainment of social justice in the USA. Particular attention will be paid to specific populations that have been negatively affected by social change resulting from political, industrial and economic progress, e.g. women, children, the elderly, the poor and racial/ethnic minorities.

SWGEM 2098 - Generalist Foundations of Social Work Practice ± Field Seminar **3 cr.**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, values, and skills needed to engage in the generalist practice of social work. There is a common base to all social work practice and specializations. Thus, this course will emphasize professional activity related to various social problems (poverty, racism, and sexism among others), system size (individual, family, group, organization, community, society), and locations of practice (home setting, the urban environment, for example). Students will be introduced to an eclectic base of knowledge, to the mastery of processes of change, and will be encouraged to develop and enhance a set of essential helping skills. The field seminar is designed to prepare the student to enter their field experience, and to present a concrete opportunity for students to integrate, synthesize and apply classroom and field learning. It includes both the seminar and 180 hours of foundation field work.

Second-Level Research

SWRES 2009 - Organizational Research

3 cr.

This course is the second level, required research course for COSA students primarily focused on social administration. Examination of variables which influence organizational development and maintenance, adaptation and change, integration and innovation, and goal setting and planning will provide the focus for the course. Completion of a major research paper is required.

SWRES 2023 - Directed Study in Research

3 cr.

A supervised experience in designing, implementing, and reporting an individually defined empirical research project. This option is offered for more advanced students who wish in-depth experience in independent research, as an alternative to research courses specified as fulfilling the second core research requirement. Research Coordinator's approval is required.

SWRES 2033 - Evaluation Research in the Social Services

3 cr.

Students must be in field placement during the term in which they are registered for this course. This course provides content on research methods that can be used to evaluate social work programs. The course emphasizes the importance on identifying the causal links between practice and outcomes and describing/measuring program outputs, quality and outcomes. Several different forms of evaluation are discussed as they relate to program planning, program monitoring and program outcomes.

SWRES 2045 - Qualitative Research

3 cr.

This course will introduce students to selected methods of qualitative research. These methods are applicable to investigating questions which arise in social work practice situations and can be used to evaluate interpersonal practice. Qualitative designs, data acquisition strategies, and analytic techniques, including the use of computers, will be examined through both formal descriptions and studies that exemplify their use.

SWRES 2047 – Community-Based Participatory Research

3 cr.

This course is the second level, required research course for COSA students primarily focused on community organizing. Students completing this course will be able to better understand theories, principles and methods of applied, action research with communities and community partners, as well as how community-based participatory research (CBPR) is used in community planning and organizing to address local issues and social needs. This course is coordinated with COSA field placements in the East End of Pittsburgh, especially Homewood, and will serve as an integrated field seminar for these students.

SWRES 2051 - Single Subject Research

3 cr.

Students must be in field placement during the term in which they are registered for this course. This course teaches students to use the single-subject research method to evaluate social work interventions. Students will learn to use this research method as a part of direct practice for assessing clients, monitoring the delivery and implementation of intervention plans, and for evaluating client change during the course of intervention and following termination of client services. Topics include principles of evaluation, measurement and research design. The course will be divided into theoretical and practical knowledge. First, there will be lectures and discussion of topics assigned; second, there will be an hour laboratory to go over specific topics discussed previously, exercises and learning how to develop their own measurements. Each student is expected to carry out a project during the course.

Second-Level Behavior

SWBEH 2008 - Human Behavior: Urban Environment

3 cr.

This course is the second level, required human behavior course for COSA students. This course deals with collective behavior and societal values relative to key urban issues, particularly race, gender, and poverty. Guest experts will lecture, with the course drawn together, coordinated, and enriched by a single instructor or wide experience, both in teaching and in running a large, innovative agency.

SWBEH 2062 - Human Behavior: Children and Families at Risk

3 cr.

This course is designed to examine the strengths and needs of children and families at risk. Building upon the knowledge and skill acquired in foundation HBSE, this second-level course will examine the concepts of risk and resilience in relation to individual functioning, family functioning, and the broader social, political, and economic context. The effects on parent and child development of poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing, inadequate health care, inferior educational opportunities, community violence and the relationship between these macro factors and the internal issues in the family (drug and alcohol abuse, mental health concerns, family violence, and child maltreatment) will be examined. Emphasis is placed upon issues of ethnicity, class, culture, religion, sexual orientation, and gender in developing effective assessment and intervention strategies. Prerequisite: 2063 HBSE or special permission of the instructor.

SWBEH 2065 - Human Behavior: Mental Health

3 cr.

This course views psychopathology by stages in the life cycle. The course outline identifies some, not all, of the psychopathologies and deviant behaviors that social workers and members of other helping professions who were interested in the development of this course have suggested are common to particular stages of development. What should be noted about the psychopathologies that are identified is that some of them begin early in life and continue throughout life, being modified by growth and development. Others begin later in life or are specific to a particular stage in the life cycle. A representative selection of major categories of mental disorder will be addressed although it will not be possible to examine all of them in class. Emphasis will be placed on learning and applying the DSM-IV. Enrollment preference given to mental health certificate students.

SWBEH 2066 – Human Behavior: Health/Mental Health

3 cr.

This course addresses physical and mental pathologies and promotes the understanding of related deviant and dysfunctional adaptation. The problems identified and studied are those common to the various stages of the developmental life cycle.

Second-Level Welfare

SWWEL 2056 - Health Systems and Public Policy

3 cr.

Building on a background knowledge in social welfare, this course focuses on issues and problems in the U.S. Health Care System including the historical development of healthcare, the structure and function of the health care system, current and proposed financing mechanisms and the social, political and ethical issues which shape health care policy.

SWWEL 2057 - Mental Health and Public Policy

3 cr.

Priority to students completing the Mental Health certificate. Historical development of mental health policies and the structure of the mental health delivery system and the policies and legal base that guide it. Special emphasis is given to how policies affect the care of persons with chronic mental illness.

SWWEL 2059 - Child and Family Policy

3 cr.

The responsibility of a society for the well-being of all its children is the basis for a vast body of public policy, enormous public expenditures, and much public debate. This course will examine the interaction between public child welfare policies and other child and family oriented policies in our society; the history of services for children and their families; federal and state legislation, court decisions, and regulations regarding child protection and child welfare; public and private programs and services in existence or needed to provide for the welfare of children; the roles of social workers and other professionals in the child welfare system; changing family patterns and the policy implications of these changes; the major needs of families to which family policies are or should be addressed; and the vehicles for formulating and implementing child and family policies.

SWWEL 2087 - Organizations and Public Policy

3 cr.

This course is the second level, required policy course for COSA students. This seminar emphasizes and examines the relationships between public policy and organizational behavior. Particularly attentive to the influence of political and economic variables on human service institutions, the course examines selected historical phenomena in order to better understand future prospects. Students will read a variety of scholarly and applied literature which critiques the utility of the prevailing social welfare paradigm.

Required Skill Courses

SWINT 2031 - Advanced Direct Practice: Cognitive/Behavioral

3 cr.

This course builds on the student's knowledge of cognitive-behavioral theory gained in the prerequisite course of "Models of Intervention". The course will focus on the cognitive-behavioral model in terms of its application to direct practice with individuals (children, youths and adults), families and groups. Emphasis will be placed on the assessment procedures and interventive strategies unique to diverse cognitive/behavioral models. Particular attention will be paid to empirical methods of monitoring and evaluating client(s)' progress. Issues critical to culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disabled individuals will be examined for their relevancy to a cognitive-behavioral practice.

SWINT 2032 - Advanced Direct Practice: Social Systems

3 cr.

This course focuses on the new and developing applications of systems to practice. Innovations and techniques of this approach include advanced networking, case management, extensive use of family systems, group dynamics, and natural support systems.

SWINT 2033 - Advanced Direct Practice: Psychodynamics

3 cr.

Building on the student's knowledge of psychosocial theory gained in the prerequisite courses in "Generalist Practice" and "Models of Intervention", this course will focus on the psychodynamic theoretical frame of reference and its applications.

SWINT 2082 - Models of Intervention

3 cr.

This course examines selected basic treatment approaches to provide a foundation for second-year advanced clinical practice. It includes models based on psychosocial, cognitive/behavioral and social systems theories and their influence on practice decisions with various client populations. Students will apply and practice assessment, intervention, and evaluations skills using these approaches, while comparing and contrasting their application.

SWCOSA 2084 – Social Administration

3 cr.

This course seeks to train professionals to develop, manage and lead community service organizations that address human service needs and revitalize communities. This course will address the social work leadership and management competencies as defined by the national association for social work managers, which include: 1) contemporary social and public policies; 2) advocacy; 3) public/community relations and marketing; 4) governance, 5) planning; 6) program development and management; 7) financial development; 8) evaluation; 9) human resource management; 10) staff development.

SWCOSA 2088 – Community Organizing

3 cr.

This course will provide a framework of systems, power, and inter-organizational network theories, and will define communities in terms of issues, identity and place. Social work values of social and economic justice, participation, democratic practices, social inclusion, empowerment and capacity building will serve as a foundation for this course. This course will explore models of community organizing, including: locality development, social planning and social action, as well as transformative, participatory, feminist, community building and power-based models. Students will examine consensus, campaign, and contests strategies and tactics relative to these models and the techniques for recruiting and mobilizing citizens and constituencies to address social issues and build on local assets.

Skill Electives

SWINT 2004 - Death and Dying

3 cr.

Methods of intervention with the suicidal and terminally ill patient and his family, covering ethical problems related to right to life and right to death issues, explication of Kubler-Ross' five stages of dying, religious orientations.

SWCOSA 2014 – Disability Leadership

3 cr.

This course focuses on disability related services, policies, procedures and interventions. Leadership issues related to a full range of disabling conditions will be explored within the context of a micro and macro change framework.

SWINT 2018 - Clinical Skills in Psychopathology

3 cr.

Prerequisite: SWBEH 2065 - HB: Mental Health or SWBEH 2066 - HB: Health/Mental Health. This course is an introduction to the concepts and techniques employed in clinical work with severely mentally ill and/or chemically dependent clients. Categories of disturbance will include: schizophrenia, mood disorders, other psychoses, severe personality disorders and alcohol and/or other substance abuse. The overall purpose is to equip the beginning practitioner with the knowledge and skills requisite for working with the types of clients most commonly seen at public mental health/drug and alcohol services. Since this is a required course for Mental Health certificate students, they will have first priority for enrollment.

SWINT 2025 - Social Work Practice in Health Care

3 cr.

In this advanced direct practice course, students will examine the substantive knowledge, technical skills, and value dilemmas of social work practice in a variety of health care settings: acute, primary, long term and rehabilitative care, public health, and managed care settings. The impact of technological advances as well as the refinancing of health care will be explored in relation to day-to-day social work practice in these settings. Students must have a fundamental knowledge of foundations of generalist practice, health care policy, and have or concurrently be completing a field placement in a health care setting.

SWINT 2030 - Direct Practice with the Elderly

3 cr.

The range of interpersonal practice with, and on behalf of, the elderly is defined in terms of primary, secondary and tertiary levels of preventive intervention. The social work roles and interventive skills used in case management are taught. Psychosocial/systems, cognitive/behavioral and other treatment approaches central to social work are examined and evaluated for their application to an eclectic-based intervention with older clients.

SWINT 2035 - Family Violence

3 cr.

This course examines the dynamics and treatment implications of working with family members who have experienced various forms of physical and/or sexual maltreatment from other family members. Physical and sexual child abuse, spouse abuse and marital rape are topics of concern.

SWCOSA 2038 - Supervision and Personnel Management in Social Work

3 cr.

This course focuses upon the techniques, processes, methods and resources employed by supervisors, managers and other administrators to assure the highest quality social services are delivered in the most effective manner. Historical roots and trends; organizational and administrative theories; and research findings and conclusions provide the foundation for examining current supervisory and personnel management practices. Practical applications are included. Direct practice students are welcome.

SWINT 2042 - Social Work with Drug and Alcohol Abuse

3 cr.

This course will provide a basic orientation to alcohol and drug abuse as problems requiring social work interventions. Emphasis will be placed on examining a variety of treatment approaches in providing services to alcoholics, drug abusers, and their families. Special efforts will be made to focus the content on the needs of working populations experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs, as well as their families.

SWINT 2046 - Planned Short-Term Treatment

3 cr.

Planned short-term treatment will be presented as an alternative to (not a substitute for) open-ended approaches. A pluralistic theoretical framework, highlighting contributions from the interpersonal and social learning orientations, will be examined and the major research studies supporting short-term intervention reviewed. Particular attention will be paid to the goals and process of the initial interview and a series of major change strategies-- behavioral rehearsal, task assignment, skill training, and cognitive restructuring--will be illustrated and discussed.

SWINT 2049 – Direct Practice with Children

3 cr.

This course focuses upon clinical assessment, models of intervention, and practice skills relating to direct practice with children and their families. Ecological and family systems perspectives will be utilized to examine competencies, strengths, and risk factors associated with the health and development of children. Attention is directed toward the impact of family life events and transitions, solution-focused practice, and systemic intervention with families, schools, service systems, and the community. Special areas of focus include psychiatric disturbance, bereavement and suicide, chronic illness, parental illness and addiction, and child maltreatment.

SWINT 2053 - Social Work Practice with Groups

3 cr.

Theory and concepts related to advanced social work practice with groups, including knowledge of group types, processes, selection, and composition, as well as group leader roles and functions are all considered.

SWCOSA 2054 – Leadership & Teams

3 cr.

This course examines theories about leadership and provides students with feedback on their own leadership styles. Leadership skills are defined and applied. Teams, as one context for demonstrating leadership, are explored in depth and methods for recognizing and managing group dynamics are introduced. The course combines theory with practical application. It is highly participative and students are expected to join in a wide range of exercises and simulations.

SWINT 2063 - Child Abuse and Neglect: Sexual Abuse Cases

3 cr.

The class will focus on identification, diagnosis of, and intervention in, child sexual abuse cases. The role played by the perpetrator, the victim, and other family members will be considered, as will intervention strategies for each of these individuals.

SWCOSA 2092 – Organizing for Community Change: Issue, Labor, and Political Organizing

3 cr.

This course will prepare students for community organizing strategies and tactics that support social change and advocacy across timely social and economic justice issues; promote labor and union organizing; or empower political action and political office.

Substantive Electives

SWGEM 2007 – Social Work and the Law

3 cr.

This course will provide students with a basic understanding of the law, legal processes, and legal systems as they relate to social work practice and an introduction to the field of forensic social work. The course will challenge students to think about the variety of ways that social work practice, social policy, and law intersect. In particular, it will focus on specific aspects of the intersection between law, policy, and practice, including: the significance of courts and case law to issues of social justice, the intersection of social work and law on issues of significance to social workers, models of legal reasoning/decision making, the role of social workers in legal proceedings, the role of social workers in using the law for social reform or protection of civil rights, the use of social science by courts, legal regulations and case law that influence social work practice, and tensions between the law and social work values and ethics.

SWGEM 2058 – Feminist Social Work

3 cr.

This course focuses on gender and social work, beginning with a critical examination of the concept of feminist practice, with attention to oppression, power, and privilege in helping relationships and in women's lives more broadly. It explores meanings of gender as it intersects with race/ethnicity, class, sexuality, age, and ability in the lives of women in general and specifically as social workers and clients. Taught in a seminar format, this course examines topics such as work, welfare, family, violence, justice system involvement, health, mental health, and women as agents of change and is appropriate for students concentrating in micro or macro levels of practice.

SWWEL 2020 - Child and Family Advocacy

3 cr.

This course will have a dual emphasis on a) the wide variety of legal issues (including effective courtroom appearances) that affect the child and family, and b) identifying and mobilizing the needed agency and community resources that will support and enhance children's services. In either area, there will be a focus on the social worker's role as an active advocate for children and families, and on the skills needed to carry out this role.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - FALL TERM, 2009-2010

PH.D. PROGRAM

SWRES 3020 – Research Methods 1

3 cr.

This course explores the basic concepts and principles of empirical research as a method of seeking answers to issues relevant to social work practice. We focus first on the goals and methods of research, and the decisions that researchers make in shaping their research design. We will examine empirical articles exemplifying these research strategies, and students will have a chance to apply these concepts to a series of written assignments throughout the semester. Survey research methodology will be emphasized.

SWRES 3022 – Capstone Seminar 1

1 cr.

This second-level research seminar builds on the first-year research foundations courses of SWRES 3020, 3029, and 3021. Each student will generate a theoretically-driven, testable research model of at least three variables. During this term, students will develop their model and review relevant theoretical and empirical literature, develop and pretest the survey instrument, and begin data collection. In addition to learning and applying survey research methodology, this seminar will examine the special contributions and challenges of qualitative research methods and use of secondary data.

SWRES 3024 - Directed Study-Research Practicum

3 cr.

Provides students an opportunity to work with faculty on research projects carrying out specific research skills leading to publication of findings.

SWRES 3029 – Inferential Statistics

3 cr.

SWRES 3029 has a prerequisite of a descriptive statistics course. This course places inferential statistical principles in the framework of social science and social work research. The statistical principles and procedures are demonstrated and carried out, using computer programs, primarily the SPSS package.

SWWEL 3030 – Evaluation of American Social Welfare

3 cr.

This course focuses on the history and development of the social welfare system in the USA. Attention will be paid to: the concepts used to discuss and explain social welfare institutions' policies and programs; the mechanisms and structures used to deliver social services and the factors that have tended to constrain or facilitate the attainment of social justice. We will trace the development of social welfare policy within the context of the social and political economy of the period.

SWGGEN 3039 – Comprehensive Study

1-9 cr.

This course will be limited to doctoral students who have completed all courses but have not yet passed the exam, or who have two or fewer courses to take and need to be registered for full-time. Students may register for up to nine credits and may register for the course at most twice. The only grade option will be Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. The advisor will serve as the faculty of record.

SWGGEN 3044 – Theory 1

3 cr.

Introduction to social science theories relevant to social work research; critical analysis of theories; implications of epistemology for methodology; special Attention to theories related to the social environment.

SWWEL 3057 – Mental Health and Public Policy

3 cr.

Historical development of mental health policies and the structure of the mental health delivery system and the policies and legal base that guide it. Special emphasis is given to how policies affect the care of persons with chronic mental illness.

SWGGEN 3066 – Seminar in Social Work Education

3 cr.

History of social work education, accreditation, and design of foundation curriculum. Selecting educational objectives, teaching methods, evaluation of Student performance, and careers in social work education.