

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SUMMER SESSION, 2020-2021

M.S.W. PROGRAM

SWINT 2004 - Grief and Loss: Interventions, Implications And Understanding - 3 cr.

This course explores the various models used by social workers who are interested in meeting the complicated needs of grieving clients and their families. Knowledge based practice patterns rooted in the framework of the tasks of mourning, the mediators of mourning and a review of the dual processing model are provided across a wide range of populations and practice settings.

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.

SWINT 2011 - Social Work Practice with Families - 3 cr.

This course explores various basic models used by social workers for examining, understanding, and intervening in family processes. Video, role play, and case material are used in developing skills for advanced practice in working with families.

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 and at least an "A-" grade in SWRES 2021 - Foundations of Social Work Research. Not to be elected in student's term of graduation.

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.

SWRES 2033 - Evaluative 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.

SWCOSA 2040 - Grant Proposal Writing - 3 cr.

The objectives of this course are to acquaint students having limited or no experience in proposal writing and budgeting with some insight into the operation of several of the primary sources of funds for social welfare programs, some technical skills in approaching potential sources of funds and some experience in preparing and presenting a proposal of their own. No accounting background is necessary. In addition to proposal writing, other forms of fund raising are also covered.

SWINT 2042 - Social Work with Substance Abuse & Other Addictive Disorders – 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 2076 – Human Sexuality - 3 cr.

This course presents current research about human sexuality, discusses the range of sexual life-styles, and develops a treatment typology for therapists working with couples and individuals with sexual dysfunctions.

SWGEM 2080 – Race & Social Problems – 3 cr.

This course covers the history of race in the politics, economics, media, and social fabric of the United States. We go into detail about historical eras and major mechanisms of racial oppression, including large scale social and economic developments in the 20th century that have shaped the racial realities of the US today. We also discuss the degree to which current social phenomena perpetuate racial inequities in contemporary American society, such as mass incarceration and widely held race blindness beliefs. This course strives to help students understand why we see the current racial inequalities that we do in the contemporary US, particularly given the rich civic and cultural histories of West African and Native American societies. It also challenges students to develop ways to address racial injustices in the US where they exist.

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.