

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Course Number:** SW 310

**Unique Number:** 63410

**Semester:** Fall 2009

**Meeting Time:** MON & WED 12:30 PM –  
2:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** SSW 2.122

**Office Hours:** MON & WED 2:00 PM –  
3:00 PM or by appointment

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**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

**(Required Course – BSW Program)  
(Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag)**

**I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory social work course in which students will learn about the profession of social work, its fields of practice, values and ethics, policies and history of the social work profession, its interactions with contexts which shape practice, and its promotion of social and economic justice to advance human rights, alleviating critical social problems, and promoting well-being. The course will also offer knowledge and practice behaviors in engaging diversity and differences in social work practice. As an introduction to the social work profession, the course will discuss being a professional social worker and how to conduct oneself accordingly.

The course is also a UT Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag course and will focus on the underrepresented cultural groups of immigrants and refugees and women, covering the culture, perspectives and history of these groups.

The diversity of UT students and the diverse variables of their potential social work clients - as manifested by ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, social class, and religious beliefs - will be explored in the context of the social work helping relationship. Students will have the opportunity to assess their personal strengths and weaknesses and identifying potential ethical conflicts with clients. The course will offer the knowledge of principles and practice behaviors to guide professional ethical decision-making.

**II. STANDARDIZED COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate and apply knowledge, values and skills of the social work profession.
2. Demonstrate and apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice;

3. Demonstrate and apply knowledge about diversity and engage in diversity and differences in practice;
4. Explain the history of the social work profession and the American social welfare system.
5. Explain the various contexts and settings in which social workers practice, including the roles and functions that they perform, and respond to contexts that shape practice;
6. Identify some of the social, economic and political forces that have shaped the evolution of social welfare history, policies and services in the U.S.
7. Analyze the important ideologies, values and ethical decision making process in the NASW Code of Ethics that have helped to shape social welfare and social work and that continue to guide the profession.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of how diversity variables, such as race and ethnicity, gender, age and sexual orientation affect the helping relationship, especially with populations at risk.
9. Describe and analyze major issues and trends in various areas of social work practice, such as child welfare, gerontology, substance dependence and domestic violence.
10. Critically analyze how social services enhance the individual and social well being of people, promote social and economic justice, and advance human rights.
11. Develop an identification as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly, assuming the student is interested in majoring in social work.
12. Assess one's strengths and weaknesses as a potential professional social worker.

### **III. TEACHING METHODS**

Although a variety of teaching methods will be employed (e.g., lecture, videos, guest speakers, discussion, and group exercises), experiential learning (e.g., group projects) will be emphasized.

This course will use an electronic Blackboard site—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>—to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give students online quizzes and surveys.. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her e-mail address is correct on this site so that class e-mails are received. To reach your class site on Blackboard, please go to <http://courses.utexas.edu>. You will need a UT EID and password. The Help Desk, available through the UT home page ([www.utexas.edu/its/help/](http://www.utexas.edu/its/help/)), can assist you with your computer and blackboard questions. You can also call them at 475-9400. Additionally, the Learning Resource Center at the SSW has computers and computer assistance.

### **IV. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS**

#### **Required Text:**

DiNitto, D. & McNeese, A. (2008). *Social work issues and opportunities in a challenging profession*. Chicago,IL: Lyceum Books

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Due to the format and content of this course, both attendance and contribution are imperative. The other students in your class are dependent upon you for a quality learning experience; if too many students are absent, the class suffers. Students' participation is highly encouraged, and is both valuable to them and to their classmates.

- 1. Five Quizzes (not cumulative)..... 30pts
- 2. Volunteer Hours.....25pts
- 3. Five Volunteer Agency Forms (I,IIA, IIB, III, IV)..... 5pts
- 4. Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations...(Cultural Diversity Emphasis)15pts
- 5. Final Paper (Cultural Diversity Emphasis) .....20pts
- 6. Attendance and Class Participation ..... 5pts  
100pts

*\* Volunteer component grade will be based on the hours completed, subject to verification by instructor. To receive full credit for volunteer hours, all parts of the assignment must be completed. Up to 20 points may be deducted from the volunteer component grade for incomplete or poor performance on the forms, the logs, the individual paper or the group presentation. **If students do not complete at least 30 hours of the 45 hours volunteer hours, they may not pass the class.***

**REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Volunteer hours 25pts**

45 hours must be completed by the last day of class. This is a requirement for those who are planning to major in social work.

**2. FIVE Required Forms 5pts**

*Provide a set of the forms to your supervisor at the beginning of the semester for their records.*

Volunteer Agency Selection (Form I)	DUE 9/28/09
Volunteer Time Log (Form II A & Form II B)	DUE 10/19/09, 12/2/09
Agency Evaluation of Student (Form III)	DUE 12/2/09
Student Evaluation of Agency (Form IV)	DUE 12/2/09

**3. 10 Minute Volunteer Agency Individual Presentation 15pts**

Students are asked to provide a brief description of their volunteer experience. The oral presentation will include (a) description of the volunteering agency, (b) type of population served at the agency, be sure to discuss underrepresented women clients (c) social work related activities assigned to you at the agency (d) your strengths as a potential professional (e) your weaknesses as a potential professional.

Cultural Diversity in the United States is to be emphasized.

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION REQUIRED ON DAY OF PRESENTATION.

Individual Presentation Dates: 9/28/09,10/12/09,10/14/09,11/16/09,11/18/09, 12/02/09

Student will present on one of those designated dates.

#### **4. Final Research Paper**

**20pts**

There will be an 8-10 page, doubled-space, American Psychological Association (APA) format, final research paper on the topics of immigrants and refugees, advancing human rights and social and economic justice, and ethical decision-making. Cultural Diversity in the United States is to be emphasized.  
DUE 12/02/09

#### **5. Quizzes**

**30pts**

Five quizzes will be given on the major textbook throughout the course.

Dates: 9/16/09, 10/05/09,10/26/09,11/09/09,11/30/09

#### **6. Class Participation**

**5pts**

This will be determined on attendance and the quality of participation in class discussion, homework assignments, and small group exercises. Class readings and assignments will require *informed* classroom participation. This is worth 5% of the total grade.

#### **GRADING POLICY/GRADING CRITERIA:**

Beginning Fall 2009 UT is adopting a +/- grading scale for undergraduate courses.

The UNDERGRADUATE GRADING SCALE is

100-94=A

93-90= A-

89-87=B+

86-84=B

83-80=B-

79-77=C+

76-74=C

73-70=C-

69-67=D+

66-64=D

63-60=D-

59 and below=F

Each class requirement has been assigned points. Half-points may be given (e.g., 9.5).

**To receive an "A" in this course you must have excellent attendance, participation, and you must produce work that is of superior quality.** A grade sheet for each assignment will be handed out in advance so that students will have a clear understanding of what they will be graded on and how much weight will be given for each specified evaluative criterion.

**Grades will be assigned as follows:**

90-100 points	A (excellent)
80-89 points	B (above average)
70-79 points	C (average)
60-69 points	D (below average)
59 points or below	F (failing)

Grading of all written assignments will take into account the quality and content of the writing. The American Psychological Association (APA) – 5<sup>th</sup> edition format should be used when relevant. Written material should be carefully proofread and errors (punctuation, typographical, spelling, etc.) corrected prior to submission.

**VI. CLASS POLICIES**

**1. Participation and Attendance**

Students are expected to attend class sessions regularly and to participate in an interactive framework between collegiate students and professor. Students are expected **to complete the readings PRIOR to class** and should be well prepared to participate in discussions and experiential learning assignments. Failure to regularly attend the class and demonstrate through discussions that one has comprehended the readings will be considered in assigning the final grade.

Students will be allowed **two (2) unexcused absences**. Role will be taken each class period. In cases where a student misses more than the allotted two unexcused absences, the professor reserves the right to lower that student's final grade by one point for each class missed beyond the first unexcused absence. In extenuating circumstances of absence, students are to notify the professor. **Students are responsible for any material missed due to absences.** Any student missing more than six classes (excused or unexcused) maybe in jeopardy of not passing this course. There may be homework assignments based on discussion and films shown in the class are due on the assignments dates and will be counted towards 5% participation grades.

Instructors are responsible for implementing attendance policy and must notify students of any special attendance requirements. Special regulations of colleges and schools, required by the unique nature of their programs of study, may be enacted through the normal approval process. These special regulations may not conflict with University regulations on class attendance and absence.

**2. Religious Holidays**

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. For more information:

### **3. Late Assignments**

Except in the case of extreme emergencies, and then only with the permission of the professor, late assignments WILL NOT be accepted without penalty. Students are expected to turn in all required assignments on the agreed upon due date at the beginning of class. Assignments not turned in class on the day it is due will be considered late. If accepted, late assignments will be assessed point penalties at the rate of **three (3) points** each day late. If the due date is a problem, then the student should see the professor and negotiate another due date well in advance.

Make up quizzes will not be given unless an alternative arrangement was made with the professor prior to the day of the quiz.

### **4. Student Achievement**

Student Achievement in meeting course objectives will be evaluated on the following written, oral, and in-class experiential assignments, regular and punctual class attendance, and informed class participation based upon class readings/assignments.

### **5. Student Feedback**

Student feedback is welcome either informally or formally about class room learning and content, the teacher's teaching strategies, peer relationships, scheduling, or other items. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback during office hours, by phone, by e-mail, and by appointment if they desire.

### **6. Professional Conduct in Class**

The professor expects students to act like professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism.

### **7. Assignment Changes**

The instructor reserves the prerogative to change class assignments as needed to meet the course objectives. The changes will be discussed with the students in class or by email before implementation.

### **8. The University of Texas Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

### **9. Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).

#### **10. Documented Disability Statement**

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

#### **11. Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

#### **12. Safety**

As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

#### **13. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)**

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

#### 14. Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made.

Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

#### **VII. Course Schedule**

Date	Class Session	Readings To Be Read BEFORE Class meeting
Aug 26	Introduction/Syllabus Review Volunteer Requirement	Distribute Handouts
Aug 31	What is Social Work?	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 1
Sept 2	Volunteer Opportunities Guest Speakers	Handouts: 1) Guide to Volunteering 2) List of Possible Volunteer Placements
Sept 7	Labor Day---No Class	
Sept 9	Theory and Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 2
Sept 14	Practice with Organizations and Communities Video: Once Upon a Time Welfare Made a Difference	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 3
Sept 16	Social Work and Child Welfare System QUIZ #1	
Sept 21	Culturally Competent Practice: Immigrants and Refugees (Cultural Diversity Emphasis) Video: Rain in a Dry Land	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 4
Sept 23	Culturally Competent Practice Victims of Human Trafficking	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 4

	(Cultural Diversity Emphasis) Video: Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking	
Sept 28	Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations VOLUNTEER FORM I DUE	
Sept 30	Gender and Social Work Practice (Cultural Diversity Emphasis) Video: To Stay or Not to Stay	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 5
Oct 5	Social Work Practice with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered People (Cultural Diversity Emphasis) Video: Assault on Gay America QUIZ #2	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 6
Oct 7	Mental Illness and Social Work Practice	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 7
Oct 12	Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations	
Oct 14	Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations	
Oct 19	Addictions and Social Work Practice VOLUNTEER FORM IIA DUE	DiNitto & McNeese Ch 8
Oct 21	Social Work Practice in Health-Care Settings	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 9
Oct 26	Disabilities: The Fight for Inclusion Continues QUIZ #3	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 10
Oct 28	Social Work with Children and Families Video: Transracial Adoptions	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 11
Nov 4	Gerontological Work	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 12
Nov 9	Poverty in the United States QUIZ #4	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 13
Nov 11	Social Work Practice in the Justice System	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 14

Nov 16	Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations	
Nov 18	Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations	
Nov 23	Rural Social Work Practice	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 15
Nov 25	International Social Work Video: Lost Boys of Sudan	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 16
Nov 30	Social Work Professional Education Quiz #5	DiNitto & McNeese Ch. 17
Dec 2	Volunteer Agency Individual Presentations Final Research Papers DUE VOLUNTEER FORMS IIB, III, IV DUE	

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

September 16	Quiz #1
September 28	Volunteer Form I
October 5	Quiz #2
October 19	Volunteer Form IIA
October 26	Quiz #3
November 9	Quiz #4
November 30	Quiz #5
December 2	Volunteer Forms IIB, III, IV
December 2	Final Research Paper

**ONE OF THESE DATES WILL BE ASSIGNED FOR YOUR INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION:**  
September 28 or October 12 or October 14 or November 16 or November 18 or December 2