1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

During New Student Orientation, varied social work topics, or themes, will be presented as foundation-level mini-courses inviting students to share, explore, engage, and discover the vast world of social work. This course will emphasize experiential, active, and engaged learning components and operationalize the three SEED goals: 1) Strengthen connection and community at the School of Social Work, 2) Explore PODS (privilege, oppression, diversity, & social justice), and 3) Learn foundation-level social work skills. Each theme will begin by attending a shared welcome experience.

This mini-course is designed to explore the history of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work and its evolution over time. DEI has become the buzzword for many campuses and other organizations as they are serving more diverse populations, but despite these efforts, many of these spaces still do not feel welcoming for all.

We will examine the social and structural conditions that have led to DEI social movements. Hear from community members who have been working to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in their practice. Students will explore how DEI may impact their experiences in the field when interacting with clients, communities, and the various systems that we must navigate as practitioners, as well as how their social
identities may impact their work in this arena. We will focus on centering the wisdom and experiences of underrepresented voices to inform our DEI efforts, and rethink how we engage in our professional practice as social workers at all levels (micro, mezzo, macro). As we move throughout the course, we will utilize a PODS focus to envision the future of where this work and the social work profession should be headed.

**Course Objectives:**
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be better able to:

1. Explore PODS (privilege, oppression, diversity, & social justice) and how issues of diversity, equity and inclusion intersect with the social work profession.
2. Examine the ways in which our intersecting identities, life experiences, positionalities, etc. impact our work with diverse populations.
3. Apply DEI principles into their social work practice as a student and a professional.

**Course Design:**
During this course, we will utilize a variety of formats to engage student learning, including the use of lectures, video, guest speakers and participation in experiential activities. Students will work in a small team throughout the mini-course to develop a presentation and strengthen their connection with classmates. They will also build connections with members of the School of Social Work community through the guest presentations which will highlight current practice issues and trends in the field.

**2. CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

**Text and Class Materials:**
This class will utilize Canvas, where all articles and reading materials as well as lecture slides and handouts will be posted. Login to the Canvas portal at: [https://canvas.umich.edu](https://canvas.umich.edu) to access the course materials. Students are expected to read articles prior to class. These will help inform classroom discussions.

**Required Readings:**


Class Schedule:

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| **DAY 1** Tuesday, August 27 1-5 PM | • Welcome, Introductions  
• Review Syllabus, Course Objectives, and Schedule  
• Community Building  
• DEI and the Intersections of Social Work Practice  
• Guest Speakers - Current MSW Students: **Florence Alexander, Anwesha De, and Jacqueline Ramsey**  
• Introduction of Group Presentations |
| **DAY 2** Wednesday, August 28 8:30 AM - 12 PM | • Anti-Racism training  
• Debrief  
• Developing a Personal Diversity Statement  
• Small Group Work |
| **DAY 3** Thursday, August 29 8:30 AM - 2 PM | • Future Directions of Social Work  
• **Guest Speaker: Elizabeth González**, U-M Spectrum Center’s Education & Training Program Manager  
• Lunch & Student Union welcome  
• Small Group Presentations  
• Wrap up, next steps |
Grading & Attendance:
In order to successfully pass this class, students should be punctual, attend all course sessions, participate and engage in large and small group discussions, including the in-class group presentation, and submit the required diversity statement. Make-up sessions are only allowed with permission of the instructor. The link to the School’s Policy on Class Attendance found in the MSW Student Guide. This course is offered Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

A follow up brown bag lunch discussion will also be planned later in the Fall to review and reflect. The date for this session will be determined collectively based on students’ availability.

Assignments:
Students who are enrolled in this course will:

- Participate in class activities and discussions, including a group presentation.
- Develop a Personal Diversity Statement (details will be provided in a separate handout). Submit via Canvas by Sunday, September 15th at 11:59 PM (EDT).

3. ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Proper use of names and pronouns:
All students will be referred to by the names and pronouns they use (e.g. she, they, ze, he). If you have a name that differs from the one that appears on the roster, please inform the instructor before the second class period so that they use your correct name and pronouns. Students can designate their personal pronouns on the class roster via Wolverine Access: Student Business > Campus Personal Information > Gender Identity.

There are two inclusive restrooms in the SSW building: room 1784 (1st floor, near Registrar’s Office) and B833T (Lower Level). Click here for the Spectrum Center’s map of gender inclusive restrooms on campus.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:
If you are in need of an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. Additional information about accommodations for students with disabilities, as well as a list of appropriate accommodation forms, is available here.
Please present the appropriate paperwork at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation (test, project, etc.).

For more information, contact:
Services for Students with Disabilities
G-664 Haven Hall | 505 South State St.
(734) 763-3000 | ssdoffice@umich.edu

Writing skills and expectations:
Strong writing and communication skills are essential to students’ academic success and professional career. The Writing Coordinator for the School of Social Work is open to meeting with students during any phase of the writing process. The Writing Coordinator’s office is housed within the Career Services Office. The Career Services Office also offers workshops, resources and individual assistance to help improve skills and confidence in written communication.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact:
SSW Writing Assistance
Career Services (Room 1696; (734) 763-6259; ssw-cso@umich.edu)

APA formatting:
Any social work assignments presented as professional papers or presentations should utilize APA formatting. Review the MLibrary APA Citation Guide as needed. The Purdue Owl website is another helpful resource for assistance with APA formatting.

Academic integrity and plagiarism:
Plagiarism is prohibited in any academic writing at the University of Michigan. More information on academic integrity policies can be found in the MSW Student Guide. Additional School and University policies, information and resources are available here: https://ssw.umich.edu/standard-policies-information-resources. They include:

- Safety and emergency preparedness
- Mental health and well-being
- Teaching evaluations
- Religious/spiritual observances
- Military deployment