Welcome to Introduction to Social Work Practice

SW 590.002
Fall 2020
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INTRODUCTION

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Course Objectives

- This course is designed to prepare you to successfully approach both social work education and social work practice.
- It will introduce you to key social work ideas, values, concepts and skills, including the code of ethics, social work's grand challenges, and the role of privilege, oppression, diversity and social justice.
- Essentially, we are trying to give you a solid, grounded base on which to build your social work practice.
Today’s Learning Objectives

- Gain an understanding of the requirements, structure and assignments of this intro to social work course.
- Understand social work as a profession and key roles social workers perform across system levels.
- Become familiar with the UM School of Social Work program and professional, graduate education.
- Become familiar with Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) competencies and their relationship to the social work profession.
Assignments

Three Assignment Categories:

1. Master Assignment: Social Work Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Regular, brief assignments
3. Portfolio
Master Assignment – Social Work Ethical and Professional Behavior

Set of cumulative, reflective responses that result in a final paper related to ethical and professional behavior.

**Milestone 1:** Describe why you selected social work as a profession

**Milestone 2:** Reflective essay about your values and ethics (*What?*)

**Milestone 3:** Brief essay about why your values and ethics matter (*So What?*)

**Milestone 4:** What will you do next with this knowledge about your values and ethics (*Now What?*)
Regular, Brief Assignments

Brief assignments through the semester that relate to the content of the previous class

Discussion Prompts:

- Weeks 1-3
- post and respond

Letter to your Future Self:

- Week 4
- Imagine yourself at the end of the program
- Helps you think now about what you’re working towards
Portfolio

Develop a web-based portfolio in Portfolium

Collection of accomplishments, skills & experiences

**Step 1:** Complete the training module

**Step 2:** Begin setting up your profile (Profile tab) with the introduction

**Step 3:** Upload your master assignment (Portfolio tab)
Why might transitioning to graduate school be challenging?

Professional School
A school that prepares students for careers in specific fields.
MSW Education

Training ground/chance to practice
- With clients, peers, faculty
- Challenge yourself to take risks and trying new things

Self-reflection and critical thinking
- Beliefs, learning, how & why you make decisions, etc.
- Want, seek and use feedback

Provider of services rather than receiver
- Training you to serve others
- Handling triggers and managing emotions
University of Michigan
School of Social Work Program
8 Pathways At UM SSW

- Community Change
- Global Social Work
- Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse
- Management and Leadership
- Policy and Political Social Work
- Program Evaluation and Applied Research
- Social Work Practice with Older Adults and Families from a Lifespan Perspective
- Welfare of Children and Families
Essentials
Introduction (1 cr) & Capstone (1 cr)
Foundation PLUS
- evaluation (3 cr)
- advanced policy (1 cr)

Pathways
Advanced offerings
Align with career plan
8 Pathway options

Field Experience
Link to essentials and pathways

Specialized Electives
Mix and match
Interprofessional or interdisciplinary (2 cr)

20 Credits
12 Credits
14 Credits
14 Credits
Social Work Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
4. Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
5. Engage in Policy Practice
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Social Work Competencies

- Knowledge
- Values
- Skills to practice
- Cognitive and affective processes
  - critical thinking
  - affective reaction (physical and emotional)
  - exercise of judgement
Introductions & Ice Breaker
Discussion:

- What brought you to Social Work?
- What pathway(s) might support your goals? Why?
Wrap up & next steps

NEXT CLASS: Monday, 9/21/20
6-9 pm
In person - B760

IN-CLASS Discussions #1 and #2
1. Intro/Icebreaker
2. Choosing a Pathway

Canvas Discussion #1
1. Post your response
2. Comment on at least 2 classmate posts

Master Assignment: What, So What, Now What
1. Milestone 1

Readings/videos
1. JigSaw
2. Group formation
   a. Group 1: NASW Code of Ethics
   b. Group 2: Social Work Grand Challenges
   c. Group 3: NASW Cultural Standards & MOOC on Cultural Humility
3. Two other (reading & video)