



Course title:	MicroMasters Skills Lab
Course #/term:	[SW 718], [Fall, 2020]
Time and place:	[Monday], [5:00 PM – 8:00 PM]
Credit hours:	3
Prerequisites:	None. Only students in the MicroMasters track will enroll in this course
Instructor:	[Justin Hodge, LMSW]
Pronouns:	[he, him, his]
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Office:	[3743 SSWB]
Office hours:	By appointment

1. Course Statement

Course Description

This laboratory course is designed for students who completed the School of Social Work MicroMaster’s program. The course will focus on tying together concepts and developing practical skills for interpersonal practice, community organization, management, policy and evaluation, including tools and techniques for successful work in the field. This course provides opportunities for hands-on experience and training using tangible tools that are critical for success in interpersonal and macro practice. Special emphasis will be placed on approaches that strengthen socially just and culturally sensitive practice.

Course Objectives & Competencies

1. Demonstrate through applied assignments the core foundation social work skills learned in the MicroMasters certificate courses. (Competencies 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
2. Reflect and integrate learning across the MicroMasters foundation certificate courses, with an emphasis on privilege, oppression, diversity and social justice (PODS). (Competencies 1, 2, 3)

Course Design

This course is designed to be interactive and seminar/discussion focused. Because of the hybrid nature of this course, students will be expected to structure their time to complete the course activities, largely outside of class. The course will revolve around several major assignments, with project groups meeting regularly through the semester. Discussions/seminars will be used as consultation throughout the term. This course supplements the learning that occurred in the MicroMasters certificate courses and focuses more on skill development.

2. Class Requirements

a. Text and class materials

Either of the following books are required for this course:

[Just Mercy](#): A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson, ISBN-13: 978-0812984965 ISBN-10: 081298496X.

[The Sun Does Shine](#): How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row by Anthony Ray Hinton, ISBN-13: ISBN-13: 978-1250124715

I will place additional required readings in on Canvas, arranged by module. Students are expected to have completed all assigned readings prior to class.

b. Class schedule

Refer to the “Modules” section on Canvas for the class schedule. Readings, assignments, and other activities are organized by class session in that section.

c. Assignments

Assignment instructions and rubrics will be posted on Canvas in the “Assignments” section. All assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the dates listed.

In addition to participation in class and weekly online discussions, there are four major assignments:

Assignment #1: SIMmersion Simulations

During your MicroMasters courses, you had an opportunity to learn and understand the various theories that influence the field of social work. During this class, you will have the opportunity to complete several simulations (SIMmersions) that allow you to put those theories into practice as well as explore real-world scenarios.

These simulations provide you with a chance to practice social work skills in an online environment, with an online “client.” For this assignment, you will review the lessons within each simulation, and complete each simulation 3 times each, with at least 1 passing score. As you complete each simulation, be conscious of issues of oppression and injustice that impact the client and respond appropriately.

You will receive an email from info@simmersion.com. To gain access to the simulations, open the email from SIMmersion and verify the link. If you do not receive this email by the first day of class, please inform the instructors.

You will also complete a case note and process recording for each SIMmersion client using provided templates

Finally, you will select a SIMmersion client to complete a treatment plan using the guidelines provided. Then, you will review your work with the simulation modules and critically evaluate your developing skills related to these evidence-based models.

Assignment #2: Book Discussion

You will select either “Just Mercy” or “The Sun Does Shine” to read throughout the duration of the course for a book discussion in Week 10. As your selected book should be completed by Week 10, it is recommended that you read at least 30 pages per week to ensure completion by or before Week 10. Choose and purchase your book and begin reading from now until Week 10. You may choose to purchase a hard copy of your selected book or utilize other platforms (Audible, Kindle, etc.) for your reading. As you read your selected book, please ensure that you maintain a record of personal notes and reflection during your reading.

Assignment #3 Policy-focused Op-ed

This assignment has two components, the reading of a book, and the development of an op-ed based on the issues brought forth in the book or from a topic covered during your MicroMasters program. You will then write an op-ed on an issue related to criminal justice reform. The goal of the op-ed is to provide background on a policy debate and to make policy recommendations that are informed by social work values of promoting social justice, equity, and diversity. Be sure to review the Grand Challenges website for additional insight into how its key themes connect with your selected issue. This op-ed will allow you to:

- Explore a broad domain of social welfare policy
- Gain expertise on a single, specific, social welfare policy within that broader domain
- Understand how policy can be used as a vehicle for social change

Assignment #4: Macro Social Work Assignment

Social work is much more than interpersonal practice; it involves group, organizational, community, and policy practice. Therefore, in an effort to gain experience across the range of social work practice areas, you will be assessing community and organizational issues, developing intervention plans, and presenting your solutions to constituents who can impart change on the issues.

This is a group assignment, designed to span the length of this course to help you pull together what you have learned about macro practice throughout the semester.

Assignment	Due date	Percent of overall grade
SIMmersion Simulations	See Canvas for due dates for each component.	30% Total
Book Discussion	We will spend class on 11/9/2020 discussing the book you selected.	10%
Policy-focused Op-ed	11/15/2020	30%
Macro Assignment	12/6/2020	30%

d. Attendance and class participation

Both class attendance and active purposeful participation in class discussion and activities are paramount for the successful completion of this course. This course covers a content domain that is extensive, and given the time framework of the course each class moves quickly in discussing information.

e. Grading

Please review the MSW Student Guide policies on [Grades in Academic Courses and in Field Instruction](#) as well as [Student Grievance procedures](#).

Final grades will be determined on the basis of performance. Letter grades will be allocated as follows:

100+	A+	77-79	C+
93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
		<60	E

f. Class Recording and Course Materials

Audio and video recording of in-class lectures and discussions is prohibited without the advance written permission of the instructor. Students with an approved accommodation from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities permitting the recording of class meetings must present documentation to the instructor in advance of any recording being done. The instructor reserves the right to disallow recording for a portion of any class time where privacy is a special concern. If the instructor chooses to record a class, they will decide which classes, if any, are recorded, what portion of each class is recorded, and whether a recording is made available on the course management website. On days when classes are recorded, students will be notified a recording is occurring. Class recordings and course materials may not be reproduced, sold, published or distributed to others, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the instructor.

g. COVID-19 Statement

For the safety of all students, faculty, and staff on campus, it is important for each of us to be mindful of safety measures that have been put in place for our protection. By returning to campus, you have acknowledged your responsibility for protecting the collective health of our community. Your participation in this course on an in-person/hybrid basis is conditional upon your adherence to all safety measures mandated by the state of Michigan and the University, including maintaining physical distancing of six feet from others, and properly wearing a face covering in class. Other applicable safety measures may be described in the [Wolverine Culture of Care](#) and the [University's Face Covering Policy for COVID-19](#). Your ability to participate in this course in-person/hybrid may be impacted by failure to comply with campus safety measures. Individuals seeking to request an accommodation related to the face covering requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the [Office for Institutional Equity](#). If you are unable or unwilling to adhere to these safety measures while in a face-to-face class setting, you will be required to participate on a remote basis. I also encourage you to review the [Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [COVID-related Addendum to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

h. Health-Related Class Absences

Please evaluate your own health status regularly and refrain from attending class and coming to campus if you are ill. You are encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention for treatment. School of Social Work students who miss class due to illness of any kind will be given opportunities to access course materials online or provided with alternative learning opportunities. Please notify me by email about your absence as soon as practical, so that I can make accommodations. Please note that documentation (a doctor's note) for medical excuses is not required.

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*
- *Proper use of names and pronouns*
- *Accommodations for students with disabilities*
- *Religious/spiritual observances*
- *Military deployment*
- *Writing skills and expectations*
- *Academic integrity and plagiarism*