



COURSE TITLE:	New Leaders in African-Centered Social Work Capstone Seminar
COURSE NUMBER:	759 (Section 1), Thursdays 6:00 – 9:00 (Starting Oct. 1st)
CREDIT HOURS:	1
PREREQUISITES:	None
LOCATION:	SSWB 1840 (ECC)
SEMESTER:	Fall 2020
FACULTY:	Trina R. Shanks, Ph.D.
CONTACT INFO:	Office: 3726 SSW (734) 764-7411 trwilli@umich.edu
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:15-6:00 Other times by appointment

Note:

Our first three class sessions will be October 1st, October 15th, and October 29th. Our last two classes will depend on student presentations and when community members are available to attend. However, these final classes are still likely to take place on a Thursday evening during our scheduled class time.

Seminar Description

This course is designed for students in the New Leaders in African-Centered Social Work (NLACSW) scholars program. Using a portfolio model, students will integrate knowledge gained from NLACSW-required courses, their field placement, and support and consultation meetings with other coursework and learning experiences related to their method and practice area concentrations. Participating students will consult with faculty advisors, instructors, agency staff, and/or peers in developing the portfolio. Before the end of the term, students will present their ideal plans for working with the African/African American population to an audience of community leaders. This will occur in class, but also possibly at their field placement agency or in another School of Social Work/University venue if relevant.

Seminar Objectives

Upon completion, scholars in this seminar will:

1. Identify the salient elements of their experience as a NLACSW scholar;
2. Demonstrate knowledge around an African-centered perspective;
3. Demonstrate knowledge about issues and interventions in African American communities and the role of social work in this context;
4. Generate an integrative learning ePortfolio that integrates skills, theory, and knowledge acquired by students during their master's level experience in the NLACSW scholars program.

Course Design

While using the lecture/discussion mode as the primary pattern, class sessions will also include skill building activities and exercises, speakers, and videos.

Theme Relation to Multiculturalism & Diversity: Multi-culturalism and Diversity will be addressed by examining how culture, ethnicity, and race intersect with multiple social identities to impact the development of services and delivery of interventions in African American communities.

Theme Relation to Social Justice: Scholars will critically assess their commitment to and skills for enacting change toward social justice goals. The role of the social worker will be discussed as reflected by their individual experiences and reflection.

Theme Relation to Promotion, Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation: Scholars will consider both micro and macro interventions and the relationship of quality of service in African American communities.

Theme Relation to Behavioral and Social Science Research: Behavioral and Social Science Research will be incorporated throughout the course, drawing on the history and impact of service to African American communities and implications for practice.

Relationship to SW Ethics and Values: Social Work Ethics and Values are of central importance in thinking about work in African American communities. Topics such as values, cultural, and religious difference, and differential access to resources should be addressed. The NASW Code of Ethics are available to give students direction about ethical issues.

Seminar Requirements:

1. Scholars must attend each scheduled meeting. If there is an emergency or illness, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

2. Completion of a reflection activity and ePortfolio. Through the integrative portfolio-based learning process, the author (i.e. scholar) is in control of their own learning and development and therefore the outcomes from this process can be richly diverse as well as continuous.

In addition, our class will have a Canvas website where other required updates and announcements will be posted. Login to the Canvas portal at: <https://canvas.umich.edu> to find the course materials.

Assignments & Grading

There are two (2) primary assignments for this course as well as an expectation of attendance and class participation when we meet as a group. These assignments are summarized below.

Grading for the seminar will be satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U).

Seminar Assignments

1. **Reflection Activity** - Developing your Personal/Philosophy Statement (4-page maximum)

- a. What has motivated you to pursue social work as a career?
-Reflect on any personal, academic, and work related experiences that influenced you.
- b. Upon graduation, what area of work would you like to be involved in? What communities and groups of people would you like to work with? And why?
- c. How will what you have learned in the social work program prepare you for this work?
-Reflect on course assignments and activities, your field placement experience, and your involvement in other social work or university activities.
- d. What skills have you acquired through your participation in the New Leaders in African-Centered Social Work scholars program? How will you apply these skills to practice?

2. **ePortfolio and Oral Presentation**

Develop a web-based professional portfolio using the Portfolium platform. Complete the online module that addresses each component of the ePortfolio building. The online module is located at <https://ssw.umich.edu/my-ssw/eportfolios>

The Portfolium platform submission should include the following:

- a. Personal/Philosophy Statement
- b. Resume
- c. A minimum of 3 Key Learning Experiences/Work Projects (grants, presentations, program development activities, etc.)
-When possible embed/attach Supporting Documentation with each Key Learning Experience

-One of the key learning projects should include a discussion of your goals and ideas about how you would like to work in the African American community in the future. This will be presented the last day of class to a community panel. This one project should represent a new product and not just the reposting of a previous assignment.

PLEASE NOTE:

Accommodations

If you have a disability or condition that may interfere with your participation in this course, please schedule a private appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations for your specific needs. This information will be kept strictly confidential. For more information and resources, please contact the Services for Students with Disability office at 734-763-3000 in room G-664 Haven Hall.

Also, if religious observances conflict with meeting dates or due dates for assignment, please notify the instructor so we can discuss appropriate arrangements.

Student Mental Health and Wellbeing

University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** at (734) 764-8312 and <https://caps.umich.edu/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselor physically located in the School of Social Work, (Alejandro Rojas) by email aroja@umich.edu. You may also consult **University Health Service (UHS)** at (734) 764-8320 and <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mentalhealthsvcs>, or for alcohol or drug concerns, see www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources.

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](#).

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.

Recording Class

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 in advance that a recording will occur and be provided with an option to opt-out. 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.

Safety & Emergency Preparedness

In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1 from any cell phone or campus phone.

All University of Michigan students, faculty and staff are required to familiarize themselves with emergency procedures and protocols for both inside and outside of the classroom. In the event of possible building closure (i.e. severe weather conditions, public health notices, etc.) you may contact (734)764-SSWB (7793) for up-to-date School closure information.

For more information view the annual Campus Safety Statement at <http://www.dpss.umich.edu/>.

Register for UM Emergency Alerts at <http://www.dpss.umich.edu/emergency-management/alert/>.