



Course Title: Social Work Capstone

Course #/term: SW 699 Section 006 Fall 2021

Time and place:

Thursdays 2-5pm, SSWB Learning Lab

Credit hours: 1

Instructor: Beth Sherman, Associate Clinical Faculty

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Contact info: Email: Shermanb@umich.edu

1. Course Statement

This Capstone course will provide students an opportunity to reflect on their social work education, as well as look forward to their future social work career. Students will explore concepts of professional resilience and social work identity, as well as gain an understanding of lifelong learning as a core value of the social work profession. The course will provide an opportunity for students to integrate and apply learning from their academic career in a comprehensive manner. The course will assess the students' overall mastery of social work competencies, as demonstrated through products produced over the course of their study and collected in a professional portfolio. Students will be given the opportunity to develop a cover letter and resume, as well as explore interviewing and negotiating skills necessary to secure a social work position upon graduation.

a. Course description:

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b. Course objectives and competencies

Identify the importance of lifelong learning, including the effective use of supervision and consultation (Essential 37; EPAS 1).

Demonstrate the use of effective communication strategies to market yourself as a professional social worker (Essential 41; EPAS 1, 6, 8).

Develop a plan for professional resiliency (Essential 43; EPAS 1).

Apply the 4 core components of emotional intelligence to future growth as a social worker (Essential 42; EPAS 1).

Reflect on social work learning, especially related to key social work competencies (Essential 42; EPAS 1)

c. Course design

This course will use multiple methods including but not limited to: lectures, demonstrations, case studies, readings, guest speakers, discussions, written assignments, individual and group exercises. The course will make use of a computer based portfolio system.

d. Intensive focus on privilege, oppression, diversity and social justice (PODS)

This course will integrate PODS as the framework through which social work practice is viewed.

Students will explore how these concepts manifest in social work practice. Students will provide a demonstration of a product or assignment, and reflect on the relationship to PODS.

This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of theories, practice and/or policies that promote social justice, illuminate injustices and are consistent with scientific and professional knowledge. Through the use of a variety of instructional methods, this course will support students developing a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks and strengthen critical consciousness, self-knowledge and self-awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

e. Text and class materials

There are no textbooks required for this class

- Readings are posted on our Canvas Site
- MSW Candidates are expected to complete all required readings and other assigned course work prior to class'
- Required readings will be discussed/debriefed in class.
- Any additional resources, texts, readings, or web pages that are integral to the course. 2

f. Class schedule

DATE/TIME	AGENDA ASSIGNMENTS
Thursday, 9/9	Looking Back at your MSW See Canvas Site

Thursday, 9/23	Sharpening your professional Brand Part 1 See Canvas Site
Thursday, 10/7	Sharpening your professional Brand Part 2 See Canvas Site
Thursday, 10/21	Professional Identity and Resilience See Canvas Site
Thursday, 11/4	Lifelong Learning See Canvas Site

g. Assignments:

Mini-Assignment: Job Search	Due 9/22/2021 (10 pts)
Mini-Assignment: Resume Draft	Due 9/22/2021 (10 pts)
Mini-Assignment: Letter of Reference	Due 10/6/2021 (10 pts)
Milestone #1: Upload and Reflect on one competency	Due 9/30/2021 (10 pts)
Milestone #2: Update your portfolio profile	Due 10/14/2021 (20 pts)
Mini-Assignment: Completed Resume	Due 10/20/2021 (10 pts)
Mini-Assignment: Cover Letter	Due 10/20/2021 (10 pts)

Milestone #3: Final Portfolio & Competencies Due 11/17/2021 (25 pts) CSWE

h. Attendance and class participation (20 pts)

Attendance is a requirement. Students are expected to attend all 5, virtual/zoom classes and fully participate. Your grade will be negatively affected if you miss a class (-2 points for each missed class session). Communication with the instructor of any absence is expected (a failure to communicate any absence will result in an additional -4 points). Excessive absences (more than 1) will result in an overall failing grade for the course. Students are responsible for content information from missed classes.

Participation does not mean you need to talk a lot in class. It is more about bringing a positive learning attitude to the class and being present for each session. Each of us participates differently, and I will strive to honor that diversity among us. You will be required to engage in in-class exercises and discussions that includes engagement, providing collegial support, the use of active listening skills, initiating and participation in dialogue within group discussions. Please refer to the [Policy on Class Attendance](#) for further clarification. You will be expected to complete the milestone reflections and Canvas discussions even if class is missed.

i. Grading

Please review these policies in regard to grades. [Grades in Academic Courses and in Field Instruction](#) as well as [Student Grievance procedures](#) and the [policy for grading in special circumstances](#). You should expect to submit assignments no later than 5:00 pm on the due date in order to receive maximum points. It will be credit/no credit for all assignments.

Course Grading Scale (Total points available 175)

A (125-115 points)	B (101-95 points) C (84-78 points)
A- (114-108 points)	B- (94-90 points) C- (77-72 points)
B+ (107-102 points)	C+ (89-85 points) Fail (71 points and below)

Grading Policies

[Grades in Academic Courses and in Field Instruction](#)

[Student Grievance procedures](#)

[Policy for grading in special circumstances](#)

j. Class Recording and Course Materials

Audio and video recording of in-class lectures and discussions is prohibited without the advanced 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.

[Recording and Privacy Concerns FAQ](#)

k. 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. Your participation in this course is conditional upon your adherence to all safety measures mandated by the state of Michigan and the University, including properly wearing a face covering in class and compliance with the University COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. Other applicable and additional safety measures may be described in the Campus Maize & Blueprint. Your ability to participate in this course 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 and those seeking an exemption related to the vaccination requirement should submit an exemption request through Wolverine Access. 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.

I. 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*