1. Course Statement

a. Course description

Welcome to The Grad Workshop (TGW)! TGW is a newly formed workshopping space for in-progress writing projects by social work-affiliated students and scholars. TGW is guided by faculty facilitator Terri Friedline and joint doctoral student Anna K. Wood starting in the Fall 2021 semester. TGW aims to create a space where members of the UM SSW community can share writing and receive constructive, friendly, and helpful feedback.

TGW is designed to support joint Social Work PhD students in developing, presenting, and receiving feedback on their research and scholarship. Through opportunities to share their work, joint Social Work PhD students will also learn ways for tailoring their presentations to a Social Work audience. Joint Social Work PhD students are invited to present their research and scholarship, with work being “in progress” (e.g. not finished/polished) and guiding questions that seek feedback around its Social Work framing or orientation. TGW supports and challenges students with work-in-progress, enabling a space for thoughtful and constructive critique from a Social Work audience that represents a wide variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and training.

b. Course design

This course will be delivered online or remotely and will consist of: presentations, discussions, and written and verbal feedback to facilitate understandings of the course content. Class
sessions will be held over Zoom on Sept. 13th, Sept. 27th, Oct. 11th, Oct. 25th, Nov. 8th, Dec. 6th, and Dec. 13th.

c. Intensive focus on PODS

Attention to Privilege, Oppression, Diversity, and Social Justice (PODS) is at the very core of social work education, including research and scholarship at the doctoral level. In this class, topics related to research questions, theory construction, methods and data analysis, dissemination including conference and journal selections, etc. will be discussed with examples relating to PODS. Participants will be encouraged to consider how their research and scholarship relate to PODS.

2. Class Requirements

a. Text and class materials

Students have the option of signing up for a single credit associated with TGW by officially registering for SW 841. Expectations for credit-earning members of the workshop do not exceed expectations from any active community member of the workshop. Expectations for participating in TGW for 1 credit include:

- Reading presenter materials prior to workshops and coming with questions and feedback;
- Attending as many workshop presentations from the term schedule as possible (please try not to only attend presentations you find interesting on their face);
- Actively engaging with presenters and other workshop attendees.

b. Class schedule

The most recent schedule of presenters is provided below and will be updated as necessary. Presenters will email their writing once it is available and the instructor will post it to the Canvas site so that other participants can download and read presenters’ research and scholarship. Presenters are kindly asked to email their writing at least 5 days before their scheduled presentation so that all participants have a chance to read and provide comments. It is recommended that presenters provide some information that orients readers to their writing and describes their goals for the workshop (e.g., short background on the writing, questions for readers, guidance on the specific types of feedback that would be helpful for your work, etc.).

September 13th: Taha Rauf  
September 27th: Michelangelo Trujillo  
October 11th: Rita Hu  
October 25th: Lauren Whitmer
c. Attendance and class participation

If you have signed up for SW 841 for 1 credit, please attend as many workshop presentations from the term schedule as possible and engage with presenters and other workshop attendees.

d. Grading

For participants who have signed up for SW 841 to receive 1 credit, grading will take place on a pass (A grade) / fail basis, with the assumption that all student participants meet the expectation of providing feedback on presenters’ work and attending as many sessions as possible throughout the semester.

Additional information can be found in the MSW Student Guide for policies on Grades in Academic Courses (http://ssw.umich.edu/msw-student-guide/chapter/1.08/grades-in-academic-courses-and-in-field-instruction) as well as in the Student Grievance procedures (http://ssw.umich.edu/msw-student-guide/chapter/1.18/student-grievances) and the policy for grading in special circumstances (https://ssw.umich.edu/msw-student-guide/section/1.08.01/15/grades-for-special-circumstances).

e. Class Recording and Course Materials

A typical university policy on class recording and course materials states that audio and video recording of in-class lectures and discussions is prohibited without the advance written permission of the instructor. However, participants in SW 841 may wish to record feedback on their presentations and work. Recording will be determined on a week-by-week basis in agreement with the participants who have joined the session for that day.

The following represents a typical university policy on recording classes: 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. Participants will be notified if and when 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.
f. 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 WolverineAccess. 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.

g. 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