



<b>Course title:</b>	Introduction to Social Work Practice	
<b>Course #/term:</b>	590, 015, Fall 2022	
<b>Time &amp; place:</b>	Rriday, August 26 from 3-6 pm in-person in 1636 SSWB, Saturday, September 10 <sup>th</sup> Zoom Sunday, September 11 <sup>th</sup> Hybrid See the <a href="#">Course Schedule</a> for details	
<b>Credit hours:</b>	1	
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	N/A	
<b>Instructor:</b>	Katie Lopez	
<b>Pronouns:</b>	she/her/hers	
<b>Contact info:</b>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kalopez@umich.edu">kalopez@umich.edu</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 734-936-1964
	You may expect a response within 24-48 hours	
<b>Office:</b>	3640A	
<b>Office hours:</b>	By appointment	

## 1. Course Statement

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### a. Course description

Introduction to Social Work Practice will prepare students to successfully approach both social work education and social work practice. The course will introduce social work students to key social work ideas, values, concepts, and skills, including the code of ethics, social work's grand challenges and P.O.D.S. (privilege, oppression, diversity and social justice). Students will be oriented to social work education at the University of Michigan, including how professional graduate education may differ from past educational experiences, specialization options available, and the role of lifelong learning. Students will be introduced to a professional portfolio that they will use throughout their time in the program.

### b. Course objectives and competencies

- Develop a sense of belonging to the UM MSW program by interacting with fellow students and faculty.
- Describe ethical decision-making processes as applied to social work practice settings in a manner that reflects the laws, regulations, and code of ethics of social work (Essential 36, 44; EPAS 1).
- Identify how social workers ethically engage with technology practice (Essential 26;

- EPAS 1).
- Recognize how social work practice connects to the “Grand Challenges” (Essential 31; EPAS 2).
- Identify ways social workers can engage in social justice and anti-racism work (Essential 30, 45; EPAS 1, 2, 3, 5).
- Develop a self-care plan that includes elements across different domains (Essential 40, 43; EPAS 1, 6).

### 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.

### d. Course Relationship to P.O.D.S.

This course will introduce students to P.O.D.S. (privilege, oppression, diversity and social justice) as the framework through which social work education and practice can be viewed. Students will explore how these concepts manifest in social work practice, including in such places as the grand challenges or the code of ethics.

This course integrates P.O.D.S. 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 P.O.D.S. learning.

## 2. Class Requirements

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### a. Text and class materials

There is one textbook for this course, *Digital Portfolio Construction: A guide for showcasing Social Work Skills (First Edition)*, by Fitch, Ruffolo and Austin (2021). You will use portions of this book for this class, and portions in your capstone course that you take in your final semester (so you don't want to purchase the limited access e-book). You can purchase this book directly through the Cognella, Inc student store to receive discounted pricing and expanded format options. Purchase your course material here: <https://store.cognella.com/95864>

If you need any help with ordering from Cognella, feel free to email [orders@cognella.com](mailto:orders@cognella.com) or call 858-800-2675.

All other readings for this course will be copied or linked and made available on Canvas – the University online course management system. Information and instruction on [how to use](#)

[Canvas](#) is already provided by the university; therefore, no class time will be devoted to instruction on how to use this system.

Students are expected to have completed all assigned readings prior to class, as these will serve as the basis for class discussion, activities, assignments, quizzes and examinations.

b. Class schedule

Topics may be modified throughout the course, but ample notice will be provided. Refer to Canvas for the most updated class schedule. See the [course schedule](#) for details on the course meeting times and formats.

Date/Time	Topic	Readings & Assignments Due
Between August 21- 26 before 3 pm class		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review syllabus</li> <li>• Review Canvas course site</li> <li>• Complete “Getting started” sections</li> <li>• Complete all asynchronous work for Day 1 “Pre-Class Work for Friday”</li> </ul>
Friday, August 26	Session 1: Welcome and Introductions Cove Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Class Work for Friday</li> <li>• Post- Work for Friday</li> </ul>
Saturday, September 10	Session 2: Centering Justice Preparing to Practice Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Class Work for Saturday</li> <li>• Post- Work for Saturday</li> </ul>
Sunday, September 11	Session 3: Your Professional Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Class Work for Sunday</li> <li>• Post- Work for Sunday</li> </ul> <p><b>(Pay attention to post-Sunday class assignment due dates)</b></p>

c. Assignments

There are three categories of assignments for this class. The major assignment is a “What, So What, Now What” reflection assignment with a series of milestones. The second are regular, brief assignments, usually (but not always) taking the form of online discussions through Canvas. The third is the initiation of your portfolio. Each of these three are described below.

## 1. Master Assignment: Social Work Ethical and Professional Behavior

Master Assignment Summary: The master assignment for the Introduction to Social Work course is a set of cumulative, reflective responses that will result in a final paper related to social work ethical and professional behavior. It will use a reflective practice widely used in education and in clinical settings, known as "*what, so what, now what*." The assignment will span the semester, with milestones throughout the semester.

### a) Milestone 1

**Due 11:59 PM ET, Friday, Sept 9, 2022**

Upload the supplementary statement you submitted when you applied to the social work program. As a reminder, this statement asked you to accomplish a couple of things. Including:

- Discuss a social justice issue you would like to address in your career. What skills and knowledge would you like to obtain in the MSW program to support your career objectives?
- Describe how your personal and intellectual qualifications, past human service experience, and/or future goals are relevant to furthering social justice. Please use specific examples.

### b) Milestone 2: *What*

**Recommended Deadline: 11:59 PM ET, Saturday, Sept. 10th, 2022**

**Final Deadline: 11:59 PM ET, Monday, Sept. 12th, 2022**

The purpose of this milestone is to think about the values and ethics that drew you to social work or the type of social work you want to practice (hint: this is why we had you dig out & post your application essay). This is the "What." You will also reflect on why these values and ethics matter and how they play out around you. This is the "So What." Write a brief reflective essay, using the following prompts as a guide. You do not need to use all of the prompts but be sure you include reflections on both the "What" and the "So What." What social work values and ethics apply to your decision to become a social worker?

- What social work values and ethics apply to your decision to become a social worker or to focus on your area of interest? (WHAT)
- If you have a BSW, which apply to your decision to practice at a graduate level? (WHAT)
- Now that you have spent a couple of weeks in the social work program, how have the values and ethics emerged as important/relevant? (SO WHAT)
- How have you seen them play out in class? In field (if you are in field)? In relationships with others in the School? At work? In social situations? In the news? (SO WHAT)
- Reflect on ethical decision making. Why and when does this matter? (SO WHAT)

Rely heavily on course content (especially our Code of Ethics), including a thoughtful integration of lectures and readings, to identify these values and ethics and how they might be relevant to this area of practice. Move beyond simply listing them, but rather,

dig in, describe, and provide a context for the anticipated application of these values in practice.

Suggested length, 1.5 - 2 pages single-spaced.

- c) Milestone 3: *Now what*  
**Due: 11:59 PM ET, Friday, Sept.16th, 2022**

The purpose of this milestone is to take your reflections on your values to the next level and start thinking about future growth. The Code of Ethics discusses our ethical obligations to our clients, our colleagues, our profession, and our employers. As you reflect, consider:

- What are some next steps for you in your learning to further understand and implement your social work values and ethics in each of these areas?
- Where are your growth areas and how might you stretch yourself to further understand and practice ethically?
- How might this shape your future path, including entering a field placement?

Suggested length, 1/2 - 1 page single-spaced.

## 2. Regular, Brief Assignments

After each class session, you will be asked to do a brief assignment related to the content from the class. For weeks 1-3, these take the form of a discussion prompt through Canvas. In week 4, you will write a letter to your future self. Details for each of these assignments/discussions can be found on Canvas.

## 3. Portfolio

**Due: 11:59 PM ET, Tuesday, Sept. 20th, 2022**

In this assignment, you will initiate the development of a web-based portfolio using Portfolium. Portfolios are a collection of your accomplishments, skills, and experiences that can be shared digitally to promote your abilities. Even when students do not share their portfolios with others, the act of collecting products and reflecting on them helps students build a narrative that aids students in conversations with future employers.

This assignment has three steps:

- **Step #1:** Complete [the training module](#), which teaches you about building an ePortfolio in Portfolium.
- **Step #2:** Begin setting up your profile on the Profile tab by completing the *introduction* as described in the training module. You are welcome to add your resume, education and other information to your portfolio, but this is not required in this assignment.
- **Step #3:** Combine Milestones 2 & 3 (no need to include Milestone #1) of your assignment into a single document with headers to represent the various sections. Upload your assignment as a “project” in your Portfolium portfolio in the Portfolio tab.

#### d. Attendance and class participation

Students must arrive on time, engage in all course materials, and attend all synchronous class sessions for the course. It is expected that students participate actively and equally in class discussion, class assignments, and group activities - both online and in live sessions. Failure to do so could result in a non-passing grade. Please see the SSW [Policy on Class Attendance](#) found in the MSW Student Guide.

#### e. Grading

This class will be graded as Satisfactory (Pass) or Unsatisfactory (Fail). In order to pass this class (Satisfactory), you must fully attend all live class sessions, complete all pre and post class work, participate and engage in large and small group discussions, and submit class assignments (of satisfactory quality). The relative weighing of each course element is as follows:

- Standard Assignment: 50%
- Brief Assignments: 20%
- Portfolio: 20%
- Participation: 10%

Extra credit is available. Details are available on Canvas.

Please refer to the MSW Student Guide policies on [Grades in Academic Courses and in Field Instruction](#) as well as [Student Grievance procedures](#) and the [policy for grading in special circumstances](#).

#### f. Electronic Devices

Please minimize your use of cell phones in this course. Laptops, tablets, and screen readers may be used in class for reading and taking notes. However, electronics can function as a distraction in class and disrupt class discussion. If I find them to become distracting, I hold the right to disallow them or to minimize your use in class.

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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*