

BOSTON COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MSW ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2019-2020

SCWK 7724 Neurobiology of Stress Reduction and Resilience (Summer/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

This course examines the ways in which stress poses risk to healthy biological, psychological and social development. Using life course perspective and ecological systems theory (micro through macro), the course also highlights the characteristics, relationships, and contexts that increase resilience at each life stage (in utero through end of life). Circumstances relevant to social work (including but not limited to prenatal stress, trauma, bullying, violence, poverty and homelessness) are examined through the dual lenses of stress and resilience. Neuroscientific, genetic and related biological research is emphasized in the course. However, no background in biological sciences is required as a prerequisite.

SCWK 7725 Families Impacted By Military Service (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

This course explores how families are impacted by military service (FIMS) emphasizing the effects of military culture within which military families function. Stressors such as deployment, and the protective factors associated with military communities will be discussed. Attachment theory will be explored as it pertains to the loss and separation involved in long-term and sometimes repetitive deployment cycles. Substance use, anxiety, avoidance behaviors, and risk-taking behaviors will be discussed in terms of their impact on family life and family system functioning. Resiliency theory will be highlighted in terms of preventing or ameliorating post-deployment difficulties in families impacted by military service.

SCWK 7726 Neuroscience of Human Relationships & Development (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

Following human development from conception to end of life, the course provides students with an introduction to key neurobiological aspects (such as brain development and genetics) of the life course. Special attention is paid to examining the association between neurobiology and the nested layers and relationships in which development unfolds, including family, school, community and wider society/policy. Concepts important to social work (including but not limited to attachment, trauma, stress, social relationships, emotions, health and mental health) are addressed within various stages of development. No background in the biological sciences is required.

SCWK 7727 Substance Use Disorders (Summer/Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

A course providing an overview of alcohol/drug use, abuse, and addiction. Issues covered include high risk populations, poly-drug abuse, and families with alcohol-related problems. Several models and theories are examined and integrated with relevant treatment techniques and settings.

SCWK 7728 Global Perspectives on Gender Inequalities (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

A course designed to investigate cross-cultural perspectives of gender inequalities and how these inequalities affect women's physical health, mental health, economic status, families, and general well-being. Beginning with a framework for studying gender and ethnicity that will enable comparative analysis of women's issues among different cultures, the course focuses on basic concepts and theories that help our understanding of gender and culture. In addition, students will learn how to access cross-national data and statistics on women's social, physical, and psychological well-being.

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SCWK 7729 Public Health Social Work (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

Public health social work (PHSW) emphasizes health promotion and prevention as well as targeting populations through population-based strategies. The course integrates research on health topics, populations, and settings to learn about the field of PHSW and application of skills to real-world problems. A life course perspective is used to discuss health behaviors and outcomes through all stages of development and across a range of settings. The aim of the course is to provide students a unique perspective on social work from the field of public health by focusing on health promotion, prevention, and reducing disparities at the population-level.

SCWK 7733 Working with LGBTQ Youth, Families and Adults (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

This course blends macro and clinical practice in order to service LGBTQ people most effectively. Students will learn about policies, laws and societal narratives that impact LGBTQ people in both positive and negative ways. The course focuses on the integration of macro and clinical issues and best practice that respects all people regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation. Particular attention will focus on developmental models of gender identity and sexual orientation.

SCWK 7735 Social Determinants of Disparities in Health and Mental Health (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

While individual-level behaviors like diet and physical activity get the most public attention as determinants of health, the majority health is determined at levels beyond the individual. These higher-level risk factors are disproportionately distributed in the population, such that already vulnerable populations are systematically exposed to risks across the life course that create and exacerbate social inequalities in health and mental health. This class will provide social workers with tools to critically examine the social and economic origins of these disparities in health, and to evaluate the impact of specific social factors on health, mental health, and well-being. Through the use of lecture, discussion, and focused case studies, students will analyze the health impact of the contexts in which their future clients live, work, and play; explanations for persistent health disadvantages in populations with whom students might work; and individual and population strategies to address these health disparities.

SCWK 7777 Services to Migrants: A Border Perspective (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

The right to migrate and protective stance of sovereign nations creates an inevitable conflict. Along the US border with Mexico there has arisen a variety of responses by government, religious and community organizations that seek to address various aspects of migration. This field based study of policy and services will seek understanding of the conflicts, explore the wants and needs of migrants, pursue the social policies that impact migration north from Central America and assess the range of human services and their outcomes in the Nogales AZ corridor. (The course requires two weeks field time during the winter holiday.)

SCWK 7790 Global Citizenship: An Interdisciplinary Seminar (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

Today's world is a maelstrom of cultures, languages, races, perspectives, hopes, and challenges. One could withdraw into the comfortable confines of one's own culture, nationality, ethnicity, even one's own discipline, but the global citizen is called to live up to the challenge by knowing how to read the world and how to be a positive agent in it. In this course, we will look at some burning issues of our time: e.g., poverty, ecology, migration, and refugees. This exploration will be achieved in an interdisciplinary manner by combining the cross-perspectives of social work, law, and theology. To bring depth to our reflection, special attention will be given to the agent, herself/himself, called to face world issues through the existential notions of mission, values, and purpose/vocation. Furthermore, the seminar will feature an integrated community learning approach allowing students from the School of Social Work, School of

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Theology and Ministry and Law School to explore in-depth issues addressed in the seminar.

SCWK 7794 Immigrant and Refugee Issues in the United States (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

An overview of the prominent theories, major issues, and controversies in immigration policy is presented. While immigration has become a crucial concern of the American social welfare system as well as an issue of global urgency, immigration controls the fate of growing numbers of asylum seekers. The course will discuss the special needs and problems faced by immigrant and refugee clients and communities; adaptation and coping with a new culture; refugee experience; the impact of relocation on individuals, families, and communities; and a range of world view perspectives including acculturation & assimilation, biculturalism, marginality, and traditional ethnic identities.

SCWK 7799 01 Trauma Informed Psychosocial Interventions in Settings of Adversity: Global and Domestic Perspectives (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762 and SCWK 8800

This course provides a foundation for understanding and implementing mental health and psychosocial interventions in low resource settings and among culturally diverse populations in the United States and abroad. The interventions explored are trauma informed and designed for settings of adversity such as immigrant detention centers, juvenile justice settings, child welfare settings, and places and populations affected by forced and irregular migration, war, and infectious disease. The course will use a biopsychosocial approach to understand how interventions work to improve outcomes for beneficiaries at the individual, family, and community levels. Throughout the course, consideration is given to how domestic clinical work can inform global practice and vice versa. Emphasis will be placed on clinical interventions for individuals and groups that are supported by current and emerging research evidence about effective practice. In global settings, the course will focus on 'best practices' and international standards and guidelines for psychosocial and mental health work in humanitarian settings. The course will also focus on frameworks and policy interventions that strengthen community resilience.

SCWK 8808 Legal Aspects of Social Work (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

An examination of various areas of the law and legal implications of interest to social workers. The course provides a useful study of the framework of the American legal system, the process of litigation, and the constitutional principles of due process and equal protection. The seminar explores the interaction between social workers and lawyers by placing real life social work problems in a legal context. The format is designed to engage students in critical legal thinking and explore the relationship between social policy and the development of the law.

SCWK 8819 Social Welfare Policy Sequence (SWPS) Independent Study (Summer/Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

An opportunity to pursue in more depth either of the two Social Welfare Policy Sequence goals: (1) examination of the social, political, ideological, and economic context within which social welfare policies and programs are conceived and administered to meet social objectives and need; or (2) examination of alternatives in evaluating, formulating, and implementing social welfare policies and programs through an in-depth analysis of specific social welfare issues and their consequences upon human and social behavior and national priorities.

SCWK 8822 The Impact of Traumatic Victimization on Child and Adolescent Development (Summer/Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

A course that examines how stress, especially of a violent nature, can impact child and adolescent development. Exploration of selected theories and evidence-based practice will assist students in identifying skills necessary for effective clinical practice with children, adolescents, families, and communities coping with the consequences of traumatic exposure to violence. Students will be encouraged to reflect on the impact of exposure to the injured child

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and consider how their reactions may identify potential sources of lost empathy or uncover other personal vulnerabilities that might interfere with effective practice.

SCWK 8824 Practice in Home and Community Settings with Older Adults (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762 and SCWK 8800

An advanced course that explores the roles of micro and macro-level social workers with older adults in home and community settings. Beginning with a consideration of aging in place, the course addresses the person-in-environment challenges facing older adults living outside of institutional settings. Attention is given to protecting vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect, grandparents raising grandchildren, and older adults with disabilities. The course concludes with a discussion of the legal issues of competency, guardianship, and end-of-life decision-making while considering issues of diversity, including race, ethnic group, sexual orientation, and gender, that affect the appropriateness of services.

SCWK 8830 Social Work and Spirituality (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

This course explores spirituality as a core dimension of human development and as a necessary area of concern for social workers. We will consider both non-religious expressions of spirituality as well as spirituality shaped by religious traditions. We will explore how spirituality contributes to optimal human development and, in particular, the power of spirituality to advance psychosocial competence, coping, and well-being. Although all students will explore common questions and topics, as a group independent study, students will enjoy considerable freedom to shape the learning experience to advance their specific professional objectives.

SCWK 8831 Dying, Grief, and Bereavement (Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

Beginning with an overview of the social phenomena of death and how social attitudes and practices influence the environmental context in which death takes place in contemporary society, the course explores the influence of cultural diversity in the way death is experienced by diverse groups. The tasks of mourning following a person's death and the bereavement process present complex socio-emotional challenges for family and friends throughout the lifespan. Issues in self-reflection and self-care are presented to offer practitioners ways to grow personally and professionally through the process of their clients' losses.

SCWK 8835 Veterans' Health and Mental Health (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

This course examines the issues facing veterans in our communities today and offers culturally-sensitive treatment options for issues that are specific to this population. The military is a unique culture with its own traditions, values, routines, and rituals that bind its members together and can be difficult to understand to those who have never been exposed to the culture. This course aims to raise awareness of the potential challenges present when civilian social workers provide services to veterans in community settings.

SCWK 8836 Psychodynamic Theories of Individual Development (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

An advanced course that provides an overview of the psychodynamic theories that best explicate individual psychological development over the life cycle from a biopsychosocial perspective, with attention given to sources of development of individual strength and resilience. These theories include drive theory, ego psychology, object relations, self psychology, and intersubjectivity theory. Students will begin to learn to critique and compare theories for their applications to, and usefulness for, social work practice as they reflect particular sets of values and intersect with ethnicity, social class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, and other forms of diversity.

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SCWK 8837 Social Services with Latino Populations in the United States (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

In this advanced seminar students will learn how different groups of Latinos in the United States understand what social benefits they are entitled to, how they experience the process of working with services providers, and how this process contributes to their empowerment and their incorporation in society (or lack thereof). Students will learn about best interventions and will acquire practical skills to provide services to different groups of Latinos and their families in the United States.

SCWK 8839 HBSE Independent Study (Summer/Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

An opportunity to pursue an in-depth study of some aspect of human behavior theory or knowledge. The study must be designed so that it contributes to the student's understanding of the individual, group, organizational, institutional, or cultural context within which human behavior is expressed and by which it is significantly influenced. The area of investigation must be of clear significance to the contemporary practice of social work. Any student who has successfully completed the foundation course in Human Behavior and the Social Environment is eligible to pursue independent study.

SCWK 8849 Independent Study in Research (Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7747

An opportunity for students to engage in specifically focused work in one of two areas: the formulation, design, and implementation of an empirical study of the type not possible to operationalize within other course practicum opportunities available; or the in-depth study in a particular research methods area about which no graduate level courses exist within the University.

SCWK 8851 Policy Analysis Research for Social Reform (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

A seminar preparing students for practice-oriented policy analysis research roles. It offers advanced research content of particular use to administrators, planners, advocates, and others interested in participating in policy analysis and development efforts, particularly those related to vulnerable populations. It provides knowledge of and opportunity to apply the following: (1) the logic of inquiry into social policy issues; (2) policy analysis research methods (e.g., population projections, input-output analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis); and (3) writing skills and quantitative reasoning necessary to use data and policy research methods creatively in making effective policy arguments.

SCWK 8857 Group Therapy for Children and Adolescents (Summer/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

This course will prepare students to design and facilitate experiential skills-based groups with both children and adolescents. Building on first-year foundational content this course prepares students to learn how to facilitate skills-based group therapy with youth. Several guiding theories, including (CBT, DBT, Solution Focused Therapy, Narrative Therapy and Motivational Interviewing), will be integrated with multiple experiential activities as vehicles for the engagement in the interventions. Most guiding theories dominate a minimum of two weeks in the syllabus to ensure depth of learning and exploration of possibilities for theory into practice. The experiential activities will include music, adventure, bibliotherapy, art therapy, and technology to assist in the engagement of clients in the learning process and will be utilized throughout the course. Assignments challenge students to develop two innovative original experiential group sessions and demonstrate competence in facilitating both of their group sessions.

SCWK 8858 Clinical Practice in Schools (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

An advanced clinical course that provides a comprehensive overview of the necessary skills to prepare students for effective communication with teachers and school personnel as well as with diverse families on issues related to

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assessment, building family partnerships, family-based treatment, and multicultural issues. The course reviews assessment and use of state-of-the-art diagnostic testing instruments. Given the relationship between school social work and special education, students will be exposed to the diverse populations served in schools and learn how to engage in practice with children with a variety of issues, including learning, physical, behavioral, developmental, neurological, and emotional disabilities.

SCWK 8859 Integrating Play in Therapeutic Settings (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

An advanced clinical course preparing students for effective practice with children, adolescents, and their families through the use of play therapy. Content includes a comprehensive overview of theories informing the practice of play therapy and specific play therapy techniques for effective assessment and intervention consistent with the theoretical perspectives presented. Effective individual, filial, and small group play therapy interventions focus on empirically-validated methods related to attachment problems, generalized anxiety, PTSD, and depression. Incorporated throughout discussion of theory, practice methods, and evaluation is thoughtful attention to the influence of culture, ethnicity, age, gender, and family structure in provision of competent services.

SCWK 8860 Couples Therapy (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

An advanced course examining and analyzing theories, research, and interventions with couples. The use of cognitive, behavioral, emotion-focused, brief treatment, and skills-training approaches are critically evaluated. Research on their empirical bases is examined. Emphases include working with couples from diverse cultural backgrounds, practice with same-sex couples, and special issues such as living with chronic illness, poverty and economic stress, facing divorce, infidelity, interpersonal violence, and sexual dysfunctions. The course will describe how to adapt couple-based assessments and interventions to various settings, such as acute medical, psychiatric, and child-focused settings.

SCWK 8862 Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (Summer/Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

An advanced practice course that integrates CBT theory, practical assessment tools, and treatment applications with work with children and adults. Lab skills classes will provide students with the opportunity to practice specific techniques. With an emphasis on the extensive literature supporting CBT as an evidence-based model, the course focuses on the CBT assessment and treatment of specific disorders, including anxiety, pain, depression, bipolar disorder, ADHD, substance abuse disorders, and personality disorders. The relevance of Cognitive-Behavioral practice with populations at risk confronting issues of age, race/ethnicity, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, and disability will be addressed.

SCWK 8864 Group Therapy (Summer/Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

This course considers many applications of social work group treatment. Through a thoughtful review of selected group therapy literature, analysis of process recordings of group therapy sessions, lectures, class discussion, and role-play exercises, students will develop an appreciation of the unique ways in which group treatment can promote individual psychosocial competence. Students will develop skills in the practice of social work treatment.

SCWK 8867 Internal Family Systems Therapy (Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

This advanced clinical course focuses on Internal Family Systems, a non-pathologizing approach to identifying and unburdening the faulty beliefs and patterns of interaction that people carry from childhood trauma and replacing them with self-led resources, such as compassion, curiosity, courage and connections. Students will develop an understanding of the conceptual framework of the IFS Model, including its history, the Protective System (Managers

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and Firefighters), the Exiles and the Self. Students will learn application of the IFS model to specific topic areas, including working with couples, families, groups, children and adolescents, trauma and dissociative disorders, addictions and phobias.

SCWK 8868 Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (Summer/Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

This course is designed to instruct and prepare students to integrate and apply Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), a comprehensive and flexible evidence-based treatment. Students will learn to conduct thorough risk assessments, develop crisis management plans, understand borderline personality disorder from the DSM-5 and DBT lenses, create a DBT theory-driven case formulation and treatment plan by stages and targets, observing dialectic dilemmas, balancing acceptance and validation, integrating communication styles, applying commitment strategies, conducting chain/solution analysis, implementing diary cards and collaboratively problem-solving with clients and peers. Students will learn the four DBT modules: Mindfulness, Distress Tolerance, Interpersonal Effectiveness, and Emotion Regulation.

SCWK 8869 Clinical Social Work Independent Study (Summer/Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

An opportunity for those in the Clinical Social Work concentration to investigate one aspect of social work practice in-depth. The area of investigation must be of clear significance to contemporary clinical social work practice with individuals, families, or groups. Any clinical social work student may submit (in the prior semester) a proposal for independent study in the fall and/or spring semester of his/her final year.

SCWK 8874 Adult Psychological Trauma: Assessment and Treatment (Summer/Fall/Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

An advanced clinical course focusing on adults exposed to acute or chronic psychological trauma. Theoretical constructs stress an interactive approach: person, environment, situation. Emphasis is on the interconnections of intrapsychic, interpersonal, cognitive, and behavioral sequelae to catastrophic life events, with attention to socio-economic and cultural factors which influence an individual's differential response to trauma. Various methods are evaluated with the goal of multi-model treatment integration. Clinical presentations on specialized populations (e.g., combat veterans, victims of abusive violence, traumatic loss, disasters, people with AIDS, and the homeless) are used to integrate theory, research designs and strategies, and practice skills.

SCWK 8876 Solution-Focused Therapy (Summer/Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

An advanced clinical course focusing on time-effective treatments with individuals, families and groups. The course focuses primarily on Solution-Focused Therapy. Primary concepts include the paradigm shift from problem to possibility, the role of an active intentional clinician, and the careful use of language. Emphasis is given to the evaluation as key to the process, which involves building rapport, identifying a goal, and understanding the client's relationship to that goal. The course examines pivotal treatment strategies, including language, task setting, and creating hope in clients through our interventions.

SCWK 8877 Narrative Therapy (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

This course focuses on narrative practice skills that are based on a belief in the power of the meaning-making systems. The course will examine models, research, and theoretical and clinical foundations of narrative therapy. Using lecture, discussion, and exercises, students will be introduced to various narrative therapy practices.

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SCWK 8880 Social Work Practice in Child Welfare (Fall)

Prerequisites: SCWK 7762 and SCWK 8800

An advanced course designed to provide practice knowledge and skills for micro and macro interventions. Throughout the course the issues of poverty, diversity, and services for children of color are considered. Stressing the importance of providing services to children and families so that the family unit is preserved, issues related to family preservation, foster care, family reunification, adoption, legal issues, and emerging trends will be explored. The central focus will be on developing a solid foundation in child welfare policy and practice as a means to promoting a more responsive service delivery system.

SCWK 8881 School Social Work: Program Development & Educational Policies (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

An advanced course that provides a comprehensive overview of the history, theory, practice and policy of social work in an educational setting. Beginning with a historical perspective, this course is rooted in school social work principles that emphasize collaborative work with families, school and community personnel, professional standards, and diverse practice roles. This course provides a comprehensive overview of education policy and the legal rights of students and their families. Special issues in school social work practice related to health, child abuse, school safety and violence, trauma, substance abuse, and high risk behavior are addressed.

SCWK 8883 Creating and Sustaining Social Enterprises (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

Some of the most significant challenges facing the emergent field of social innovation include identifying sustainable resources and adopting a business mindset for creating and managing an enterprise. Traditional sources of funding for NGOs and social service agencies, such as grants and contracts from foundations and from the public sector, may not be the most effective way to support social innovation. Social enterprises may need market-driven strategies (such as through sales of products and services) to achieve a social purpose. For profit enterprises also have a significant role to play in introducing and sustaining innovation. This course will introduce students to a range of enterprises through business case studies. We will focus on developing practical skills for starting and running social enterprises, including writing focused business memos, analyzing options using financial and market data, and preparing a business plan which links operational, marketing and financial realities to mission. Students need to be able to create and manipulate spreadsheets using Excel in order to take this course.

SCWK 8884 Strategic Planning for Public & Nonprofit Organizations (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

Focusing on the strategic trends and issues which impact the public and nonprofit sectors, this course explores the role of strategic planning as a fundamental tool of public and nonprofit institutions to build high performance organizations, maximize organizational strengths, and enhance community problem-solving. Students will acquire practical skills through case study analysis and the development of a strategic plan.

SCWK 8887 Global Child Protection (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

This course introduces the systems in which children, families, groups, organizations, and communities thrive and struggle in international settings. In particular the course focuses on child protection in the context of vulnerable international settings and complex humanitarian emergencies including famine, conflict and displacement. The role of social work and allied professions in such settings is explored with emphasis on the principle of 'do no harm'. The International child protection policies of Governments, United Nations agencies and International Non-Government agencies will be presented and analyzed. Strategies for translating these policies into best practice will include identifying child protection concerns and developing rigorous international child protection programs.

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SCWK 8888 Community Organizing and Political Strategies (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

An examination of community organization and political strategies for mobilizing support for human services and other interventions that enhance social well-being, especially that of vulnerable populations. The course emphasizes skill development in strategies of community organization and policy change, including neighborhood organizing, committee staffing, lobbying, agenda setting, use of media, and points of intervention in bureaucratic rule making.

SCWK 8890 Philanthropy and Strategic Fundraising (Spring)

This course will provide an overview of philanthropy and the fundamentals of charitable giving from the perspective of foundations and individuals. The course will also review the various elements for developing a comprehensive fundraising program, to developing a case statement for support, the role of the board, donor identification, cultivation and solicitation. Fundraising is a lot more than writing a grant proposal. In this course students will learn more about other fund development methods, such as managing an annual giving program, donor communications and marketing, and cover the key issues to launch a successful capital campaign and how to develop and implement a planned giving program. This course will look at foundation and individual charitable giving and the different vehicles for making charitable gifts. Students will learn about the various types of foundations, and look at their effectiveness to address social issues. Students will further explore critical issues in philanthropy, the laws that regulate charities, and understand what's required to make a grant.

SCWK 8899 Macro Independent Study (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

An opportunity to pursue an in-depth study of some aspect of macro practice. During the 2019-2020 academic year, the following Macro **Group** Independent Study will be offered which will run like a regular class.

(Please note that on your transcript the course will be listed only as Macro Independent Study):

SCWK8899 01 Macro Independent Study--Environment, Climate and Community: Understanding the Environment and Climate Vulnerable Populations

One of the key Grand Challenges of Social Work is to explore pathways to “create social responses to a changing environment”. Thus, exploring interactions of environment, climate, and communities, and engaging and addressing these inequities for vulnerable poor households is needed more than ever. This course is designed as a seminar to give students an in-depth understanding of environment and climate change and its interface with communities, and its impact on vulnerable populations in North America and the Global South (particularly South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa). Topics discussed in this course will explore current literature and evidence on the interactions between ecological and social systems. Students will learn about the debates and issues foregrounding the need to view ecology and human society as a whole in order to understand and prepare for environmental and climate change.

ADVANCED FIELD-OF-PRACTICE COURSES: LIMITED ELECTIVE OPTIONS

On a space-available basis, Advanced Practice Field-of-Practice courses may be elective options for students in other Fields-of-Practice. Since concentration courses are restricted to students in the concentration, you must submit a waitlist request form. Indicate clearly on the waitlist form that the course you are requesting is an elective option for your program of study.

Summer Semester: Final Year students only

SCWK 7797 Frameworks and Tools for Global Practice (Summer)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762 and SCWK 8800

Required for Global Practice Field-of-Practice.

An advanced course that prepares students for effective practice in a global context and covers three broad areas: a

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framework for the rights-based perspective; rights-based programming with reference to vulnerable groups; and building sustainable systems. Students will be exposed to “rights-based approaches” to social work practice mainly in countries of the global south. Areas of focus include working with vulnerable populations such as children in a variety of settings, gender issues, migration as well as working with various NGOs, governmental and United Nations systems. Emphasis will be placed on working with diverse client populations in each practice setting.

Fall Semester: Final Year students only

SCWK 8806 Global Policy Issues and Implications (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

Required for Global Practice Field-of-Practice.

An advanced policy course that introduces approaches, issues, and competencies of global social work policy interventions. This course focuses on policy analysis in the context of world-wide poverty, underdevelopment, and sustainable development. In the context of social justice, equality, universal human rights and international collaboration (partnerships), it perceives global systems and their policies as both a challenge for a sustainable planet and for the growth of its interdependent national/local communities.

SCWK 8823 Practice in Health and Mental Health Settings with Older Adults (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762 and SCWK 8800

Corequisite: SCWK 9933 or SCWK 9943 or permission

Required for Older Adults and Families Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

An advanced course designed to develop micro and macro practice skills in working with older adults and their families in health and mental health settings. The course explores the biopsychosocial knowledge base required to develop effective interventions with specific foci on the physical and mental health considerations facing older adults and their families. Substance abuse issues and the special challenges of reaching a client population often invisible to service providers are discussed. The role of spirituality in older adults' lives and the challenges of death, dying, and bereavement facing the older adults are also covered.

SCWK 8865 Family Therapy (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

Corequisite: SCWK 9933 or permission

Required of Clinical Social Work students in the Mental Health Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

An advanced course designed to integrate family therapy theories of practice and intervention techniques. Throughout the course critical issues relative to power, gender, and race will be interwoven with outcome effectiveness, research, and evaluation. Emphasis will be placed on the adaptation of the family process to the stressors of chronic illness, aging, addictions, and interpersonal violence. The strengths and problems of minority families, families living in poverty, blended families, adoptive families, and families of same sex parents will be reviewed.

SCWK 8872 Advanced Clinical Interventions with Children, Youth, and Families (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

Corequisite: SCWK 9933 or permission

Required of Clinical Social Work students in the Children, Youth and Families Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

An advanced clinical course focused on the development of specific intervention skills utilized with children and their families. Clinical practice skills in individual, family, and group treatments highlight prevention and intervention strategies that promote self-efficacy and resiliency. Specific skills include parent management training, parent-child interaction therapy, solution-focused therapy with children, adolescents, and their families, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and group therapy with children. Course structure will utilize experiential skills labs to promote student skill acquisition.

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SCWK 8873 Psychosocial Dimensions of Health and Medical Care Practice (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7762

Corequisite: SCWK 9933 or permission

Required of Clinical Social Work students in the Health Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

An advanced course that utilizes the biopsychosocial model of assessment of individual and family response to illness. In addition, the course will address issues in behavioral and complementary and alternative medicine. The effect of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status on health, health care treatments, and health care availability to diverse populations will also be addressed. Finally, the importance of social work contributions to research in health care will be examined.

SCWK 8885 Management of Organizations Serving Children, Youth, & Families (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

Corequisite: SCWK 9943 or permission

Required of Macro Social Work students in the Children, Youth and Families Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

An advanced practice course for macro students that emphasizes personnel management skills that promote employee well-being and organizational effectiveness, financial management skills including budgeting and cost analysis, and strategic fund-raising with a focus on revenue sources that support child and family services. Multiple theoretical approaches to leadership are examined, as well as organizational change, the supervisory process and the use of power and authority, and effective application of the diversity model for the inclusive workplace.

SCWK 8897 Planning for Health and Mental Health Services (Fall)

Prerequisite: SCWK 8800

Corequisite: SCWK 9943 or permission

Required of Macro students in Health and Mental Health Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

A course designed to introduce program planning, strategic planning, proposal writing, and state-of-the-art service delivery models. Significant emphasis will be placed on developing practical skills in the area of proposal development and program design through applying class material to practice through a major group planning assignment. Skills to analyze critical issues in mental health and health care delivery, including system design and financing, are emphasized. Critical issues of access to health care, the crisis in health care, and managed care will be discussed and analyzed. Models of service delivery will be critically reviewed.

Spring Semester

All students are eligible who have met the prerequisite requirement

SCWK 7722 Psychosocial Pathology (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

Required of Clinical Social Work students; elective for others.

An examination of the etiology and identification of adult mental disorders utilizing the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Focus is on psychological, genetic, and biochemical theories of mental illness; biopsychosocial stressors in symptom formation, assessment and treatment; cultural determinants in psychopathology; differential diagnosis; and drug therapies.

SCWK 8833 Leadership and Social Transformation (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7721

Required of Macro Social Work students; Elective for others.

An overview of general principles of management, this course provide students with a broad understanding of theories of organizational functioning combined with a focus on leadership for change in organizations. The role of leader-manager is explored in three theoretical perspectives of organizations: the structure of human service organizations and requisite management skills; the human resource perspective and promoting the recruitment and

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development of people as a vital component of organizational functioning; and organizational change with emphasis on advocating for and sustaining change within human service organizations.

SCWK 8802 Policy for an Aging Society: Issues & Options (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

Corequisite: SCWK 9934 or SCWK 9944 or permission

Required for Older Adults and Families Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

This advanced policy course provides an opportunity to examine how historical and contemporary forces and demographic change shape the perceived problems of the elderly, the politics of aging, and public policy responses. New questions are being raised about the cost of public and private retirement and health care commitments directed at the old and about the responsibilities of older Americans. The implications of the diversity (ethnic, racial, gender, health and economic status) of current and future cohorts of elders need to be understood to adequately plan service and policy responses to the aging of America.

SCWK 8805 Policy Issues in Family and Children's Services (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

Corequisite: SCWK 9934 or SCWK 9944 or permission

Required for Children, Youth, and Families Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

This course focuses on a critical examination of alternatives in formulating, implementing, and evaluating policies and programs in the area of family and children's services. Students will be informed about specific policies impacting children and families in the U.S., critically analyze how policies impact child and family well-being, and explore methods of advocating for effective policy development. Specific policy issues explored in the course include family legislation; welfare reform; balancing work and family; housing and homelessness; family and domestic violence; maternal, child, and family health; education; juvenile justice; cultural issues; immigration/refugees; and approaches in other nations.

SCWK 8817 Health and Mental Health Policy (Spring)

Prerequisite: SCWK 7701

Corequisite: SCWK 9934 or SCWK 9944 or permission

Required for Health and Mental Health Field-of-Practice; elective for others.

An advanced policy course designed to provide students with a knowledge and skill base for analyzing and synthesizing the policy structures that undergird the U.S. health and mental health care system. General health indicators, prevalence of mental health conditions, health disparities, and general definitions and components of health/mental health are examined. The development and organization of health/mental health services and public and private financing of services are discussed. Finally, the contemporary and near future issues and conflicts regarding accessing care, the costs of care, and the quality of care are addressed.

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