Social Work Course Offerings MSW Courses for Fall 2021

SCWK-50100 Foundation Practice: Individual and Family (3) Sec 1 (ROM)
In the foundation year curriculum, students learn the Generalist Practice Model of social work. This course is the first of two practice courses, and students will learn the history and mission of the profession, the code of ethics, and practice skills used with individuals and families. Specifically, students will learn the social work processes of engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation. The course focuses on the acquisition of specific skills needed in the design and implementation of support, education and counseling services for individuals and families. Students are introduced to the principles and practices of working with individuals and families from the biopsychosocial perspective and Person-in-Environment framework. The emphasis of this course is on the development of foundation level practice skills, characterized by the utilization of multiple theories to explain problems in social functioning and change processes within different agency contexts.

SCWK-50200 Human Behavior in the Social Environment 1: Theory and Development across the Lifespan (3) Sec 1 (ROM)
This course introduces students to biopsychosocial development across the lifespan. Theories of human development and the social environment are explored to further understanding of social work practice related to engagement, assessment, and intervention. A range of theories is introduced to understand the complexity of human behavior. Attention is given to the context of human development related to culture, race, class, and other social systems. Theories examined include psychodynamic, psychosocial, cognitive, behavioral, family systems, and others.

SCWK-50300 Social Justice and Empowerment: Oppression, Privilege and Diversity (3) Sec 1 (ROM)
This course examines the social work profession's commitment to social justice and service through an exploration of diversity, oppression and privilege. Rooted in the person-in-environment perspective and empowerment practices, this course examines the personal, institutional and structural nature of racism, sexism, heterosexism, ageism, classism, and other forms of oppression. The concept of cultural humility will be explored, allowing students to develop the capacity to understand the cultural experiences of diverse groups. Course content, structure, and learning activities are designed to enhance personal and professional self-awareness in order to develop the knowledge, values, and skills required for culturally sensitive social work practice.

SCWK 50400 Social Welfare Policy/Services (3) Sec 1 (ROM)
This course examines the history of social welfare programs, social welfare problems, and current social welfare programs. The course focuses on the role of economic and political ideology and its influence on the development of social welfare programs and social work practice. Recognizing that social workers need to be informed practitioners and citizens, the course contextualizes the social situations that clients navigate.

SCWK-50500 Graduate Field Placement I/Seminar (3) Sec 1 (ROM)
The Field Placement & Seminars I and II, two courses over the academic year, provides an opportunity for students to process and integrate knowledge and affective learning to skill development. Classroom knowledge and field experiences provide the content of the course in the development of generalist practice skills. Students apply knowledge related to the social work processes of engagement, assessment, intervention and evaluation to examples for their field agencies. Social work values and ethics, issues of diversity and justice, and context of practice are examined in the course.
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SCWK-60100 Advanced Individual Practice: Older Adults (3) Sec (ROM)
This advanced practice course focus on social work treatment and psychotherapy with adults. The structure of psychotherapy is presented and an exploration of effective communication is explored. The role of a therapeutic alliance and engagement in creating a trusting relationship for assessment and intervention is presented. Narrative therapy is explored as a specific model of treatment.

SCWK-60200 Advanced Individual Practice with Adults (3) (ROM)
This advanced practice course focus on social work treatment and psychotherapy with adults. The structure of psychotherapy is presented and an exploration of effective communication is explored. The role of a therapeutic alliance and engagement in creating a trusting relationship for assessment and intervention is presented. Narrative therapy is explored as a specific model of treatment.

SCWK-60300 Advanced Individual Practice with Children, Adolescents, and Families (3) (ROM)
This course focuses on learning about clinical social work with children and adolescents, and their families. This advanced practice course focuses on the social work processes of engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation. Students will learn a variety of modalities to work with children and adolescents. The social context of children and adolescents live in will be considered. Additionally, the context of practice or agency setting will be explored.

SCWK-60500 Psychodynamic Theory (3) (ROM)
This course examines psychoanalytic and psychodynamic theory as they have evolved over time. Beginning with classic psychoanalytic theory, the course additionally covers ego psychology, object relations theories, self-psychology, intersubjectivity, and feminist scholarship. Consideration is given to race and culture related to psychodynamic theories. This course builds on the knowledge from foundation year human behavior courses, providing an in-depth exploration of psychodynamic theories.

SCWK-60700 Advanced Policy: Adult/Older Adults (3) (ROM)
This course builds on the foundation social welfare policy course, exploring in greater depth social policy impacting adults and older adults in society. Students concentrating with Adults and Older Adults take this advanced policy course to further their understanding of federal, state, and local laws and policies and systems that effect clients at the macro level. The course explores the purpose of policies, incidence and prevalence of social problems, and strategies to enhance policies leading to increased well-being for adults and older adults. The course examines issues of social justice and human rights.

SCWK-60800 Advanced Policy: Child/Adolescents (3) (ROM)
This course builds on the foundation social welfare policy course, exploring in greater depth social policy impacting children and families in society. Students concentrating with Children and Adolescents take this advanced policy course to further their understanding of federal, state, and local laws and policies and systems that effect clients at the macro level. The course explores the purpose of policies, incidence and prevalence of social problems, and strategies to enhance policies leading to increase resilience in children and adolescents. Based in a risk and resilience model, the course examines issues of social justice and human rights.
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SCWK-60900 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (3) (ROM)
This course builds on the foundation knowledge from human behavior and practices classes in the foundation year. The course explores the theoretical underpinning of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and teaches students the knowledge and skills necessary for clinical social work practice. Students explore the use of CBT throughout the therapeutic process, from engagement, assessment, and intervention. Finally, students learn how to evaluate practice when using this approach.

SCWK-61100 Graduate Field Placement 3 (3) (ROM)
This is the first course in a two-semester sequence that provides an opportunity for students to integrate advanced year social work course content and field internship experiences. In the advanced year, students are placed in field internships, which are consistent with their chosen population concentration. The integrative seminar is taken concurrently with the field placement, and prepares students to integrate skills learned in chosen theory and practice courses with their field experience. The seminar provides a forum for the sharing of clinical cases and practice experiences, the development of peer supervision skills, and increased critical thinking and problem solving capacities. The clinical seminars, discussions, and class assignments provide the students opportunities to gain professional and peer feedback regarding the application of clinical social work to clinical practice.

SCWK 61400 Advanced Child Welfare: History Practice (3) Sec 1 (Blended)
This course presents an overview of the continuum of care in child welfare practice, focusing on evidence-based processes to look comprehensively at child welfare services utilizing a culturally responsive and multi-systemic lends. The course focuses on the prevalence, etiology, and dynamics of child physical abuse, childhood neglect, child sexual abuse, and other forms of child maltreatment. This course examines the definitions, scope, and impact of violence and abuse in childhood. An examination of the historical foundations of child welfare is undertaken to contextualize current child welfare practices. Theories and conceptual frameworks used to explain violence are explored. Ethics, professionalism, and ethical dilemmas related to child welfare practice are examined. Strategies for culturally competent assessment and intervention with children, youth, and families involved with the child welfare system are presented, focusing on engaging families in assessment, service, and permanency planning. This course focuses on child welfare practice generally, and, as practiced in the State of Illinois specifically.

This is the first course in a two-semester course sequence: Advanced Child Welfare Practice in Applied Contexts is offered in the Spring. Successful completion of the two-semester sequence qualifies for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services welfare certification program.
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SCWK 61600 Social Work in Schools (3) Sec 1 (ROM)
This advanced-level course focuses on understanding the skills and content needed to assume the role of a school-based social worker, providing information about direct social work practices and relevant social work theory/policy for use within school settings. This course begins by introducing the profession of school social work, discussing its history and progression within the United States. It further explores the social worker role within Special Education, as a community liaison, as a consultant within the school setting, and other unique roles. Students learn and practice using evidence-based approaches for school settings and become familiar with the diverse student populations to whom they may provide services. The social and political context of the education system in the United States is discussed and critically analyzed. This course includes pedagogy and assessment to ensure that students are learning the necessary information to practice social work via micro, mezzo, and macro level approaches within school settings.

SCWK 62000 School Social Work Field Seminar I (3) Sec 1 (ROM)
This is the first course in a two-semester sequence that provides an opportunity for students to integrate advanced social work course content and field internship experiences in a school setting. The School Social Work Field Seminar provides an opportunity for students to integrate school social work course content with the field internship experiences as they develop school social work skills. Students will have an opportunity to integrate an analytic understanding of the role of school social workers, an appreciation of the school social workers contributions to K-12 education, societal values underlying their role and an understanding of systemic intervention in the school using a variety of intervention modalities.
This course focuses specifically on the roles of social workers in the school setting including the provision of direct service, consultation, advocacy, program development, and evaluation as well as liaison functions with families and community systems.

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