

SOCIAL WORK COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Social Work 203 Foundations of Social Work

This course provides an overview of the profession of social work. A third of the course is spent learning the OLC Generalist Model. Another third is spent in discussion of the various roles social workers perform. The final third explores the centrality of professional values and ethics and teaches how to read a research article. The course is designed for sophomores considering this major. Particular emphasis is placed on asking what the practice of social work would look like within the context of Lakota values, traditions and history. A core theme running through all content concerns the role of values and ethics, both personal and professional.

3 credits.

Sowk 213 Professional Writing

This writing intensive course is designed for students intending to pursue a professional career in social work. Using a writing-to-learn approach, students will write in response to written, audio, and video works with an emphasis on deepening understanding, exercising critical thinking, and enhancing clarity and specificity of written communication. Students will learn to maintain clarity about the boundaries between personal and professional writing. They will learn to enhance observational skills; describe in writing what is observed completely, accurately, and professionally; and distinguish between reaction, opinion, and argument. Written works will include literary prose and poetry as well as writings from the professional discipline (peer-reviewed journal articles). All readings and exercises will reflect professional social work values and concerns.

Prerequisite: Engl 113

3 credits

Sowk 303 Social Welfare & Social Work History

This course seeks to add to generalist social work orientation by focusing on the connection between the history of social work practice and social welfare policy and the issues that lead to policy formation. Social workers need to possess knowledge and understanding of the development of social welfare policies in response to social issues from the local tribal level to the federal level. To this end a major focus of the course is social welfare history from the Poor Laws forward. A particular focus is health and social welfare policies affecting the Lakota people.

Macro-level social welfare policies have existed as long as people have collaborated to meet their social needs. Social workers must grapple continually with the policy questions of "Who should get What? How? When? Where? On what Basis and Why?" The role of professional values and ethics in policy formation is explored in relation to all course content.

By the end of the course, students should understand that policies define the context within which social work is practiced and affects all aspects of social work intervention from the smallest client system (micro practice) to the largest (macro practice). Policies, for example, define who becomes clients, and how services are to be delivered including when, where, why and how much. It is essential that social workers be knowledgeable about this larger context for the practice of social work in order to become proficient in assisting those clients who seek social work services. To this end students are asked to understand policy from within the OLC Generalist Model.

Pre-requisites: Sowk 203, Sowk 213, OLC Core

3 credits

Sowk 343 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (HBSE II)

This course provides an overview of human behavior in macro settings, examining the impact of key macro institutions on human behavior and vice versa. Critical thinking skills to assess both theoretical and empirical evidence will be employed. Students will learn how to promote change by building on the strengths of macro systems. By focusing on empowerment, the course highlights the ways that communities, organizations, and groups promote positive change. Traditional Lakota understandings of nature, culture, and society will also be explored in relation to human behavior in the social environment. Pre-requisites: OLC core, Sowk 203, Sowk 213, Psy 313; 3 credits

Sowk 313 Methods I

Sowk 313, the first of the four methods courses, is an introduction to the common core of essential concepts, skills, values, tasks, and activities important to generalist social work practice with individuals and families. The course will introduce students to the generalist perspective of social work practice including the relationship-building/problem-solving process within an ecosystems (person-in-environment) framework. Special emphasis will be placed on assessment of biological, psychological, and socioeconomic factors (e.g., class, race, gender, and sexual orientation) and how they interact with elements of the environment, and influence intervention. This course also contains content stemming from Lakota values, beliefs and practices. This course contributes to the foundation on which the BSW curriculum builds its generalist practice model. The sequence emphasizes the strengths perspectives which promotes empowerment and social justice for marginalized individuals, groups and communities. Pre-requisites: Sowk 203, Sowk 213, OLC Core; 3 credits

Sowk 323 Methods II

This course is the second in a practice sequence that provides a conceptual framework for generalist social work practice and introduces students to the knowledge, values and skills needed to work with task & treatment groups. The sequence emphasizes the strengths perspective which empowers and promotes social justice for marginalized individuals, groups, and communities.

Social Work 323 is designed to teach students the theory and skills necessary to effectively design, implement, and evaluate task & treatment groups within the context of Lakota culture. This course frames task & treatment group work within the OLC generalist model. While specific class activities and learning objectives do not mention the emphasis on Lakota culture and its understandings of group process, this perspective is infused throughout the curriculum. The question, “How would this work with different populations on the reservation?” is an always present question.

Pre-requisites: Sowk 313; 3 credits

Sowk 413: Methods III

This course is the third in a practice sequence that provides a conceptual framework for generalist social work practice and introduces students to the knowledge, values and skills needed to work with community groups, organizations, communities, and the Lakota tribe. Introduction to the roles, tasks and functions of the social welfare practitioner as well as theories and methods of assessment, intervention, and evaluation are provided. The sequence emphasizes strengths and empowerment perspectives as laid out in the theory section of the OLCGM.

The challenges facing the macro-practitioner in generalist practice are explored. Practice skills presented in this course build on the OLCGM and content presented in HBSE II. Issues regarding social and economic justice, the value of diversity, and populations-at-risk unique to this region and the role of professional ethics are integrated throughout the course. The student will learn the skills and knowledge necessary to enter beginning practice in the role of change agent.

Pre-requisites: Sowk 323; 3 credits

Sowk 423: Methods IV

This course is the fourth and last in a practice sequence that provides a conceptual framework for generalist social work practice and introduces students to the knowledge, values and skills needed to work with tribal and other governments. Introduction to the roles, tasks and functions of the social welfare practitioner as well as theories and methods of assessment, intervention, and evaluation are provided. The sequence emphasizes strengths and empowerment perspectives.

Methods IV is a policy-practice course in which students learn how to engage in legislative advocacy, grant writing, and to analyze government and tribal policies relevant to the health and welfare of the Lakota people.

Pre-requisite: 413; 3 credits

Sowk 403 Introduction to Research

This course provides the student with the foundations of social work research, preparing the student to become an informed consumer of research. Emphasis is placed upon application: preparing the student to be a consumer and producer of practice-based research, especially evaluation research. Students will learn the design and planning of research, methodologies, and their applications. Both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies will be examined. Ethics of research and cultural competence of research will be emphasized. How tribal values relate to research, especially within the Lakota cultural framework, will be explored.

Pre-requisites: Sowk 323 & 343; Math 123 or Math 134 or Sosc 313

3 credits

Sowk 443 Research Project

This is the second course in the two course research sequence and is offered in the spring semester of the senior year. It provides students with the opportunity to work on a research project. The research project is a group project arranged by the course instructor with an agency on the reservation or in Rapid City, and involves conducting research (generally needs assessment or program evaluation) on a topic of interest to the agency. Each student will assume leadership for one phase/segment of the research project; all students will participate in all phases and activities. Student input into population to be studied will be obtained spring semester of the preceding year; actual population/agency will be dependent upon agency availability and interest.

Pre-requisite: Sowk 403; 3 credits

Sowk 406 & 416 Practicum I & II – 6 Credits each

This course represents the culmination of preparation for entry-level generalist social work practice. The course consists of supervised practice of the social work knowledge, values and skills learned in the classroom. Grading is Pass/Fail only.

The generalist practitioner operates within the ethical guidelines prescribed by the NASW Code of Ethics and utilizes the six-step, relationship building/problem-solving process and person-in-environment framework that make up the OLC generalist model.

During a supervised field experience students are expected to have opportunities to further integrate all educational facets, as articulated in the objectives, for a beginning level of generalist social work practice, with an emphasis on working with the Lakota people in systems of all sizes to promote, maintain and/or restore well-being. This course also emphasizes the professional attributes of the individual in professional practice, e.g. self-awareness, oral and written skills, accuracy and precision, empathy and genuineness, and organization and planning.

Students also participate in six hours per semester of seminar, which helps to integrate the field practicum experience with the BSW classroom knowledge and which allows the exploration of additional knowledge. In the field seminar, students will learn the principles of the logic model and its application to the field setting. There are three papers associated with the two-semester field seminar.

Pre-requisites: Sowk 406 - Concurrent with, or after Sowk 413; 6 credits

Sowk 416 - Sowk 406 and concurrent with, or after Sowk 423; 6 credits

Sowk 433 Elective

The social work elective can change depending on interests of students and instructors.

Pre-requisites: Sowk 203 & Sowk 213, or instructor permission

3 credits

CD COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CD 103 Introduction to Alcoholism

This course introduces the study of alcoholism and the wide range of current approaches to treating and preventing it. It surveys the symptoms and effects of alcohol and abuse and addiction and introduces leading theoretical models of alcohol addiction. It affords students the opportunity to assess their learning in relation the phenomena of alcohol abuse and addiction in their communities. Prerequisites: Engl 103 or higher. 3 credits

CD 113 Introduction to Drug Abuse

The material in this course will introduce you to the fascinating study of a wide range of mood-altering chemicals, both legal and illegal. You will learn about the symptoms that drugs produce, and about their effects on individuals. You will also explore various approaches to treating and preventing drug abuse and will consider their applicability to the Lakota community.. Prerequisites: Engl 103 or higher.

3 credits.

CD 203 Family Counseling and Chemical Dependency

This course will engage you in the study of the effects of alcoholism and drug abuse on families. You will consider the special needs of individual family members that alcoholism and drug abuse give rise to and you will learn about methods for addressing those needs. You will learn about self-help techniques for family members, about methods of family intervention, and about methods for helping the active alcohol or drug abuser.

Prerequisites: PSY 103 and either CD 103 or CD 113 or instructor permission.

3 credits

CD 223 Native American Substance Abuse

This course surveys the extent and the consequences of alcohol abuse among American Indians. The causes of origins of the disease of Alcohol will be explored as well as the different theories of addictions. In addition to the reservation experience the urban setting will be discussed. The prevention, treatment and recovery for American Indian Alcoholics will be addressed. Prerequisite: CD 103 or CD 113 or instructor permission. 3 credits.

CD 233 Foundations of Individual Counseling.

This course is designed to cover the skills, concepts, and issues of chemical dependency counseling of individuals. The content provides students with knowledge of the counseling relationship, factors involved in chemical dependency, understand diagnosis, assessment and treatment plans. In addition to examining traits of an effective counselor, the student will work to develop and practice using a theory of counseling. Prerequisites: CD 103, CD 113. 3 credits

CD 313 Ethical and Legal Issues for Chemical Dependency Professionals

This course will explore the ethical and legal issues as they apply to Chemical Dependency Counseling. These issues include: confidentiality, dual relationships, competency and referral, counselor values and conflicts, legality and ethics, client welfare, establishing appropriate limits and boundaries in the client relationship, informed consent, and other issues identified. Students will review the professional codes of ethics, values underlying coded of ethics and will focus on the process of ethical decision making. Students will have the opportunity to identify and discuss the ethical and legal issues frequently encountered by prevention and treatment professionals.

Prerequisites: CD 103, CD 113.

3 credits

CD 343 Methods of Group Counseling

This course covers group leadership skills and various therapeutic techniques of group counseling through lecture and practical application. It focuses particularly on learning about the dynamics of group therapy as a helping and healing process. It covers theories that apply to groups and to addictions work. It introduces related topics of research, ethics, planning, leadership styles, multicultural considerations, and relevant Lakota practices.

Prerequisites: CD 103, CD 113, CD 233.

3 credits

CD 403 Continuum of Care

This course will cover the relationship between intake, case management, discharge planning and clinical record keeping. Students will learn how to implement plans used in addictions counseling, and about screening, assessment and evaluation procedures. Students will develop an understanding of relapse, including its relationship to the recovery process and the role of the counselor in relapse prevention. The course will cover treatment services provided to Native Americans and to the Lakota in particular.

Prerequisites: CD 103, CD 113, CD 233, CD 313, CD 343

3 credits

