

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 2103 Introduction to Social Work

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: None

Prerequisite: SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology.

Prerequisite or Corequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Addresses historical roots of the social work profession and social welfare. The person-in-environment perspective is discussed as the framework for social work knowledge, values, skills, the social work profession, ethics, fields of practice, and the settings in which social workers are employed. Commitment to diverse and at-risk populations and social/economic justice is highlighted.

II. Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of social work as a profession.
2. Examine ethical principles necessary for the social work profession.
3. Describe the theories in the discipline.
4. Identify the diversity in the social work fields of practice.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.
6. Employ Generalist Practice and core competencies. (Competency 2.2)

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will identify the historical roots of the social work profession and social welfare, current fields of practice, applying the person-in-environment framework and relevant social work knowledge, values and skills.

Quantitative Reasoning

Students will develop quantitative reasoning by incorporating research into evidence based practice.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will write papers and make oral presentations concerning the social work competencies and commitment to diverse and at-risk populations and social/economic justice.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will identify and process ethical dilemmas while reflecting on the National Association of Social Work code of ethics. Students engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will demonstrate a comprehension of cultural diversity and differences, understanding global and cultural perspectives with direct development of skills in working with, and on behalf of, diverse populations.

III. Major Course Topics:

- A. Human Behavior
- B. National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
- C. Social policy
- D. Social welfare
- E. Advocacy in Social Work
- F. Social Work Research
- G. Diversity in Social Work Profession
- H. Families and communities
- I. Topics relevant to Americans with disabilities
- J. Social work and the justice system
- K. Social work practice