

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 3413 Diversity and Social Economic Justice

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: SOWK 2103 Introduction to Social Work and SOWK 3043 Human Behavior in the Social Environment, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Increases awareness, knowledge, and understanding of issues related to diversity, human rights, social and economic justice. Examines social identity, difference and dominance theories of social justice and oppression, coalition building across differences and its applications in multicultural social work settings. Direct development of skills in working with, and on behalf of, diverse populations will be emphasized.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
2. Engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.
3. Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.
4. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/CODE/Default.asp>.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate the fundamental skills of examining social identity, difference and dominance theories of social justice and oppression, coalition building across differences and its applications in multicultural social work settings.

Quantitative Reasoning

Students will engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will demonstrate appropriate written and verbal communication skills through papers and oral presentations concerning social work competencies, increasing awareness, knowledge, and understanding of issues related to diversity, differences, human rights, social and economic justice.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will identify and process ethical dilemmas while reflecting on standard ethical conduct as indicated by the NASW 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 difference with respect to the social work profession and competencies, developing skills in working with, and on behalf of, diverse populations and policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Americans with Disabilities Act
- B. Social and Economic Justice
- C. Diversity and differences in social work practice
- D. Advancing human rights
- E. Social identity and ally development models
- F. Difference and dominance theories of social justice and oppression
- G. Power, privilege, and oppression
- H. Conflict/Resolution understanding
- I. Coalition building across differences
- J. Multiculturalism in social work settings