

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 3433 Populations at Risk

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite or corequisite: SOWK 3413 Diversity and Social Economic Justice, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Covers specialized social work practices with targeted groups: teens, special needs, and aging clientele. Addresses social work theory (person-in-environment), practice principles, standards, and values to practice with these populations. Special attention is given to these populations in Arkansas.

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 fundamental skills of engagement, assessment, and evaluation in generalist social work practice with at-risk, vulnerable populations. Students will apply relevant social work theories and principles to targeted groups in direct as well as macro-level practices.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will prepare papers and oral presentations concerning the social work competencies pertaining to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will identify and process ethical practice dilemmas, guided by the NASW Code of Ethics, encouraging both social and political action to address institutionalized, systematic sources of social and economic injustice and healthcare disparities.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will understand cultural diversity, seeking strategies that value differences and encourage empowerment of oppressed and marginalized populations. Furthermore, they will advocate for global and cultural perspectives that incorporate diversity and difference to positively shape life experiences micro, mezzo, and macro practices.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Social Welfare issues unique to teenagers, geriatrics, and special needs populations
- B. Advancing human rights in Arkansas
- C. Topics relevant to Americans with disabilities
- D. Macro System