

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
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**General Syllabus**

**SOWK 3533 Photography and Social Work Practice**

Credit Hours: 3                      Lecture Hours: 3                      Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite: Admission into the BSW program or permission of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Explores the use of photography, images and snapshots across micro, meso, and macro levels of social work practice.

**B. Additional Information – None**

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Analyze the history, conceptual foundation and ethical concerns for the use of photography and images in direct and macro-level social work practice.
2. Practice and adapt multiple intervention techniques using themselves or classmates as clients.
3. Integrate intervention techniques within social work and social change practices, synthesizing them within broader practice models.
4. Appraise therapeutic insight into personal issues that may influence professional social work practice.

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use critical thinking skills to identify client issues and adapt photographic strategies to address problems.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will demonstrate appropriate written, verbal and visual communication skills through papers and oral presentations to the class and local community.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical decision-making processes when using phototherapy techniques, adhering to the National Association of Social Work Code of Ethics.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications when using photographic techniques in social work.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. History of photography in social work and social change movements
- B. Empirically supported, best-practice photography methods
- C. Working an image and active listening skills
- D. Projective techniques
- E. Photo assignments for promoting individual / social change
- F. Snapshots and photo collections: Familial and group story telling
- G. Photo voice: Participatory action research