

University of Arkansas Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 3833 Geriatric Social Work

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory: None

Prerequisite: Admission to BSW program, ore SOWK 3043 Human Behavior in the Social Environment, or consent of department head

Effective Catalog: AY 2022

I. Course Information:

A. Catalog Description

A biopsychosocial perspective on the functioning and needs of older adults. Content covers geriatric social work, advocacy, and basic rights unique to elderly patients. Assessment, intervention, abuse and neglect, social support, and issues relating to death and dying will be addressed.

II. Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Articulate the principles, values, and ethics of the social work profession into work with older adults and their families.
2. Discuss and analyze selected demographic characteristics of the aging population in Arkansas/Oklahoma and the United States.
3. Describe the biological, psychological and sociological aspects of normal aging.
4. Explain the existing formal social service network for older persons in Arkansas/Oklahoma and the nation and the role of social work.
5. Define the impact of structural inequalities and the value of diversity among older adults as part of their roles on interprofessional teams and in organizations and communities.
6. Demonstrate awareness of aging-related personal and professional values through self-reflection and self-regulation.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills - Students examine social work practice with elder adults, analyzing individual bio-psycho-social-spiritual and system-level factors

supported by accepted empirical data that enhance resiliency and promote quality of life.

Communication Skills - Students will communicate professionally in both oral and written documentation appropriate to interprofessional geriatric social work practice, influenced by other health disciplines.

Ethical Decision Making - Students will appraise the ethical elements of today's social as well as health care systems, identifying dilemmas and solutions consistent with the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

Global & Cultural Perspectives - Students will determine the effects of cultural diversity among elder populations in geriatric social work practice, exploring ways to incorporate difference into micro, meso and macro level models of care.

III. Major Course Topics:

- A. Geriatric social work
- B. Advocacy for the geriatric population
- C. Unique populations
- D. Bio-psycho-social-spiritual issues in the elderly
- E. Substance abuse in the elderly
- F. Topics relevant to Americans with disabilities