

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 3843 Child Welfare Services

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW program or SOWK 3043 Human Behavior in the Social Environment, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Acquaints students with the role of the generalist social work practitioner in the field of child welfare. An overview of public and private programs that provide services to children is provided. These services include counseling, adoptions, foster care, residential care, school based services, court services, and U.S. legislation and laws regarding child welfare services.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Identify and discuss contemporary problems in child welfare.
2. Identify and discuss public and private agencies and resources available to meet child welfare needs.
3. Identify and analyze cultural and ethnic diversity issues related to child welfare practices.
4. Identify skills related to competent generalist child welfare practice.
5. Identify and analyze counter transference issues that may impact practice with children and families.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking**

Students will critically evaluate generalist social work practice within public and private programs providing services to children, using empirical data to assess and compare the effectiveness of various approaches.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will demonstrate professional written and verbal communication skills through papers and oral presentations fitting practice in counseling, adoptions, foster care, residential care, school based services, court services, and the U.S. legislation and laws regarding child welfare services.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will identify and process ethical dilemmas common in services to children, reflecting on standard ethical conduct as indicated by the NASW Code of Ethics. Students will analyze, synthesize and evaluate ethical standards of policies and practices of services including counseling, adoptions, foster care, residential care, and school based services, court services, and the U.S. legislation and laws regarding child welfare services.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will value and incorporate global and cultural perspectives associated with the role of the generalist social work practitioner in the field of child welfare.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
- B. Social Welfare Policies
- C. Topics relevant to child welfare services
- D. Juvenile Court System
- E. Case Management
- F. Human Needs