

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 3853 Social Work Values and Ethics

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW program

Prerequisite or corequisite: PHIL 2753 Introduction to Philosophy

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Prepares students with the knowledge base required to identify ethical issues, the skills necessary to resolve ethical dilemmas, and the capacity to make ethical decisions when confronted with conflicting duties and choices that occur within the context of professional social work at all levels of practice.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Understand and apply the philosophies, approaches and theories underlying the study of professional ethics and ethical decision-making.
2. Understand and apply the meaning of ethical concepts, principles, and terms.
3. Thoroughly understand the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Worker (1996; revised 1999 and 2008).
4. Differentiate between personal and professional values and ethics and consider and evaluate alternate courses of action to pursue when personal and professional values conflict.
5. Present, verbally and in writing, a logical, ethically sound, culturally competent argument for the resolution of ethical dilemmas relevant to social work practice.
6. Reflect on and discuss controversies, issues, and perspectives relevant to professional ethics.
7. Perform and present critical analysis of the ethical issues, considerations, and controversies related to a field of practice or a specific client group.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate fundamental skills with identifying ethical dilemmas, critically think, manage conflicts, plan and implement decision making skills, and evaluate effectiveness interventions using objective feedback.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will prepare papers and oral presentations concerning ethical dilemmas and solutions in an effective and parsimonious style.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will incorporate institution specific ethical standards, contrasted with the NASW Code of Ethics. Students will analyze, synthesize, and evaluate ethical standards of policies and practices.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon ethical situations and solutions with cultural diversity, respecting and incorporating differences when problem-solving dilemmas.

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