

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOWK 4633 Working with Veterans and Military Families

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite: SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology and PSYC 1163 General Psychology or permission of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores the biological, psychological, social and spiritual aspects of military service for Veterans and families as well as evidence-based strategies to improve post-service readjustment.

B. Additional Information – None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Contrast military and civilian cultures, norms, values and beliefs, and organizational structures.
2. Evaluate factors influencing the readjustment process for Veterans after deployment and/or post-military service.
3. Interpret physical strengths, deficits and chronic challenges for both short-term and long-term functioning during and after military service.
4. Evaluate common behavioral health issues facing Veterans and their families.
5. Analyze the role of spirituality and religion in Veteran functioning.
6. Appraise Veteran social functioning across social systems (home, friendship, work), appreciating interactive influences.
7. Identify resources and recommend plans for Veterans and their families to aid in the readjustment process.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will use critical thinking skills in identifying problems facing Veterans and their families and identify strategies and/or programs for solutions.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

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

Ethical Decision Making

Students will analyze ethical dilemmas facing Veterans, communities and service providers.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences within military cultures and Veteran populations and their implication within social work practices.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Military culture and organization, garrison vs. combat environments
- B. Reintegration process
- C. Physical injuries, stressors
- D. Veteran behavioral health issues
- E. Spirituality and service
- F. Personal and community based social systems
- G. National, state and local Veteran resources