

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SCWK 30433 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): SCWK 30333 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description: The second course in a two-part sequence, this course delves deeper into theories of development and human behavior, focusing on families, communities, groups, and organizations. Emphasis is placed on understanding the interactions between these systems within broader societal contexts, exploring how they influence and shape each other across various environments.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

C. Subject Matter

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

1. Explain and apply principles of systems theory, ecological perspectives, and psychosocial frameworks to analyze families, groups, organizations, communities, and societal dynamics.
2. Describe the biological, psychological, social, and cultural aspects of family systems, group interactions, organizational structures, and community settings within the context of the broader environment.
3. Analyze the dynamics of social groups, organizations, and communities and their impact on the development and behavior of individuals and families.
4. Examine how ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and other factors shape family dynamics, group behaviors, and community interactions, and their implications for social work practice.
5. Apply theories and information related to human behavior in families, groups, organizations, and communities to real-life situations, adhering to social work values and promoting social and economic justice.

6. Apply standards of professional social work practice in the context of working with families, groups, and community organizations.

D. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

II. Major Course Topics

- A. Systems and Ecological Frameworks
- B. Biopsychosocial Factors on Families and Groups
- C. Social and Cultural Dynamics in Communities and Organizations
- D. Ethical Practice and Social Justice in Communities and Organizations