

## **MSW Program - Course Descriptions**

**Note:** *All graduate courses in the School of Social Work have consent of instructor as a prerequisite.*

### **SW 700 History and Philosophy of Social Welfare (3 units)**

This course addresses the history of social welfare policies and services in the United States. Historical developments are analyzed in terms of attitudes, values, beliefs, philosophies, assumptions, and ideologies. Implications for growth and development of the social work profession and social service delivery systems are pinpointed. Political, economic, social, legal, historical and cultural contexts of social policy are analyzed in terms of past, current, and future implications. Applications to and implications for diversity are emphasized. *A required course for all students.*

### **SW 701 Social Policy Analysis (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 700. This course covers a range of policy analytical models and frameworks that can be used to analyze social policy. The purposes, functions, and applications of policy models and analytical frameworks are addressed. Different types of policies (with diverse objectives, assumptions and impacts) are pinpointed, and policy models and analytical frameworks are applied to each. Frameworks for analysis are discussed in terms of their applications to and implications for all areas of practice. Strengths and weaknesses of the models and frameworks are identified, particularly in light of population diversity. New policy/program directions are explored, and action plans are developed. *A requirement for all students.*

### **SW 710 Human Behavior and the Social Environment (3 units)**

A social systems conceptual framework for the study of human development and social services through the life cycle. Current social services, exemplary programs and unserved needs are identified at each stage of life with an emphasis upon oppressed groups. *A requirement for all students.*

### **SW711 The Life Cycle (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 710. Study of the phases and processes of human development in a life-span model. Examination of the interrelated physical, cognitive, emotional and social-cultural elements shaping differential patterns of adaptive goal-oriented behavior. *Elective.*

### **SW 720 Research Methods in Social Work (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 450 or equivalent and completion of **first semester of graduate social work program**. Major topics include the role of research in the development of social work theory and practice; methods of data collection, processing and analysis; and problems of statistical analysis and inference. *A requirement for all students.*

**SW 721 Evaluative Research Methods (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 720. An intensive exploration of the design, execution and analysis of the efficacy of evaluative research designs, methods, and strategies in social welfare. Emphasis upon measuring efficiency of service delivery, and applied evaluative research methods relevant to innovative programs.

**SW 730 Social Work Practice Methods (3 units)**

Seminar presenting the central concepts and processes of urban generalist practice. Major emphasis is given to the development of practice skills relevant to the needs and aspirations of oppressed individuals, groups, and communities. *A requirement for all students.* (Full-time students must take this course concurrently with SW 740 and 741).

**SW 740 Field Education (2-5 units)**

*Must be taken concurrently with SW 741.* First year: Application of the urban generalist model to a variety of practice settings serving oppressed groups. Second year: Integration of course work in advanced concentrations through practice under the supervision of a faculty member. Must be repeated for a maximum of 10 units. *A requirement for all students.*

**SW 741 Graduate Field Education Seminar (2 units)**

*Must be taken concurrently with SW 740.* Evaluative seminar to enable graduate students to analyze their field experience. Full-time students must repeat for a total of four (4) units; planned part-time students must repeat for a total of two (2) units. *A requirement for all students.*

**SW 760 Social Work and the Law (3 units)**

Social change through the judicial, legislative and executive processes. Topics include the role of courts and evidence, and such issues as human reproduction, marriage, divorce, adoption, children's rights, legal problems of the aged, racism, sexism, poverty, consumer protection, housing, education, mental health, licensing and malpractice. *Elective.*

**SW 770 Ethnic & Cultural Concepts and Principles I (3 units)**

Presentation of conceptual framework for the understanding of ethnic/cultural variables that influence social work practice with people and communities of color (in particular: Asian-American, African-American, Chicano-Latino, and Native American). *A requirement for all students.*

**SW 771 Ethnic & Cultural Concepts and Principles II (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 770. Analysis and evaluation of traditional social work intervention methods and their limitations and the creative exploration of new and more relevant methods of intervening in the problems experienced by people and communities of color. *A requirement for all students.*

**SW 800 Planning and Program Development (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 700. This course addresses planning and program development of human service organizations. Theories, types, levels, applications, and issues of planning are studied. These knowledge and skill bases are used to plan and develop human service programs. Focus is on needs assessment, program analysis, management planning and programming, marketing, fundraising, and grant writing. Attention is given to making program development relevant to the needs of diverse populations and communities. *This course is required for all Administration and Planning and Social Development students. Optional requirement for Social Work Practice with Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 801 Change Strategies and Professional Values (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 700. Seminar on the role of the social work profession in relation to social change and the effect these changes have on present and future social relationships. Review of salient professional values. *A requirement for all Social Development students. Optional requirement for Social Development students. Optional requirement for Social Work Practice with Families, Individuals, and Groups students. Elective for Administration and Planning students.*

**SW 810 Health, Illness and Disordered Behavior (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 710. Seminar examining health, illness, disability, stress reactions and psychopathology. These states are examined from a developmental perspective and with a focus on implications for social work practice. *A requirement for Social Work Practice With Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 811 Organizations, Institutions and Communities (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 710. This course examines a range of organizational theories that relate to the dynamics of complex organizations. Attention is given to social service bureaucracies in both the public and private sectors. Stability and change are addressed in terms of life cycles, theories, strategies, and tactics that impinge on change processes. Techniques for empowerment of community groups and historically oppressed populations are explored. *Required for all Administration and Planning and Social Development students.*

**SW 820 Advanced Research Methodology in Social Work (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 720. Theory and advanced methods of research applied to the design of research projects.

**SW 830 Social Casework (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 730. Methods of helping individuals cope with personal and social problems. Consideration of various approaches in the development of casework skills. Enhancement of social functioning examined through case studies and videotapes detailing social work interventions on behalf of individuals. *A requirement for all Social Work Practice With Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 831 Advanced Social Casework (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 830. Seminar on the use of relationships and the formulation of psycho-social diagnoses; adaptation of the casework process in traditional and non-traditional social casework; social therapeutic considerations in complicated personal and social pathology. *Optional requirement for all Social Work Practice With Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 832 Social Group Work (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 730. Seminar on small group behavior and the social work interventions required for improving social relationships within groups. *A requirement for all Social Work Practice With Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 833 Advanced Group Work (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 832. Seminar, which analyzes the social and psychological problems of students' client groups. Analysis of current theories of change and their utilization in the social group work process. *Optional requirement for all Social Work Practice With Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 834 Program Media in Social Group Work (2 units)**

Activities and programs in relation to socio-emotional dimensions of the group and to the structure and dynamics of personality. The social, psychological and therapeutic uses of athletics, crafts, work, music, literature, dance, and discussion. *Elective.*

**SW 835 Social Development Methods I (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 730. The nature of communities, community change dynamics, patterns of decision-making and community power analysis. Special attention is given to social planning and to social change strategies in working with disenfranchised and oppressed communities. *A requirement for all Social Development students. Optional requirement for Social Work Practice With Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 836 Social Development Methods II (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 835. Examination of selected social change strategies including citizen action organizing, client participation, and program development in social agencies and community development corporations. *A requirement for all Social Development students.*

**SW 837 Family Social Work (3 units)**

The urban family from both theoretical and practice orientations. The structure and internal operations of various types of families; life cycle of the family; assessment of dysfunction; intervention strategies; and the social worker's role in the change process. *Elective.*

*(SW 840-849 serve as ELECTIVES in the School of Social Work)*

**SW 840 Family Mediation (3 units)**

**SW 841 Social Work Practice with Gays and Lesbians (2 units)**

**SW 842 Social Work with the Aged (3 units)**

**SW 843 Child Welfare Practice (3 units)**

**SW 844 Seminar on Social Work Values and Ethics (3 units)**

**SW 845 Social Work and Health Care (2 units)**

**SW 846 Social Work In Industry (2 units)**

**SW 847 Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees (3 units)**

**SW 848 Social Work, Social Welfare and the Disabled (3 units)**

**SW 849 Quasi-Morticide: Self Destructive Behavior- Implications for Social Work Practice** (This course is offered through the College of Extended Learning only.)

**SW 850 Human Services Administration I (3 units)**

**Prerequisite:** SW 730. Application of theory to personnel processes in human service agencies. Includes legal considerations related to hiring policies and practices, recruitment, training and development. *A requirement for all Administration and Planning students. Optional requirement for Social Work Practice With Families, Individuals, and Groups students.*

**SW 855 Current Issues in Social Work (2-3 units)**

Variable Topics. Examination of current issues in social work practice and in the profession. Exploration of selected issues in depth. **Course may be taken more than once for credit, but not more than three times for a maximum of six units.**

**SW 855 Social Work Practice in School Settings (3 units)**

Development of an understanding of the policies, theories, principles underlying the practice of social work in public schools (K-12). The focus of study will be on school social work as part of an interdisciplinary approach to resolving school-related problems, and on social workers as facilitators and advocates in aiding students, families, school and communities to achieve educational goals. *Required for students pursuing the PPS Credential.*

**SW 862 Child Welfare (2 units)**

Analysis of major issues in the provision of public and publicly funded child welfare services. Examination of preventive, supportive and substitute programs for children and families; discussion of changing urban family roles, cultural-racial-class factors, effective development, and children's rights. *Elective.*

**SW 863 Community Development (2 units)**

Theories and functional principles of community development in terms of relevant social science knowledge related to current concepts of community organization in social work. Topics include delinquency control programs and anti-poverty efforts in certain U.S. cities and programs of community development in selected developing countries. *Elective.*

**864 Human Services Administration II (3 units)**

**Prerequisite: SW 880 or consent of instructor.** Modern management theory as applied to non-profit human service agencies. Emphasis on the application of theory and applied techniques to resolve problems associated with fiscal accountability in human service agencies. *A requirement for all Administration and Planning students.*

**SW 865 Social Work Practice With People With AIDS (2 units)**

*(This course is offered through the College of Extended Learning only).*

**SW 880 Computers and Human Services Administration**

**(2 units) Prerequisite: Completion of or current enrollment in SW 850.** Computer technology as it applies to contemporary management of social service agencies. Emphasis will be on exposure to a range of concepts, skills and tools that can be utilized to manage information systems in contemporary social service agencies. *A requirement for all Administration and Planning students. Elective for other students.*

**SW 895 Research/Professional Practice Project in Social Work (3 units)**

**Prerequisite: Advancement to Candidacy.** The execution of an individual or group research/professional practice project reflecting student's interest and needs in working with oppressed communities. *Option to meet the culminating experience requirement.*

**S.W 898 Master's Thesis (3 units)**

**Prerequisite: Advancement to Candidacy.** At the discretion of the faculty and on application of the student, consent may be given for the student to write an individual thesis. The thesis topic must fall within the social welfare field. *A Graduate Approved Program (GAP) and Thesis/Creative Work Topic form must be on file in the Graduate Studies and Research Office (ADM-254) before registration. Option to meet the culminating experience requirement.*

**SW 899 Special Study (1-3 units)**

An intensive study of a particular problem in social work or social welfare under the direction of a member of the social work faculty. Open only to students who have demonstrated ability to do independent work. *Enrollment by petition. A maximum of 6 units towards the MSW degree may be completed through Special Study.*