



GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WORK AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

SOWK 1500 | 3 credit hours
Class Meetings: TBD

Instructor: TBD

Office: TBD

Office Phone: TBD

Email: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

Department: Grace Abbott School of Social Work

Main Office: 206 CPACS

Dept. Phone: 402.554.2793

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COURSE INFORMATION

Description

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the social work profession, professional roles and functions, and social services delivery systems. Students will have an opportunity to observe and participate in social services activities within Nebraska and Iowa communities incorporated with didactic experiences. Students will also have an opportunity to explore their vocational aptitude for social work practice via interactive encounters with clients and helping professionals.

Rationale/Overview

This course will provide the student with knowledge of beginning skills, and techniques of effective helping. It provides a general overview and introduction to the helping profession. Focus is on the motivations, demands, struggles, anxieties, and uncertainties of the helping profession. The introduction of proactive strategies of utilizing education, skill development, self-understanding, and supervision while working with individuals, groups, and in the community are identified to ensure quality experiences and provision of service.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

1. Experience the culture of human service agencies, including purpose, function and procedures.



2. Explore social work roles and knowledge base through the lens of anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI).
3. Identify the foundation for helping relationships.
4. Understand the connection between unique client situations and the agency delivery systems available for service.
5. Discover personal commitment, capabilities and potential for growth in the field of social work.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Required text(s)

TBD

COURSE STRUCTURE/FORMAT

Class lectures, discussions, group activities, audio-visual aids, agency visitations and guest speakers may be used to present course materials. Also included are experiential exercises, typewritten assignments, and volunteer service in a human services agency. Instructional methods in this course will be supported by UNO's Learning Management System (e.g., Canvas).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Session/Date	Topic	Assignment
Session 1 [date]	Introduction to course and review syllabus Service learning agency presentations	Rate top three service learning sites
Session 2 [date]	Service learning agency sign-ups Team building	
Session 3 [date]	Agency orientation – class does not meet	Reflection Journal #1
Session 4 [date]	Lecture: Engagement and cultural humility	Read: Ch. 5
Session 5 [date]	Lecture: Engagement strategies and self-care	Read: Ch. 9
Session 6 [date]	Lecture: Engagement strategies (cont.)	Read: Ch. 9 (cont.)
Session 7 [date]	Lecture: Self-assessment skills and ethical practice	Read: Ch. 6 Reflection Journal #2
Session 8 [date]	Lecture: Ethical practice (cont.) and ethical dilemmas	
Session 9 [date]	Lecture: Assessing individuals, eco-maps, and genograms	Read: Ch. 7 Quiz #1
Session 10 [date]	Lecture: Needs assessments	
Session 11 [date]	Lecture: Intervention / project proposal	Reflection Journal #3



Session/Date	Topic	Assignment
Session 12 [date]	Lecture: Creating goals and objectives and contracting	Read: Ch. 8
Session 13 [date]	View: “Paper Tigers”	
Session 14 [date]	View and discuss: “Piper Tigers” (cont.)	
Session 15 [date]	Lecture: Social work licensure and careers	Reflection Journal #4
Session 16 [date]	Lecture: Intervention – implementation skills, backwards planning, organization, delegation, general leadership skills, non-profits, chain of command, making changes to an organization	
Session 17 [date]	Lecture: Intervention – group work	Read: Ch. 10
Session 18 [date]	Lecture: Intervention – macro work	Read: Ch. 11 Quiz #2
Session 19 [date]	Lecture: Cultural humility	Reflection Journal #5
Session 20 [date]	Lecture: Self-care	
Session 21 [date]	Lecture: The field of social work / cycle of oppression	Read: Ch. 4 and 12 Reflection Journal #6
Session 22 [date]	Small group discussions – service learning experiences so far	
Session 23 [date]	Lecture: Termination – the when and how	
Session 24 [date]	In-class work: create a termination plan	Social service agency paper Quiz #3 Ch. 4-12
Session 25 [date]	In-class work: case studies	Reflection Journal #7
Session 26 [date]	Group presentations	
Session 27 [date]	Group presentations Course wrap-up and feedback	Reflection Journal #8
Session 29 [date]	Final presentations	Service learning hour sheets



IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to drop a course (via MavLink) and receive a 100% refund	TBD
Last day to withdraw from a course (via MavLink) with a grade of “W”	TBD

NOTE: This syllabus is written as an expectation of class topics, learning activities, and expected learning outcomes. However, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in this schedule that may result in enhanced or more effective learning for students. These modifications will not substantially change the intent or objectives of this course.

ASSESSMENTS (ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS)

Quizzes (3) Three quizzes worth 20 points each.	60 points (total)
Reflection Journals (8) Eight reflection journals worth 5 points each.	40 points (total)
Paper (1) One paper worth 100 points.	100 points (total)
Group Presentation (1) One group presentation worth 75 points.	75 points (total)
Service-Learning Experience (1) One service-learning experience worth 200 points.	200 points (total)
Syllabus Video (1) One syllabus video viewing worth 15 points.	15 points (total)
	490 points (total)

GRADING SCALE

Percent	Final Grade	Quality Points
98–100%	A+	4.00
94–97.9%	A	4.00
91–93.9%	A-	3.67
88–90.9%	B+	3.33
84–87.9%	B	3.00
81–83.9%	B-	2.67
78–80.9%	C+	2.33
77–77.9%	C	2.00
71–73.9%	C-	1.67
68–70.9%	D+	1.33
64–67.9%	D	1.00
61–63.9%	D-	0.67
Below 60.9%	F	0.00



WRITING GUIDELINES

Students should make sure that writing assignments are free of grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Papers should adhere to the most recent citation style outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA).

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

In this course, students will submit written work by making use of information and ideas found in print or online sources. Whenever material from another writer is used, it is important that students quote or paraphrase appropriately and cite the source.

The UNO Academic Integrity policy defines plagiarism as "presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting academic work in whole or in part as one's own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person."

Failure to cite sources appropriately is plagiarism, a serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will not be accepted. Consequences for plagiarism are up to the discretion of the instructor; they may range, for example, from rewriting all or part of a paper to a grade of F for the course. Students who plagiarize more than once are subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the university.

Students SHOULD NOT GUESS when it comes to using or citing another writer's work. Students should contact the instructor or a consultant at the UNO Writing Center with questions. Students should take a printout of the original source as well as the paper that is being written to the consultation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found responsible for violating the [policy on Academic Integrity](#) shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Violations of the policy on Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following: cheating, fabrication and falsification, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials and/or equipment, complicity in academic dishonesty, falsifying grade reports, and/or misrepresentation to avoid academic work. More information about these areas and the procedures addressing academic integrity is available from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs (EAB 202 | 402.554.2262).

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to arrive on time to class meetings. Students should come to class well prepared, meaning readings and other assignments have been completed. Students are expected to be respectful of their classmates and the instructor. Distracting and/or disrespectful behaviors will not be tolerated.



CELL PHONES, MOBILE DEVICES, AND LAPTOPS

Students are welcome to use cell phones, mobile devices, and/or laptops in class provided they are used for academic purposes such as note taking, accessing course materials, or researching course concepts and their use does not disrupt fellow classmates. Please silence devices if at all possible. A student who receives a phone call or text, should step outside the classroom to respond. DO NOT take pictures or video during class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will be expected to have access to a computer frequently, as all writing assignments used will be typed out and not handwritten. The software students use to write assignments is irrelevant, as long as the writing guidelines outlined in this syllabus are followed. It is recommended that students have access to a computer weekly. Public computers are available on the UNO campus. Consult [Information Technology Services](#) and the [Criss Library](#), for more information on equipment locations and availability.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support for common university systems, including Canvas and email, is available from Information Technology Services [technical support](#) located in Eppley Administration Building (EAB) 104.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Accessibility Services Center (ASC) and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact ASC (Location: H&K 104, Phone: 402.554.2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu)

CRISS LIBRARY

UNO's Criss Library offers a wide variety of resources that support student learning. Subject specialist librarians have in-depth knowledge of researching within specific disciplines and can provide guidance for a specific area of study. Students are encouraged to explore customized resources featured on the [Criss Library](#) website.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is prepared for a wide range of emergencies. Students should familiarize themselves with procedures and assistance available on UNO's [emergency information page](#). If travel to campus is not feasible due to a declared emergency, a combination of Canvas, teleconferencing, and other technologies will be used to facilitate academic continuity. Students will be notified of procedures through Canvas course site announcements and email as appropriate.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement or threatening weather, students should use his/her best judgment regarding travel to and from campus. Students who are not able to attend class due to adverse weather conditions, should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Similarly, if the instructor is unable to reach the class location, students will be notified of any cancellation or change as soon as possible (by approximately 1 hour before class starts and by posting an announcement in Canvas). Students who cannot get to class because of weather conditions, will be provided allowances relative to attendance policies as well as any scheduled tests, quizzes, or other assessments.

PREFERRED NAME AND PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUNS

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. The instructor will gladly honor a student's request to be addressed by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise the instructor of this preference early in the semester so that instructor records may be changed appropriately.

WRITING CENTER

The UNO Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations with trained consultants to all students, faculty, and staff. Their goal is to help writers improve their writing skills and confidence in all types of writing, in all subject areas, and at all stages of the writing process. For more information about their hours and locations or to schedule an appointment, go to unomaha.edu/writingcenter or visit their main location in Arts and Sciences Hall (ASH) 150.

SPEECH CENTER

The [UNO Speech Center](#) provides free consulting and coaching services to all UNO students, faculty, and staff in preparing oral presentations. The Speech Center Consulting Room can help students with presentation preparation, outlining, effective delivery techniques, along with any other presentational needs. Speech consulting will help at any stage in the speech-making process. For more information, visit the UNO Speech Center in Arts and Sciences Hall (ASH) 183 and 185.

STUDENT SAFETY

A variety of resources are available to support student safety and security. Students have experienced or are experiencing a difficult personal situation, should consult the resources available through the [Division of Student Success](#).

OUTCOMES MAP AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Competencies

The student learning outcomes for this course are built upon the following nine social work core competencies set forth by the CSWE's 2022 Educational Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) which is required for all accredited social work programs.

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior.
2. Advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.



3. Engage anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI) in practice.
4. Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
5. Engage in policy practice.
6. Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
7. Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

This map is intended to show how course topics, content, and activities align to the student learning outcomes outlined above. The CSWE 2022 EPAS core competencies are identified in the first column and mapped to the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), the field practicum learning contract assignments and the CSWE 2022 EPAS Dimensions.

EPAS Competency*	Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	Assignment	Dimension *
1 = Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	3. Identify the foundation for helping relationships. 5. Discover personal commitment, capabilities and potential for growth in the field of social work.		S, V
3 = Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (A DEI) in Practice	2. Explore social work roles and knowledge base through the lens of anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI).		K, S, V, CAP
6 = Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	1. Experience the culture of human service agencies, including purpose, function and procedures.		K, CAP
7 = Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities	4. Understand the connection between unique client situations and the agency delivery systems available for service.		K, S, CAP



*Dimensions Key:

K = Knowledge

S = Skills

V = Value

CAP = Cognitive and Affective Processing

REFERENCES AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

References

- Bradley, M., Lizzul, I., Di Giorgio, L., Äikäs, R. M., Murolo, S., & Zinger, L. (2015). The impact of service learning on academic knowledge, personal growth, and civic engagement in community college students. *Journal for Civic Commitment*, 23(1), 1-19.
- Curl, A., & Benner, K. (2017). Volunteering enhances the social work student experience. *Field Scholar*, 7.2, 1-10.
- Herald, J., Perkins, L. F., & Powers, H. (2014). Community engagement in social work. *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*, 7(2), 92-94.
- Hylton, M. E. (2015). Civic engagement and civic literacy among social work students: Where do we stand? *Journal of Policy Practice*, 14(3-4), 292-307.
- Klemm, T. (2018). Civic engagement and social action in social work education. Dissertation. St. Catherine University. SOPHIA.
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- McBride, A. M., & Mlyn, E. (2016). Social innovation and civic engagement: Toward a shared future? *Diversity & Democracy*, 19(3).
- Mizrahi, T. & Abramovits, M. (2018). Voting is social work: Voter empowerment and the national social work voter mobilization campaign. Retrieved from <https://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/practice/voting-is-social-work-voter-empowerment-national-social-work-voter-mobilization-campaign/>
- Richards-Schuster, K., Espitia, N., & Rodems, R. (2019). Exploring values and actions: Definitions of social justice and the civic engagement of undergraduate students. *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, 16(1), 27-38.
- Schelbe, L., Petracchi, H. E., & Weaver, A. (2014). Benefits and challenges of service-learning in baccalaureate social work programs. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 34(5), 480-495.

Classic References

- Herald, J. Perkins, L. F., & Powers, H. (2014). Community engagement in social work. *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*, 7(2), 92-94.
- Phillips, A. (2007). Service learning and social work education: A natural but tenuous connection. In M. Nadel, V. Majewski, & M. Sullivan-Cosetti (Eds.), *Social work and service learning: Partnerships for social justice* (pp. 3-19). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.



Schelbe, L., Petracchi, H. E., & Weaver, A. (2014). Benefits and challenges of service-learning in baccalaureate social work programs. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 34*(5), 480–495.

