



GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE

SOWK 4620/8626 | 3 credit hours

Class Meetings:

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 provides an overview of issues related to trauma including: the factors related to development of trauma, definitions of trauma, the impact of trauma on individuals, families and communities, and the programs and practices that are most effective and appropriate regarding the social work role in responding to trauma.

Rationale/Overview

This course will cover the latest trauma theories and treatments, and take an in-depth critical examination of different populations affected by trauma including child abuse survivors, war veterans, domestic violence survivors, victims of accidents or crimes, and communities and schools that are devastated by abuse, neglect, and addiction. This class will include an analysis of theoretical frameworks for understanding trauma, including neurobiological aspects and types of trauma, history of traumatology, and impact of trauma on individuals, family and communities. The course will also cover trauma-informed care models and evidence-based trauma practice models with an emphasis on strengths, resiliency, coping, multicultural issues and cultural competency. The overall



purpose of the course is to learn relevant theories of trauma and recovery and relate them to social work practice.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

1. Appraise how stress and trauma may present across systems, its effects and evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies.
2. Compare the concepts of trauma and resilience.
3. Synthesize information regarding the experience of trauma as it relates to anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) within a historical context.
4. Engage in self-reflection, self-regulation strategies, and self-care practice including reflective trauma-responsive supervision to prevent and address secondary traumatic stress, compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, and burnout in self and organization to enhance effective practice, policies, and research that considers ethical decision making related to trauma.
5. Critique methods of implementation regarding trauma-informed principles of care, advocating for policies and trauma-sensitive services at the individual, organizational, and societal levels that are responsive to those underrepresented and oppressed in society.
6. Design biopsychosocial intervention strategies to address client trauma. (Graduate students only)

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Required text(s)

TBD

COURSE STRUCTURE/FORMAT

Lecture, discussion, experiential learning experiences, video and Internet resources, and guest presentations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Session/Date	Topic	Assignment
Session 1 [date]	Introduction to the course and review syllabus Lecture: Defining trauma In-class: pre-test	
Session 2 [date]	Lecture: Types of trauma and trauma throughout history	Read: Prologue and part 1 (Van der Kolk)
Session 3 [date]	Lecture: Neurobiology of trauma	Read: Part 2 (Van der Kolk) Compassion fatigue paper
Session 4 [date]	Lecture: Situational trauma vs. interpersonal trauma, and cumulative trauma	Read: Part 3 (Van der Kolk)
Session 5 [date]	Lecture: Trauma and memory, legacy of trauma, and mental health diagnoses related to trauma	Read: part 4 (Van der Kolk)



Session/Date	Topic	Assignment
Session 6 [date]	Lecture: Economic and societal burdens of trauma Exam 1	
Session 7 [date]	Lecture: Defining resilience, understanding factors that contribute to and mitigate trauma risk In-class: review current state of knowledge View and discuss: video	
Session 8 [date]	Lecture: Trauma and resilience across the lifespan	Read: Intro and Ch. 1-5 (Perry and Szalavitz)
Session 9 [date]	Lecture: Trauma and resilience across the lifespan (cont.)	Read: Ch. 6-11 (Perry and Szalavitz) Book review
Session 10 [date]	Lecture: Trauma and resilience in special populations In-class: Group readings and exercises	
Session 11 [date]	Lecture: Policy, programming, and treatment responses to trauma	Read: Part 5 (Van der Kolk)
Session 12 [date]	Lecture: Trauma training, intervention, and prevention Guest speaker:	
Session 13 [date]	Lecture: Trauma training, intervention, and prevention (cont.)	
Session 14 [date]	Lecture: Professional roles in social work, dealing with trauma	Case paper
Session 15 [date]	Lecture: The future of trauma work	Read: Epilogue (Van der Kolk) Exam 2

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)

Exams (2)	100 points (total)
Two exams worth 50 points each.	
Compassion and Fatigue Paper (1)	30 points (total)
One compassion and fatigue paper worth 30 points.	



Book Review (1) 50 or 20 points (total)
One book review worth 50 points (undergrad) or 20 points (grad).

Case Paper (1) 30 points (total)
One case paper worth 30 points.

Attendance and Participation 20 points (total)

230 undergrad points or 200 grad 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 Epley 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: 104 H&K, 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, economic, and environmental justice.
3. Engage in anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) 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. Course objectives are italicized to distinguish them from the core competencies set forth by the CSWE's 2022 EPAS.

EPAS Competency*	Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	Assignment	Dimension*
1 = Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	4. Engage in self-reflection, self-regulation strategies, and self-care practice including reflective trauma-responsive supervision to prevent and address secondary traumatic stress, compassion fatigue,		



EPAS Competency*	Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	Assignment	Dimension*
	vicarious trauma, and burnout in self and organization to enhance effective practice, policies, and research that considers ethical decision making related to trauma.		
2 = Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice	5.Critique methods of implementation regarding trauma-informed principles of care, advocating for policies and trauma-sensitive services at the individual, organizational, and societal levels that are responsive to those underrepresented and oppressed in society.		
3 = Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice	3.Synthesize information regarding the experience of trauma as it relates to anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) within a historical context.		
4 = Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice	1.Appraise how stress and trauma may present across systems, its effects and evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies. 2.Compare the concepts of trauma and resilience.		
5 = Engage in Policy Practice	5.Critique methods of implementation regarding trauma-informed principles of care, advocating for policies and trauma-sensitive services at the individual, organizational, and societal levels that are responsive to those underrepresented and oppressed in society.		
8 = Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups,	6. Design biopsychosocial intervention strategies to address client trauma. (Graduate students only)		



EPAS Competency*	Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	Assignment	Dimension*
Organizations, and Communities			

*Dimensions Key:

K = Knowledge

S = Skills

V = Value

CAP = Cognitive and Affective Processing

REFERENCES AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

References

- Aas, M., Henry, C., Andreassen, O. A., Bellivier, F., Melle, I., & Etain, B. (2016). The role of childhood trauma in bipolar disorders. *International journal of bipolar disorders*, 4(1), 2.
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- Papadopoulos, R. K. (2018). Refugees, home and trauma 1. In *Therapeutic Care for Refugees* (pp. 9-39). London: Routledge.
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- Spinazzola, J., Ford, J. D., Zucker, M., van der Kolk, B. A., Silva, S., Smith, S. F., & Blaustein, M. (2017). Survey evaluates: Complex trauma exposure, outcome, and intervention among children and adolescents. *Psychiatric Annals*, 35(5), 433-439.
- Van der Kolk, B. A. (2017). Developmental trauma disorder: toward a rational diagnosis for children with complex trauma histories. *Psychiatric annals*, 35(5), 401-408.

