



GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SPECIAL STUDIES IN SOCIAL WELFARE

SOWK 4890 | 1-4 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

Dept. Email: graceabbott@unomaha.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Description

This independent study course allows students to pursue a special selected area or topic within social welfare in order to deepen knowledge and/or skills in that particular area.

Rationale/Overview

The special studies course is designed to provide students with opportunities to study social work topics that are not included in the regular curriculum of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work and to investigate a specific social work topic in greater depth than is facilitated by the regular curriculum of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the selected area of social welfare and its relevance to social work professional roles, values and ethics, and practice behaviors.
2. Explain the major knowledge base and theoretical foundations for the topic and their empirical standing.
3. Discuss the relevance of the topic with regard to services and policies that impact diverse, aging, vulnerable, and under-served populations, including anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI).
4. Evaluate the published literature on the topic.



REQUIRED TEXT(S)/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Required Text(s)

TBD

COURSE STRUCTURE/FORMAT

Class lectures, discussions, in-class assignments, audio-visual aids, and guest speakers will be used to present course materials.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Session/Date	Topic	Assignment
Session 1 [date]	Introduction to the course and review syllabus	Read: Ch. 1 Interest Survey
Session 2 [date]	Lecture: Social welfare, past and present	Read: Ch. 2
Session 3 [date]	Lecture: Social work and other helping professions	Read: Ch. 3
Session 4 [date]	Lecture: The systems/ecological perspective	
Session 5 [date]	Lecture: The systems/ecological perspective View and discuss: "Cultural Humility"	Read: Ch. 4 Juan case study
Session 6 [date]	Lecture: Diversity and social justice	Exam #1 study guide
Session 7 [date]	View and discuss: documentary	Exam #1
Session 8 [date]	Lecture: Social work with individuals, families, and groups	Read: Ch. 5
Session 9 [date]	Lecture: Social work practice with agencies and the community	Read: Ch. 6 Michael case study
Session 10 [date]	Lecture: Social work practice with agencies and the community View and discuss: "The Line" Exam #1 review and discuss	Read: Ch. 7
Session 11 [date]	Lecture: Poverty, income assistance, and homelessness	
Session 12 [date]	Lecture: Poverty, income assistance, and homelessness	Read: Ch. 8
Session 13 [date]	Lecture: Healthcare	
Session 14 [date]	In-class discussion/activity Exam #2 prep	Exam #2 study guide Mental health assignment
Session 15 [date]		Read: Ch. 9 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)

Planning/carrying out study	10 points (total)
Bibliography	10 points (total)
Discussion	20 points (total)
Formal term paper/project report	60 points (total)

100 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 (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. 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	1. Describe the selected area of social welfare and its relevance to social work professional roles, values and ethics, and practice behaviors.		
3 = Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (A DEI) in Practice	3. Discuss the relevance of the topic with regard to services and policies that impact diverse, aging, vulnerable, and under-served populations, including anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI).		
4 = Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice	2. Explain the major knowledge base and theoretical foundations for the topic and their empirical standing. 4. Evaluate the published literature on the topic.		
5 = Engage in Policy Practice	3. Discuss the relevance of the topic with regard to services and policies that impact diverse, aging, vulnerable, and under-served populations, including anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI).		



*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*. (Doctoral dissertation). St. Catherine University. SOPHIA.
- Lewis, C. E., Jr. (2017). Social work, civic engagement and the 12 grand challenges. *Social Justice Solutions*. Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy. Retrieved from <http://www.socialjusticesolutions.org/2017/01/27/social-work-civic-engagement-12-grand-challenges/>
- McBride, A. M., & Mlyn, E. (2016). Social innovation and civic engagement: Toward a shared future? *Diversity & Democracy*, 19(3). Retrieved from <https://www.aacu.org/diversitydemocracy/2016/summer/mcbride>
- Mizrahi, T. & Abramovits, M. (2018, Fall). Voting is social work: Voter empowerment and the national social work voter mobilization campaign. *The New Social Worker*. 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.



SPECIAL STUDIES APPLICATION (1-4 CREDIT HOURS)

_____ Semester / Year	_____ Credit Hours
_____ Date Project Begins	_____ Date Project is Complete

_____ Student Name	_____ NU ID
_____ Address / City / State / Zip	
_____ Phone	
_____ Email	

Reason for the special study:

Specific objectives:

_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Special Study Project Supervisor/Primary Tutor Signature	_____ Date
_____ Special Studies Coordinator / Director Signature	_____ Date



Specific Activities

Total number of hours must be at least 45 hours per credit hour.

Reading / Literature Review

Approximate Hours: _____

Description:

Experiential

Approximate Hours: _____

Description:

Field Research

Approximate Hours: _____

Description:

Other Specific Activities

Approximate Hours: _____

Description:

Preparation of Final Product

Approximate Hours: _____

Description:



Monitoring Plans

Method of Evaluation

