

MSW 2027 Winter & Spring Electives

Winter

SWG537-90 – Sexuality and Social Work Practice

Instructor: Dr. Erin Hipple (they/them)

This course is intended to provide graduate social workers an overview of therapeutic considerations of human sexuality through sex positive and sexual social justice frameworks. The course will provide students with a variety of concepts related to sexuality with an emphasis on clinical approaches and interventions. The Circles of Sexuality will be utilized as a framework that will provide students with a means to conceptualize and address clinical issues of human sexuality as they may arise in social work practice.

Offered: This course is online via Zoom on M-W-F from 9:45a-4p for the weeks of December 14 and January 5. Class will meet synchronously from 9:45a-4p on 12/14, 12/16, 12/18, 1/4, 1/6, and 1/8 and will have one class day (Friday 12/18) scheduled as asynchronous. This is a total of 6 modules with one being self-paced and asynchronous (Friday, 12/18).

SWG593-90 – Green Social Work and Environmental Justice

Instructor: Dr. Ginneh Akbar (she/her)

This course emphasizes a framework of environmental justice for exploring the connection between environmental impact and social, political, and economic structures. An environmental psychology perspective is utilized to understand how attitudes and behaviors related to the natural environment and sustainability are shaped, reinforced, and changed. Students will learn about a broad range of topics related to conservation of the natural environment, analyze the impact on communities, and practice skills relevant to behavioral change, community engagement, and advocacy.

Offered: This course is online asynchronous.

Spring

SWG567-90 – Social Work, Trauma and the Arts

Instructor: Dr. Meagan Corrado (she/her)

This course provides instruction for social work students seeking to understand and apply the arts to encounters with traumatized individuals, communities, and systems. The course, which uses creative engagement and didactic strategies, is divided into three phases. In the introductory phase, participants will learn basic information about (1) the impact of trauma, (2) the consequences of trauma exposure, (3) the neurobiological implications of traumatization, and (4) best practices and common factors in trauma treatment. In the second phase, students will explore the relationship between social work, creativity, and trauma healing. Students will critically analyze (1) the concepts of creativity and destruction, (2) the role of various artistic media in facilitating trauma healing, and (3) the congruity of these arts-based practices with social work values. In the third phase, participants will consider ways to integrate the arts into both clinical and macro contexts. Students will create and share a plan for implementation of a creative, arts-based intervention in a clinical or macro social work setting.

Offered: This is an online course, held Wednesdays from 5:50PM-8:35PM

SWG580-90 – Social Work in End-of-Life Care

Instructor: Dr. Angela Lavery (she/her)

This course examines the issues of death, dying, grief and loss. The field of end of life and palliative care will be reviewed. The course will discuss attitudes towards death and dying and additional topics such as death with dignity acts within the U.S. The course will also introduce students to dying and grief loss stages, models and theories; coping with dying and loss; self-care: grief and loss during different developmental stages; and cultural responsiveness during end of life and bereavement care.

Offered: This is an asynchronous online course.

SWG590-02 - Adventure and Nature-Based Groupwork**Instructor: Dr. Tina Chiarelli-Helminiak (she/her)**

This graduate-level elective course explores the application of experiential activities in adventure and nature-based social work groups. Students will delve into the theoretical underpinnings of adventure and nature-based groupwork, apply experiential facilitation skills, and develop an understanding of the benefits across all levels of practice with emphasis on group level implementation with members who have experienced trauma. Please note because this course is experiential, it is held in-person and students should be prepared to go outdoors. Students will want attire appropriate for the weather and walking. The course includes exploration of the WCU campus and a trip to the Philadelphia Outward Bound School.

Offered: This is an in-person class. Meeting schedule: Mondays from 5:50pm-8:35PM on the following dates: 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3 and Saturday 4/24 from 10-4

SWG590-91 –Solution-Focused Brief Therapy**Instructor: Dr. Alison Neff (she/her)**

Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) is a short-term therapeutic approach that helps clients who are entrenched in life-long challenges (for example long-term substance use, trauma, depression, etc.) move from problem-saturated narratives towards empowered processes that leverage strengths and resources.

Offered: This is an online class which is 100% distance with some synchronous meetings. Class meets on the following schedule synchronously on Zoom: Weekend Intensive 1: February 5, 6, & 7 (Fri 9a-5p, Sat 9a-5p, Sun 9a-1p). Weekend Intensive 2: February 26, 27, & 28 (Fri 9a-5p, Sat 9a-5p, Sun 9a-1p).

SWG601-90 – Education Law and Policy for Social Workers**Instructor: TBD**

This course will introduce students to federal, state, and local laws that impact social workers, staff, and students in the school setting. From the lens of social work ethics and values, students will explore legislation and policy related to confidentiality, youth homelessness, Title IV funding and programs, special education, truancy, diverse student identities, conduct violations, suicide prevention, threat assessment, and discipline. Additional topics include the differences between private, public, and charter schooling, interdisciplinary collaboration in school settings, the multi-tiered model of support, and the role of school boards. In this course, students not only learn about applicable laws and policies, but they consider how these laws and policies impact youth and shape the manner in which school social workers intervene with youth in school settings.

Offered: This is a 100% online course with some synchronous meetings. Meeting times are Wednesdays 5:50pm-8:35pm.