

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

SW 533 Treatment of Trauma  
(3 Credit Hours)  
Section 004  
Spring 2018

Registration Restriction: Admitted Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) students

**Instructor:** Stephanie Weatherstone, LCSW  
**Office:** Henson Hall  
**Email:** [stephanieweatherstonelcsw@gmail.com](mailto:stephanieweatherstonelcsw@gmail.com)  
**Class Time/Location:** 3:35-6:35pm, Thursday; HH423  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Course website:** Canvas, <http://online.utk.edu>  
**APA website:** <http://www.apastyle.org/previoustips.html>

- I. **Code of Conduct:** It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct Code that is in the College of Social Work MSSW Handbook ([www.csw.utk.edu](http://www.csw.utk.edu)). Students are also expected to sign and adhere to the Social Work Field Placement Code of Conduct.
  
- II. **The Honor Statement :** An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity. (*Hilltopics*).
  
- III. **University Civility Statement:** Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>
  
- IV. **Disability:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact The University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services at 100 Dunford Hall (865) 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

- V. **Dimensions of Diversity:** The College of Social Work and the University of Tennessee welcome and honor all people. In accordance with the U.S. National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the U.S. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement), “the dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including” age, class, color, culture, mental or physical disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, national origin, political ideology, race, regionality, religion and spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. The College values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and academic freedom and integrity. “A person’s diverse life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim” (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement). The College of Social Work promotes social justice and social change, and strives to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.
- VI. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is a concentration elective course. This course will present current bio-ecological research findings that inform our understanding of trauma. Emphasis is placed on understanding biopsychosocial influences on the incidence, course and treatment of acute stress and PTSD and the differential effect of these factors on diverse populations at risk. The course focuses on the acquisition of diagnostic skills as they relate to comprehensive social work assessment of adults, adolescents, and children. Assessment and interventions skills are taught for specific types of trauma, e.g. rape, war, natural disasters. Evidence-based interventions to treat victims of trauma will be presented. The treatment of trauma in this course is family focused and emphasizes the impact of trauma on family and provision of psychoeducation and support for family members. Knowledge of psychopharmacology and the roles social workers play regarding medication with clients as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team will be covered. This two credit advanced elective course examines roles, assessments, and intervention strategies for social workers in treating acute stress disorder and PTSD in a variety of service settings.
- VII. **COURSE RATIONALE:** Domestic violence, child abuse, assault, war, and natural disasters create high incidences of Acute Stress and Post Traumatic stress disorders. Approximately 6 million people in the United States are diagnosed with PTSD. Social workers need to be trained to serve those persons experiencing trauma reactions.
- VIII. **Course Competencies:** By the completion of this course, the students are expected to be able to demonstrate:
- 1) Explicate knowledge of selected evidence based clinical practice theories. CT/EBP Conc. # 1. (Content: cognitive behavioral, psychodynamic and exposure models for treatment of trauma).
  - 2) Utilize the value base of the social work profession and its ethical standards in clinical practice with individuals. Values/Ethics Conc. #1. (Content: NASW Code of ethics, ethical principles, ethical dilemma analysis, ethical dilemma resolution strategies.)
  - 3) Articulate clinical assessment with diverse groups of clients using evidence based assessment measures and methods. Diversity C.3; CT/EBP Conc. #1. (Content: : diversity assessment model,

- quantitative and qualitative assessment methods focusing on CAPS 2 trauma assessment, case studies, highlighting diversity in assessment.)
- 4) Describe culturally sensitive work with diverse client systems. Diversity Conc. #3 & #4; Practice Conc. #1. (Content: cultural competency, professional use of self specifically emphasizing the skills of supplemental functioning in persons with trauma, modifying clinical interventions for implementation with diverse groups.)
  - 5) Articulate and implement a plan for using the steps of evidence-based practice for improving clinical practice. CT/EBP Conc. #4; Practice Conc. #3. (Content: evaluation of research articles, apply the process of EBP through role-play and case studies in different trauma populations.)
  - 6) Describe the use of evidence based clinical practice theories in assessment, treatment planning, case conceptualization, and interviewing to resolve unique, ambiguous, value-conflicted, and complex client problems. Practice Conc. #1; Values/Ethics Conc. #1. (Content: application of research findings to clinical practice, assessment, treatment planning, interviewing, case-conceptualization, ethical dilemma analysis.)
  - 7) Critically analyze the role of social justice in clinical practice with at-risk populations. Populations at Risk/SJ Conc. #2. (Content: utilize case studies of at-risk populations for clinical practice role-play; analyze the social justice dimensions of evidence-based clinical practices.)

#### IX. REQUIRED TEXTS:

- a. Breire, J. and Scott, C. (2015). *Principles of Trauma Therapy: A Guide to Symptoms, Evaluation and Treatment*. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.
- b. Van der Kolk, B. (2014). *The Body Keeps Score: Brain, mind, and body in the healing of trauma*. Viking: New York, NY.
- c. Courtois, Christine A. and Ford, Julian D. (2009). *Treating Complex Traumatic Stress Disorders (Adults): An Evidence-Based Guide* 1st Edition. Guilford Press: New York, NY.

*Additional **required** readings will be assigned and posted to Canvas.*

#### X. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

When working with traumatized individuals, practitioners can do far more harm than good if they are naïve to the knowledge base. As such, students are expected to come prepared for class. This entails that students not only read the required material, but that they also critically consider the material and develop self-awareness related to their own experience of and response(s) to trauma. Other student responsibilities include: (1) attendance; (2) active participation; (3) completion of all required readings; (5) preparation for and participation in activities contributing to knowledge; (6) timely completion of assignments; and (7) feedback to the instructor.

#### XI. Policies

Participation is considered a vital part of the learning experience in this class. As such, attendance is *required*, as is the expectation that students will come prepared to discuss and critically analyze the required readings. If you are unable to attend, please leave an email message at [stephanieweatherstonelcsw@gmail.com](mailto:stephanieweatherstonelcsw@gmail.com). If you miss more than 3 times, you will have the choice of

making up for your absences by completing an extra assignment or withdrawing from the class.

Class activities are designed to help you reflect upon important concepts and involve you in class discussions where views are shared and ideas are debated. It is expected that you will respect the ideas and thinking of other students in the class by listening to their explanations and *appropriately* questioning their thinking and reasoning if you do not understand. It is also expected that you will demonstrate a healthy curiosity about the material at hand. Further, you are expected to work cooperatively with others and fully contribute to the workload of each group in which you may be a member. Class discussions will begin with the assumption that you have read the required material, as I consider this material a jumping off point for further discussions. As such, I will not always mention all required readings during the class. This, however, does not relieve you of the responsibility for knowing this material, as it will put you at a disadvantage for the class work, the assignments, and for your practice.

The use of computers and other electronic equipment is at the discretion of the professor. Students may use electronic equipment *ONLY* if it is used for purposes related to the class. Students may *NOT* surf the web other than as related specifically to classroom content; use calendars or other personal files on smart phones, or other similar media; send or receive any type of electronic message; or use any other portable electronic equipment or laptop when not related directly to class. You may be called upon at any time when using electronic equipment to demonstrate the nature of your electronic media use.

***All written work must be typewritten and double-spaced. Assignments are to be presented in a scholarly manner and should be well documented by referencing the supporting literature. Papers are to be free of mechanical flaws, including errors in grammar or spelling. Formatting, including style, grammar, and bibliographic references must conform to American Psychological Association (APA) style, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Both presentation and content will be considered in evaluating assignments.***

I am available by email ([stephanieweatherstonelcsw@gmail.com](mailto:stephanieweatherstonelcsw@gmail.com)). The quickest way to get in touch is by email. I am happy to set up a meeting with you at any time to discuss your work, the class, or issues in this area. Please feel free to utilize me, especially if you are having problems in the class or if you need more guidance on a specific assignment or topic.

## **XII. Sensitive Nature of Class**

Because of the sensitive nature of this class, issues of a personal nature may arise for students during the semester. Students who were themselves abused/neglected or otherwise traumatized or who have a close relationship with a victim may find some of the content especially difficult. Because of the difficulty of some of the topics, students who have not personally suffered child maltreatment may also experience some distress during the course of the semester. Because the personal affects practice, it is essential that students have methods for addressing issues that arise.

We will address the difficulty of the material in a number of ways. In our first class period, we will talk about how you can take care of yourself while taking this class. Here are some suggestions, both for what you can do this semester and what you can do in the future to take care of yourself.

- 1) Pair up with another person (or persons) in this class (or outside of this class) with whom you are comfortable sharing sensitive and personal material. Plan a time weekly when you can address issues that arise for you from taking this class. Alternately, you might want to find a group of individuals with whom you can occasionally process material from this class. Remember as well that this material may also be difficult for the person with whom you talk.
- 2) Keep a journal to allow time to process the material in this class and its effect upon you.
- 3) Plan time after doing the readings so that you can distance yourself from the material before going to sleep.
- 4) Make sure that significant others in your life are aware that you are taking this course and that it often deals with very hard material. Let them support you when you need it.
- 5) Make sure to plan some time each week that allows you to get away from this material. This could be “silly” time, sports time, physical exercise, or any method that allows you a release.
- 6) If you are a survivor of abuse or other significant trauma, you are probably already aware that this class may bring up personal issues for you. Give special attention to how you will address those issues. If you are not working with a therapist, you might want to consider doing so for a brief period. Otherwise, please consider with whom you can discuss the effect of this class on you. Both now, and as a future clinician, you will need to have resources for working with difficult material. The other unique issue you will face as a clinician is the entanglement of your issues with those of the client (countertransference). Good supervision, self-awareness, and a previous working-through process for your own abuse will be important for working with other survivors, including children or adolescents.
- 7) Set up a time to meet with me so we can strategize about how to attend to your needs over the semester.

We will also have certain practices in class designed to allow for the difficulty of the material. Because part of what we must learn as clinicians working with survivors is how to maintain appropriate boundaries (*internal and external*) with our clients, class time will be devoted to the development of the professional. This practice is not meant to negate or minimize personal experience, but to stress the importance of having ways of taking care of yourself this semester. If you need help considering how to do so, please set up an appointment with me.

### XIII. PLAGIARISM

It is assumed that all of your work is original and that you are aware of appropriate citation rules. If you are not **completely** familiar with citation rules, please review them at the UT Library web site: <http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruction/learnhow/>. This web site has other tutorials as well on how to use the library effectively, search strategies, etc., that may be of help. Please be aware that copying material verbatim from the web is considered plagiarism unless it is appropriately cited as verbatim material.

#### XIV. GRADING

A	93	- 100
B+	88	- 92
B	83	- 87
C+	78	- 82
C	73	- 77
D+	68	- 72
D	63	- 67
F	62 and below	

##### A. Assignment Values

1.	Personal Safety Plan	20 points
2.	Weekly journal response (8 responses at 5 points each)	40 points
3.	Paper on intervention of choice	75 points
4.	Assessment & Case Conceptualization	100 points
5.	Participation	15 points

##### B. Assignment Content

1. Personal Safety Plan (Course Competencies: 1,2,4)
  - a) This plan will be strictly confidential. I will not be discussing your history with you, but I do want to know enough to guide you in creating a sufficient care plan. This is a normal part of clinical supervision and essential to your long-term practice in the field of social work.
  - b) The expectation is for you to evaluate your own history of trauma and potential impact on your practice. If you do not have an identifiable traumatic event in your personal history, the expectation is for you to evaluate your sensitivity/susceptibility to vicarious traumatic experience. In either case, evaluate for yourself these potential “hot spots” and devise a plan to manage these experiences as you go through this class and further on into your clinical practice.
  - c) Please format plan double-spaced with your name and date in a header in the upper right-hand corner, and center the title “Personal Safety Plan” at the top of the first page. Please also number your pages.
2. Weekly journal response (Course Competencies: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
  - a) Each week (at least 8 of the 14 weeks), you are expected to journal about the content discussed in class and elaborate briefly on your experience of the material. Include thoughts, emotional reactions, and any related insight based on either your personal or professional experience thus far. You may also synthesize the material from this class with another trauma or practice class and process insight(s) gained.
  - b) These journals should be 1-2 pages maximum, double-spaced, with your name, date, and “Journal #\_\_\_” formatted in a header in the upper right-hand corner. Please also number your pages.
3. Paper on Intervention of Choice (Course Competencies: 1,5,6,7)

- a) You will choose an intervention/modality for a specific trauma and research it for a comprehensive understanding of its use. In your paper, define the intervention, the specific trauma(s) for which its use is indicated, pros and cons (if applicable), potential use or concerns related to use with other traumatic experiences not currently indicated, and finally, discuss why this method of intervention is appealing to you and how you envision using it in your clinical practice moving forward.
  - b) Be sure to assess the empirical support for your chosen intervention, noting whether or not this intervention is currently considered as an evidence-based approach or not. If it is not currently established as an evidence-based intervention, elaborate on the barriers to achieving this mark of support (e.g., simply not enough research completed; controversy over method, etc.)
  - c) This paper should be approximately 8-10 pages, inclusive of your title page and reference page.
4. Assessment & Case Conceptualization (Course Competencies: 3,5,6)
- a) You and a partner will be given an opportunity to bring in a case from your field placement or invent a case based on a character from a movie (options for movie will be discussed in class) and to present the case to the rest of the class as if you were presenting to a “treatment team.” You will provide a diagnostic statement, treatment goals and plan, as well as thoughts on your theoretical perspective of treatment for the case. This will be discussed in class and others will weigh in on the case and how they might handle the situation.
  - b) You will generate a written assessment narrative that you will gather from a hypothetical interview based on the ITR-3 provided in the appendix of the Briere text, as well as the BPS Assessment template that I will post on Canvas. Your assessment will include diagnostic impressions and a plan for treatment based on a combination of information discussed in class, as well as any additional research that may be required to generate a plan rooted in best-practices.
  - c) The paper will be turned in and will be 50% of the points for this assignment. Your presentation in class will make up the remaining 50% of the points, and should be approximately 15 minutes long to allow time for class/team discussion that follows.
  - d) This paper should be a minimum of 8 pages long, inclusive of title and reference pages, and is to be turned in the day of your presentation.

XV. Class Schedule:

Date	Content	Assignment(s)
January 11	Intro to course; overview; self-care/VT	Briere/Scott – Chap. 1-2 Courtois/Ford – Forward, Introduction; Chap. 10
18	Central Issues in Trauma Treatment	<b><i>Personal Safety Plan Due</i></b> Briere – Chap. 4 Courtois/Ford – Chap. 1 & Chap. 8- 9
25	Assessing Trauma	Briere/Scott – Chap. 3 Courtois/Ford – Chap. 5-6
February 1	Psychoeducation	Briere/Scott – Chap. 5 Courtois/Ford – Chap. 2 Van der Kolk – Chap. 13
8	Distress Reduction/Affect Regulation; Mindfulness	Briere/Scott – Chap. 6 & 10 Van der Kolk – Chap. 16
15	Cognitive Interventions	Briere/Scott – Chap. 7 Courtois/Ford – Chap. 12 – 13 Van der Kolk – Chap. 14
22	CBTT	<b><i>Intervention Paper Due</i></b>
March 1	Emotional Processing; Expressive Therapies; Animal-Assisted Therapy	Briere/Scott – Chap. 8 Courtois/Ford – Chap. 14 Van der Kolk – Chap. 20
8	<b><i>No Class – Rest and study for comps!</i></b>	
15	<b><i>Spring Break!!! ☺</i></b>	
22	Identity & Relationships	Briere/Scott – Chap. 9 Courtois/Ford – Chap. 17-20
29		
April 5	Guest Lecture -- EMDR	Van Der Kolk – Chap. 15 - 16
12	<b><i>Assessment &amp; CC Presentations – Paper Due</i></b>	
19	<b><i>Assessment &amp; CC Presentations – Paper Due</i></b>	
26	<b><i>Assessment &amp; CC Presentations – Paper Due</i></b>	
<i>*guest lecture date subject to change based on availability</i>		