

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Syllabus: SW-534: Social Work Interventions with Children and Adolescents  
Fall 2004**

**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

**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, 2004*).

**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 191 Hokins Library at (865-974-6087). This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course is an advanced elective that examines various modalities for assessing and intervening with children and adolescents. The course focuses on three major facets of social work practice: problem assessment; types of intervention strategies and techniques; and methods for determining the effectiveness of interventions with children and adolescents. The organizing framework for this course is the ecological/systems perspective.

**COURSE RATIONALE:**

The welfare of children has been a major concern of the social work profession from its inception. In addition, certain problems of young persons (i.e. physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, etc.) are currently high priorities within our society. Social workers must be knowledgeable about and skilled in clinical social work practice with children and adolescents, particularly those from high-risk and vulnerable groups.

## **Course Objectives**

By completion of this course, the student is expected to be able to demonstrate (through course activities, assignments and/or exams):

1. An understanding of the social-developmental processes of children and adolescents in terms of life tasks in a complex society;
2. an understanding of how social, economic, and cultural factors affect the functioning of specific groups and the implications of these potential risk and protective factors for social work practice;
3. an ability to examine, compare, and critically evaluate different models of social work practice with children and adolescents;
4. knowledge of specific assessment procedures and techniques (i.e., scales, tests, and surveys) employed to identify problems in child and adolescent functioning and be able to utilize these procedures in developing intervention and evaluation strategies;
5. knowledge of specific macro and micro-level interventions and practitioner roles and tasks in social work practice with children and adolescents;
6. the use of selected interventions targeted at children and adolescents through the use of videos and role-plays;
7. application of knowledge gleaned from the literature and class discussions to practice situations;
8. an understanding of the ethical issues surrounding diagnosing/labeling of children and adolescents.