THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK – BSSW PROGRAM

SOWK 481 - Field Practice
6 Credit Hours
Spring Semester, 2016

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Seminar Instructor: Rachel Ross
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Office Hours: By appointment
Section 001 CRN 23940
Prerequisite: SOWK 480
Social Work majors only

Seminar Instructor: Jamie Travis
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Office Hours: By appointment
Section 002 CRN 23941

CODE OF CONDUCT
All students are expected to follow all policies and procedures outlined in the BSSW Student Handbook, BSSW Field Manual, and the NASW Code of Ethics. Students also must follow the policies and rules required by their field placement agency. It is the student’s responsibility to have read these documents and demonstrate professional conduct at all times at their field placement and in the classroom. Professional misconduct or ethical and policy violations will have negative consequences, including a lowered course grade and/or dismissal from the BSSW program. Students are also expected to sign and adhere to the Social Work Professional Code of Conduct (http://www.csw.utk.edu/).

CSW STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
There are certain cognitive, emotional and character requirements that students must possess that provide the College of Social Work (CSW) with reasonable assurance that students can complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of social work education and the professional practice of social work. Students in the CSW are expected to possess the following abilities and attributes at a level appropriate to their year in the program. They are expected to meet these standards in the classroom as well as in their practicum.

- **Professional Behavior.** The social work student behaves professionally by knowing and practicing within the scope of social work, adhering to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Standards of Conduct (1365-01-.10) as found in the Tennessee Board of Social Work Certification and Licensure General Rules and Regulations, http://www.state.tn.us/sos/rules/1365/1365-01.20100729.pdf

- **Interpersonal Skills.** The social work student communicates and interacts with other students, faculty, staff, clients and professionals in a professional manner, and demonstrates respect for and consideration of other students, faculty, staff, clients and professionals in spoken, written and electronic form. The social work student expresses her/his ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrates a willingness and ability to listen to others.
• **Self-awareness.** The social work student is willing to examine and change his/her behavior when it interferes with her/his working with clients and other professionals, and is able to work effectively with others in subordinate positions as well as with those in authority.

• **Professional Commitment.** The social work student has a strong commitment to the essential values of social work (the dignity and worth of every individual and her/his right to a just share of the society’s resources). The social work student is knowledgeable about and adheres to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and the Rules of the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Certification.

• **Self-care.** The social work student recognizes the signs of stress, develops appropriate means of self-care, and seeks supportive resources if necessary.

• **Valuing Diversity.** The social work student appreciates the value of human diversity. Social work students do not impose their own personal, religious, sexual, and/or cultural values on other students, faculty, staff, clients or professionals. Social work students are willing to serve in an appropriate manner all persons in need of assistance, regardless of the person’s age, class, race, religious affiliation (or lack of), gender, disability, sexual orientation and/or value system.

Except for alleged academic dishonesty, which shall be addressed through the procedures set forth in *Hilltopics*, code of conduct violations will be addressed through the CSW Professional Standards Committee.

**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)*

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS of CONDUCT**
All social work majors are expected to abide by the University Honor Statement. In social work classes, violations of the honor statement include cheating, plagiarism, collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor’s approval, submitting the same assignment for credit in more than one course, forging the signature of another or allowing forgery by another on a class attendance sheet, or other infractions listed in “*Hilltopics*”. These violations are serious offenses, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University. The instructor has full authority to suspend a student from his/her class, to assign an “F” for an assignment or examination or to assign an “F” in the course. See “*Hilltopics*” for more detailed information.

**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/](http://civility.utk.edu/).
**DISABILITIES SERVICES**
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 at (865) 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

**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.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**
Class will be cancelled only if the University is closed due to inclement weather. Campus and local radio and TV stations will be notified, so that appropriate announcement may be made. If class is cancelled, any assignments due that day will be the next time class meets.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
SOWK481 is a six-credit field course including supervised practice experience in a social work setting along with a required field seminar. This field course is the last of a sequence of three field required practicum courses in the BSSW curriculum. The focus is on the application of social work knowledge, values, ethics, and skills to the practice setting.

A minimum of sixteen- to twenty-hours-per-week supervised field hours is required. A total of 240 field hours must be completed.

The field seminar facilitates integration of classroom learning with the knowledge gained in field practice settings. The purpose of the seminar is to create a safe environment that fosters group collaboration/cooperation and provides students with opportunities to use critical thinking, self-reflection, and oral and written communication skills. The seminar encourages students to discuss their different agency settings, wide variety of client populations, and numerous field practice roles and field activities.

**COURSE COMPETENCIES**
The practice behaviors associated with each competency are listed on the learning plan. Students are required to complete ALL nine competencies and 31 practice behaviors for SOWK 481.

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
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.

REQUIRED TEXT and READINGS
(Please note: This is the same text utilized in SOWK 380 and SOWK 480)


OPTIONAL TEXT
Ward & Mama (2006). Breaking Out of the Box: Adventure based field instruction. Lyceum Books Inc. (Please note: This book we only utilize one chapter and it will be posted on blackboard)

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
1. Attend all Seminars on time. Two tardy arrivals (arriving 10 minutes after class starts) will count as one absence. If you are unable to attend class due to an illness or emergency, please call or email the field liaison before class. Please note: In an excused absence students are required to make-up missed content. Therefore, an out-of-class assignment will be assigned.
2. Students are to stay for the entire length of field seminar.
3. Maintain confidentiality regarding all issues raised by peers, including personal and professional disclosures.
4. Complete all assignments on time. Any assignment not turned in on the designated due date will lose points. Assignment/s will only be accepted up to ONE WEEK after the due date. However, points will be deducted for late assignments at the rate of one point each day the assignment is late.
5. Come to seminar prepared to discuss placement and practice issues. Provide relevant feedback to peers.
6. Offer and accept feedback in a thoughtful and helpful manner.
7. Maintain respectful communication about differences in values, opinions, and ideas on topics/issues. Students have different views about topics and issues and should express their views in a manner consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics.
8. Put away cell phone and all electronic devices unrelated to field seminar.
9. Adhere to all polices in the BSSW Field Manual.
SEMINAR ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Class Participation and Attendance** (15%)

   - *Field Seminar (Face-to-face)* - students are expected to be attentive and actively participate and complete in-class and out-of-class activities.

   - *Blackboard discussion board (Online)* Students are expected to actively interact on-line to supplement the face-to-face seminars. Students will participate in on-line discussions bi-weekly. There will be topics identified for the on-line discussions. Topics are listed on Course Calendar at the end of the syllabus. However, if there is an issue from field that you would like feedback on, please use this forum in requesting feedback.

   This assignment addresses competencies: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

2. **Social Policy Assignment.** (5%)

   Read Chap 11. Use your field agency, NASW Newsletter, [www.social workers.org](http://www.social workers.org) or national newspaper to guide responses to the following questions.

   A. Identify one public social policy that has a significant impact on the operation of your agency and/or clients or consumers served. What is the official name of the social policy being studied? What is the legal citation of the policy (public law or state statute code number)?

   B. What is the source of funds used to provide services to clients in your agency (federal/state, grant)?

   C. In what ways could this social policy be changed to better address the needs/concerns of clients served? (Increase funding? Change eligibility criteria?)

   D. What would it take to actually change this policy? (Legislation, amendments, coalition building?)

   E. How are the roles and duties of social workers in your agency shaped, constrained or expanded by this social policy?

   This assignment addresses competencies: 1, 3, 5, 8,

3. **Self-Analysis Paper** (15%)

   Refer to the material in the reading from Ward & Mama, Chapter 9 *Keeping Alive in Agency Settings*, and use this as a guide to assess your readiness/preparedness for social work practice. Personal development is highly critical in order for students to become a more effective social worker and avoid burnout and compassion fatigue.

   Self-Analysis Paper should include the following:

   - Identify five strengths and limitations in relation to Generalist Practice. Please be specific in discussing these aspects of yourself.

   - What were your biggest learning opportunities or “a-ha” moments in senior field?

   - What goals do you have for self-improvement?

   - What unfinished issues can you identify for yourself at this point of your training?

   - How do you maintain a balance between your emotions and focused work with clients?

   - What did you learn new about yourself during field?
• How will you know if you are exhibiting poor or inappropriate boundaries? Provide examples.
• How do you define your character?
• What is your prevention and intervention plan for compassion fatigue and burnout?
• Share an experience related to diversity that has shaped your understanding of your own identity.
• By calling yourself a social worker, you have a responsibility to maintain the integrity of the profession. Some of the legal and ethical issues that can arise in this area include practicing within your area of competence, avoiding dishonesty and fraud, not allowing conduct in your private life to interfere with your professional role, and dealing with personal issues, such as psychological impairment or substance abuse, so that they do not affect your professional responsibilities. How do you plan to maintain the integrity of the profession?

Length of Self-Analysis Paper should a minimum of 6 pages, APA format, and include above as Headings in paper.

This assignment addresses competencies: 1

4. Broker Assignment (5%)

As a generalist social worker; brokering is critically important. It involves linking a client system with a program or services. It includes assessing the situation, knowing the range of possible resources and procedures for obtaining these resources, preparing the person/s for the referral, contacting the appropriate service, and assuring that the client system gets to it and is served. Students are encouraged to develop their own resource manual.

Therefore, each student will type an informational sheet of their field agency and distribute to all peers and seminar leaders in SOWK481 (both groups and sections). Please provide the following information:

*Name of Agency
*Location(s)/Address(s) contact information(s)
*Agency Mission
*Eligibility Requirements
*Brief description of all Services/Programs provided
*Funding/services/treatment criteria
*Referral process

FIELD WORK REQUIREMENTS

1. Learning Plan – will be completed in IPT/Alcea by the field instructor and student. Assignments will be identified during the first couple of weeks of field. Students will document evidence of knowledge, skills, and values learned and utilized throughout the semester under the column Evidence of Plan Completion.

2. Time Sheet – Students are required to maintain a timesheet in IPT/Alcea of all field hours. Field hours can only be documented after hours are completed. No grade will be assigned without a completed timesheet. Field Instructors will document supervision on the timesheet.
Students are to inform the Field Instructor immediately if they will be tardy or unable to attend field due to an illness or emergency. Students are to make-up the time missed. To earn a grade in Senior Field SW481 all field hours (240 hrs.) must be completed by the last day of the semester; noted on course calendar at the end of the syllabus.

3. Evaluation of Student Competencies—Field instructors will complete a Mid-term and Final Evaluation. The mid-term evaluation is used as a benchmark for the student and field instructor to identify areas of focus toward final evaluation. Students have the right to appeal any rating assigned by the field instructor. Please refer to policy in the BSSW Field Manual.

4. Student’s Evaluation of Field Experience – Student’s feedback is valuable. Form is posted on IPT/Alcea.

All field forms are located in IPT and on the college website at:
http://www.csw.utk.edu/students/field/bssw/forms/index.html

GRADING
The final grade for SW 481 will be assigned by the Field Coordinator. Sixty percent (60%) of the grade will be based on ratings students receive on the final field evaluation by the field instructor. Seminar assignments are worth forty percent (40%) of the final grade. The field coordinator explained the mathematical equation to students in field orientation.

The following scale will be used for determination of the final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(4.0) 100–96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(3.7) 95–90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(3.3) 89–86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>(3.0) 85–81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>(2.7) 80–78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(2.3) 77–74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>(2.0) 73–70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>(1.7) 69–65 * (below a 70 is not passing for SW majors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>(1.0) 64-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>(0.0) 59 and below</td>
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*below a 70 is not passing for SW majors*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown of Seminar Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Analysis Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broker Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 13</td>
<td>Senior field in Agency resumes - Review Chapter 5 Using Supervision and the BSSW Field Manual, and 481 Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Field seminar resumes – Seminar- A face to face. B Online – Post Topic is Mental Illness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day – No Field – can count field hours only if this is a regular scheduled field day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Seminar- B face to face - A Online – Post Topic is Mental Illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Seminar A face to face - A Online – Post Topic is Poverty. Read Chapter 10 Garthwait. Specific focus: Social Problem Context of Practice Learning Plans Due (Assignments Column) January 29th</td>
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SOWK 481 Spring 2016
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Seminar B face to face - A Online - Post Topic is Poverty. Read Chapter 10 Garthwait. Specific focus: Social Problem Context of Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Seminar A face to face - B Online - Post Topic – Challenging Situation Read Chapter 9 Ward/Mama Keeping Alive in Agency Setting (on blackboard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>Seminar B face to face - A Online Post Topic - Challenging Situations Read Chapter 9 Ward/Mama Keeping Alive in Agency Setting (on blackboard) Social Policy Assignment Due February 19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Seminar A face to face – B Online Post Topic - Personal and Professional values and ethics. What do you do when they collide? Read Chapter 18 Garthwait Merging Self and Profession. Mid-term Evaluations Due March 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Seminar B face to face – A Online Post Topic – Personal and Professional values and ethics. What do you do when they collide? Read Chapter 18 Garthwait Merging Self and Profession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>No seminar Spring Break March 14th – 18th Enjoy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Seminar A face to face - B Online Topic -.Lessons Learned. Read Chapter 14 Professional Ethics &amp; Chapter 15 Legal Concerns Self-Analysis Paper Due March 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Spring Recess – can count field hours only if this is a regular scheduled field day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>No Seminar. All students attend the Impact Careers Fair (March 28-31) Fair will be in the PanHellenic Bldg. A schedule will be provided. Post on Blackboard about your experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Seminar B face to face – A Online Lessons Learned Read Chapter 14 Professional Ethics &amp; Chapter 15 Legal Concerns</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>No seminar – EUReCA – The Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement -Senior Research Fair 4/11-4/15 1st &amp; 2nd Floor of Hodges Library All students attend and complete one discussion board response to fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Seminar A face to face – B Online Topic of your choice. Read Chapter 13 Professional Social Work &amp; Chapter 16 SW Practice as Planned Change. Broker-Agency Information Sheet Assignment Due April 22nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Last Seminar B face to face –A Online Topic of your choice. Read Chapter 13 Professional Social Work &amp; Chapter 16 SW Practice as Planned Change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Last Day of Senior Field in Agency Final Field Evaluation Due April 29th – Completed by Field Instructor. Student Evaluation of Field is Due by 5:00 on April 29th, form on IPT/Alcea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **This Calendar/schedule is subject to revision**