

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

### Introduction to Social Work (SOWK 1450. 900)

**Instructor:** Rosalind Evans PhD LMSW

**Instructor Email:** rosalind.evans@unt.edu

**Classroom:** Online via Canvas

**Office:** Chilton Suite 300

**Office Hours:** Virtually Wednesday 10AM-2 PM CT or by appointment

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide a foundation from which students may develop a critical and analytical approach to issues related to professional social work. As the introductory course in the BSW curriculum, it is anticipated that students will gain a fundamental knowledge base from which they may begin to grow and evolve into beginning generalist social workers. This course, and the accompanying text, will cover the history of social work; various social problems; perspectives on diversity; social service delivery systems and the consumer populations; social work ethics; advocacy in the social work profession, and the social work interventions of practice, policy, and research.

Secondary goals for the course are familiarization with current topics of debate within the profession, an understanding of different perspectives, and exposure to professional social work values and ethics in practice with diverse client systems across the lifespan. Social work services within the community will be explored, the requirements for social work practice will be presented, and opportunities provided to discover various practice opportunities in the field.

Lastly, students will gain exposure to the helping professions and begin the process of integrating theory and practice by interviewing a social worker in an agency and having the opportunity to complete an agency review or participate in service learning hours, to become more familiar with social service agencies. There are no prerequisites required to take this course, however, the **course serves as a prerequisite for those who intend to apply to the BSW Social Work Program at UNT.**

SOWK 1450 is part of the Core Curriculum at UNT. As part of the core, the following objectives will be met:

- 1) **Critical Thinking:** Students will investigate current social problems that impact society and how the social work profession serves diverse populations. Students will learn to make logical arguments to effectively analyze a social issue. Students will demonstrate how this evidence informs their understanding of a human condition. They will compare and contrast theoretical perspectives to recognize multiple perspectives and to help guide professionals in considering solutions to complex problems.

2) **Communication:** Students will enhance their communication skills through the development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written and oral communication. Students will learn important vocabulary and language utilized in the profession. Oral skills will be demonstrated through discussion, participation in the classroom, and other assignments. Writing skills will be demonstrated through narrative assignments that emphasize clear conceptualization and quality composition.

3) **Empirical & Quantitative Skills:** Students will become familiar with the scientific method to aid in understanding complex social issues. Students will understand how to effectively utilize research and interpret data to inform conclusions about social conditions and their impact. Students also understand how to assess research and evaluate differing sources of information.

4) **Social Responsibility:** Students will develop enhanced social responsibility through understanding of intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Students will analyze their own perspectives and value system that influence understanding of self and the potential to make meaningful contributions to society.

**COMPETENCIES & OBJECTIVES**

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) approved the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) for accredited programs in 2015. This course will emphasize the competencies and performance behaviors as indicated below.

<b>Core Competency</b>	<b>Course Objectives</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior (CC #1)</b>	1. Students will make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context; (B #1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Social Work Research Project</li> <li>• Agency Project</li> <li>• Self-Care &amp; Stress Management Reflection</li> </ul>
<b>Engage diversity and difference in practice CC #2)</b>	2. Students will apply self-awareness and self-regulation to manage the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse clients and constituencies; (B #8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• World View Paper</li> <li>• Agency Project</li> <li>• Discussion Boards</li> </ul>
<b>Engage in practice informed research and research-informed</b>	3. Students will use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Analysis &amp; Reflection</li> <li>• Discussion Boards</li> </ul>

practice (CC #4)	and service delivery (B # 13)	• Social Work Research Project
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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Cox, L., Tice, C., Long, D. (2021) *Introduction to social work: an advocacy-based profession*. (3rd ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

This class will be taught using a variety of methods including lecture by the instructor and on-line components including readings, activities, case analysis, exercises, videos, and a general exchange of ideas through discussion. My teaching approach for this course is to encourage reflection of critical and challenging issues through an open and respectful environment. The content for this course will challenge you to think more critically and explore your feelings regarding sensitive and provocative issues. All of these efforts are geared toward helping you develop as future professionals in whatever discipline you are pursuing.

**POLICIES**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Active participation in class is a fundamental component of this course. The insight and experiences of every student provide unique contributions to the learning environment. Absences may be excused only with documentation in accordance with UNT attendance policy 15.2.5. Regular attendance is expected. Class participation, and level of professionalism, must be demonstrated during this course. Social work is a vocation that requires a very high level of personal ethics and professionalism. Social work students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to live up to these expectations. As a gatekeeper of the profession, your instructor takes this very seriously.

**Participation**

Engaged, active participation is essential given the purpose and design of this course. Participation is observed and gauged through thoughtful, purposeful, and effective interaction by students. Students can participate through multiple outlets which can include asynchronous discussions, audio/video discussions, collaboration, and assignments. Students are expected to access the course in canvas weekly and submit assignments by the designated deadline. Students are also expected to view weekly announcements for the course in canvas.

## Attendance

Points will be deducted from the total points earned if students fail to access the course and complete weekly assignments. Regular attendance is expected. University sanctioned excused absences may be requested with satisfactory evidence provided (i.e. military service, religious holy day, university function).

As any professional should do in the workplace, if you know you are going to miss a class or a course assignment you should contact your instructor via e-mail in advance to alert them of your situation.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, UNT promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, forging the signature of the instructor or of another student, fabrication, and/or facilitating or sabotaging the academic dishonesty of other students, **and utilizing AI tools for more than 30% of an assignment without referencing the tool.**

Any suspected occurrence of academic dishonesty will be investigated and handled in accordance with UNT policy and procedures. The following academic penalties may be assessed at the instructor's discretion upon determination that academic dishonesty has occurred. *Admonitions and educational assignments are not appealable.*

1. *Admonition.* The student may be issued a verbal or written warning.
2. *Assignment of Educational Coursework.* The student may be required to perform additional coursework not required of other students in the specific course.
3. *Partial or no credit for an assignment or assessment.* The instructor may award partial or no credit for the assignment or assessment on which the student engaged in academic dishonesty, to be calculated into the final course grade.
4. *Course Failure.* The instructor may assign a failing grade for the course.

Should the procedure for appeal of a case of academic dishonesty extend beyond the date when the instructor submits course grades for the semester, the student will be assigned a grade that reflects the penalty, which shall be adjusted, as appropriate, at the conclusion of any appeal process.

Specific details and description of UNT's Policy on Student Standards of Academic Integrity (18.1.16) and students' right to appeal are available at [UNT Student Academic Integrity](#)

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

In accordance with university policies and state and federal regulations, UNT is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. To this end, all academic units are willing to make reasonable and appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies to facilitate equality of educational access for persons with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide the student with an accommodation letter to be hand delivered to the instructor to begin a private discussion regarding the student's specific needs in the course.

Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Every semester, students must obtain a new letter of accommodation, and they must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to request that students discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

For additional information, visit the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) in Sage Hall, suite 167, or their website at [UNT Office of Disability Access](#). You may also contact the ODA office by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323). Specific information on UNT's policies related to disability accommodations is available at [Disability Accommodation for Students and Academic Units](#).

Please note that disability accommodations are not retroactively applied to the start of a course. Accommodations in the course become effective after the student has delivered an official accommodation letter from UNT's ODA.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Any student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any instructional setting at UNT. This includes traditional face-to-face classes, online or blended classes, labs, discussion groups or boards, field trips, and verbal and/or written (including email) communication with the instructor and/or other students. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, disrespectful treatment of other students (verbal or written), disrupting lecture, and use of inappropriate or profane language or gestures in class or other instructional settings.

A student engaging in unacceptable behavior may be directed to leave the classroom or other instructional setting and may also be referred to the Dean of Students to consider whether his/her conduct violates UNT's Student Code of Conduct.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination based on sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565 2759.

## **PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE**

The college experience is intended to assist in preparing students for professional and career pursuits. That preparation includes learning to use professional etiquette in dealing with people in positions of authority. The appropriate way to address your instructor depends on their education credentials. These are usually indicated on the course syllabus. If your instructor has a:

- Doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D.), you should address them as: Dr. Instructor's last name
- Master's degree (MA, MS, MSW, MSSW) you should address them as: Professor Instructor's last name

If you are not certain about an instructor's education credentials, you should address them as "Professor." It is not appropriate to call the instructor by their first name unless given permission.

Professional etiquette extends to all types of communication with your instructor. Written communication—including email—forms a permanent record and so it is important to use care about how you make requests, ask questions, or express concerns. Slang and texting abbreviations should be avoided. The use of profanity is not permitted.

Any type of communication—verbal or written—is most likely to achieve the intended result when it is polite or courteous. Please note that communication can be polite even if there is some type of conflict involved. Instructors may choose not to respond to emails or other forms of communication that is perceived as insulting, disrespectful, or unprofessional.

## REQUESTS TO DROP THE CLASS

We want you to succeed in this class and at UNT. If you are concerned about your progress in the course, or believe you need to drop for other reasons, it is important that you contact the instructor as soon as possible. We want to make sure that dropping the course is your best or only option.

There are consequences to dropping classes that extend beyond losing your invested time, money, and effort. Dropping one or more classes may make you ineligible for financial aid. There are also limits on the number of courses you can drop. You can learn more about this [here](#). Check with the Registrar's Office or UNT Academic Calendar on deadlines for withdrawing or dropping a class!

## REQUESTS FOR AN INCOMPLETE

Students must meet specific criteria to be eligible to receive an incomplete in a course. Review these guidelines on UNT's Incomplete Grade policy is available [here](#).

## RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

## COMMUNICATION

From time to time, the instructor may need to communicate with the entire class or contact you individually. If/when those occasions arise, only your UNT email account will be used. You are responsible for the information in that email. **Failing to check it or have the address in the proper format will not be excused.** Information may also be posted on **Canvas Announcements**.

Students must have a university account while enrolled in this class. Students may obtain an email address by logging onto <https://ams.unt.edu/>. This will put you into the computer account management system and you will be able to get Eagle mail. You can arrange for this email to be forwarded to a preferred address if desired.

Please remember to keep all communication with your instructor professional. Keep in mind that anytime you write something in an email message, it is there forever. All emails should be written

in a professional manner and spell checked before being sent. Students who are encountering problems are invited to make an appointment to talk with the instructor.

### **COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS**

The primary tool the instructor or teaching assistants will use to communicate with students is the 'inbox' available in the Canvas learning management system. Canvas will be used to address personal concerns or questions and may also be used to contact other students in this course.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they receive notifications in Canvas regarding course information in a timely manner. The default is the students' UNT email account. Students may choose to add additional email addresses or change their default email to receive notifications of course information (see Canvas Guide). Students also have the option of using direct emails.

Contact the Instructor regarding your personal concerns or course related issues. The instructor will try to respond to your emails in a reasonable timeframe (typically within three business days if possible). The methods used to provide you with feedback include emails, assignment feedback, and grades. We are typically not available on weekends/holidays. Feel free to reach out as needed.

### **NETIQUETTE**

Netiquette, or online etiquette, refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof. **(Ex: Dr. Evans or Professor Evans)**
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- The use of profanity is not permitted
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Please note that communication can be civil even if there is some type of conflict involved. Instructors may choose not to respond to emails or other forms of communication that are perceived as insulting or disrespectful.
- Avoid slang terms
- Use standard fonts such as Times new Roman and use a size 12-point font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).



- Do not send confidential information via e-mail
- Written communication—including email—forms a permanent record and so it is important to use care about how you make requests, ask questions, or express concerns.

For more information, see these [Netiquette Guidelines](#)

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES**

### **Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](#). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads: (G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally using television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

### **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565- 2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

**Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses. See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](#).

## **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g., software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) they create within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

## **Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically Delivered Courses**

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS**

### **Minimum Technology Requirements**

The following is a list of the minimum technology requirements for students enrolled in this course, such as:

- Computer skills
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins

- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](#)

### **Computer Skills & Digital Literacy**

The minimum, course-specific technical skills needed for learners in this course are:

- Using Canvas
- Create documents/presentations, download/upload files, send emails, and use attachments.

### **TECHINICAL ASSISTANCE**

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

[UNT Helpdesk](#)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#)

**Technical Difficulties:** The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. Always keep a copy of your work before submitting it in case glitches or errors occur.

**Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback:** My responsibility is to help you grow and learn in this course. As such, I am committed to providing clear instructions for assignments, answering questions, identifying additional resources as necessary, providing rubrics as appropriate, and continually reviewing and updating course content. You may typically expect responses.

regarding your emails within **two business days (Monday-Friday)**. Feedback and grades on assignments may take up to **two weeks**.

**Safe Environment Policy:** Due to the sensitive nature of our course content, you may experience a range of raw reactions, opinions, or emotions; making the concept of safety very important. Some of you may have had experiences with the topics we address or have severe reactions to this study. We must be cognizant of this as we address these many compelling issues. Regardless, it is essential that all students make every effort to take care of yourself and immediately seek out resources and support upon signs of distress as needed! Keep in mind there are resources on and off campus for students who have faced interpersonal violence or other types of traumas.

## **Academic Support & Student Services Student**

### **Support Services**

#### *Mental Health*

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [Individual Counseling](#)

#### *Chosen Names*

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

*\*UNT eUIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

#### *Pronouns*

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

#### *Additional Student Support Services*

- [Registrar](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)

#### **Academic Support Services**

- [Academic Resource Center](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [Writing Lab](#)

#### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

#### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](#).

#### **SUCCEED AT UNT**

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find support. Take control. Be prepared.

Get involved. Be persistent. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to [Succeed at UNT](#).

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

The Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) is required for all classes at UNT. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. The SPOT survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. Please visit [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu) and fill out the evaluation form when it is available. Bonus points can be earned.

***Please note that the instructor for this course has the option to revise or alter the course syllabus at any time as class needs dictate.***

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **ASSIGNMENTS, FEEDBACK AND MAKE-UP POLICY**

Students must complete assignments as specified in this syllabus, learning modules, or other informational materials. You are required to read the Learning Modules and assigned readings to make a contribution to weekly course activities such as discussions, exercises, activities, or other assignments. Make every effort to clearly understand the expectations for all assignments and deadlines as located in this syllabus or posted online.

Carefully review the syllabus or instructions outlined in each module for official due dates. Assignments are typically due before midnight on the due date and will be closed and locked after this time. However, the learning modules and course content will remain open and available for your ongoing educational needs. For organizational purposes, keep track of all important assignment due dates in your own personal calendar! All assignments must be submitted in Canvas during the established timeframes and when the available assignment links are open. The modules or syllabus usually provide descriptions of assignments. In addition, assignment guidelines may be available to provide extended details. Always carefully review and follow instructions before submitting assignments!

Assignments completed for this course should first be saved on your computer and then submitted in a readable format that is friendly to an online environment (**for example, PDF, Microsoft Word, Word for Mac, or Rich Text**). Assignments will be submitted using the Canvas Assignment drop box.

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments will not be accepted for credit except in cases of extraordinary circumstances. Allowing late submissions is at the discretion of the professor and students need to communicate prior to the admission date whenever possible. While prior communication cannot always occur, please note that in most cases early communication is possible. It is thus the student's responsibility to discuss challenges with their professors, so they are able to be supportive to the students success throughout the course.

- a. **Self-Care Day** Students are provided **three Self-Care days** throughout the semester. This initiative will allow students three late submissions without points deducted. Students will still have up to **two days** to submit the assignment after the due date. This policy **can only** be applied to individual assignments. It **does not** apply to group assignments in the course. Students will need to inform the professor via email in advance (**before the assignments due date**) when utilizing the Self-Care Day.

Using proper grammar in written communications is very important. It demonstrates professionalism and helps to establish your credibility. Turning in a professional product that you can be proud of should be a priority every time! Make sure that all of your work is carefully proofread and is typed, **double spaced, and has one-inch margins, 12 font size, Times New Roman font, a cover page and pages are numbered, following [APA guidelines](#)**. It should be easy for the reader to understand your line of reasoning. Excessive grammatical/syntactical errors will result in a lower grade. Please proofread.

For written assignments, the instructor has the goal of providing feedback to students within two weeks.

#### **CRITERIA FOR STUDENT EVALUATION**

Students' progress will be evaluated utilizing the following criteria:

World View Paper	Completion 10 pts
Self-Care & Stress Management Reflection	Completion 10 pts
2 Exams: Mid-term and Final (on Canvas @ 100 points each)	200 pts
6 Discussion Boards (on Canvas @ 20 points each)	120 pts
Social Work Research Project	100 pts
Data Analysis & Reflection	100 pts
Agency Project	100 pts
	<b>Total 640 points</b>

Overall course grades will be assigned based on:

- A =576 - 640 points
- B =512 – 575 points
- C =448 - 511 points
- D =384 - 447 points
- F =383- 0 points



## ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEWS

### WORLDVIEW PAPER (COMPLETION GRADE 10 POINTS)

Students will provide a two-page reflection on their perspectives of the development of their world views. Students will discuss how they believe their personal knowledge, values, and skills were formed and how they impact their current view of the world. Students will also discuss how they feel their personal values relate to the social work core values. The paper will need to be in APA format, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, including a cover page. The cover page does not count as one of the two pages needed for your submission. **The paper will need to be submitted as a word or pdf document.** *If the paper is not submitted properly, it will not be reviewed and graded.*

### SELF-CARE & STRESS MANAGEMENT REFLECTION (COMPLETION GRADE 10 POINTS)

Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to develop self-awareness and identify ways to focus on their wellbeing through self-care and stress management practices. Students will also complete a self-care plan and will discuss ways their plan for self-care is applied and managed throughout the course.

### EXAMS (100 POINTS EACH)

Students will complete two exams throughout the course, both worth 50 points. The exams are open book and open notes in the course. Students also have two attempts to complete the midterm and final exam before the assignment deadline. The midterm exam will include questions from chapters 1-7. The final exam will include chapters 8-13 from the course textbook.

### DISCUSSION BOARDS (20 POINTS EACH)

Throughout the course students will complete 6 discussion board posts focused on the weekly content in the class. The initial discussion board post with at **least 200 words is due on Wednesday at 11:59 PM CT.** Students will then respond to two peers post with at **least 100 words each by Sunday of that week before 11:59 PM CT.**

### SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH PROJECT (100 POINTS)

Students will complete a PowerPoint presentation focusing on a professional social work position in an area of interest of social work (Mental Health, School, Non-Profit, Clinical, Substance Abuse, Aging, Criminal Justice, Hospital, Hospice, Child Welfare, Social Policy etc.). After selecting the area of interest in social work students will submit a PowerPoint responding to the questions provided below. The PowerPoint will need to be at least 6 slides. This does not include the cover slide and the reference slide. The PowerPoint should include at least four supportive references. One of the references will need to be the course textbook. You can work in **groups** to complete the assignment. You can have **up to three people** in your group. If you are completing the assignment as a group **each peer's name** will need to be included on the cover slide of the presentation. Your group will also need to submit a **group evaluation** when submitting the assignment.

Questions:

- 1) Identify your area of interest and the social work position.
- 2) How much education and certifications are needed for this social work position?
- 3) How much does a social worker in the position make?
- 4) What types of clients will this social worker serve?
- 5) What types of tasks and roles are expected of a social worker in this position?
- 6) What skills are needed for a social worker in this position?
- 7) Which of the six social work core values (service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, competence) is best to utilize while working in this position? Explain why you selected the social core values.
- 8) What could a social worker in this position do to focus on self-care and their wellbeing to prevent burnout? Provide examples and explain why you selected these forms of self-care.

### **DATA ANALYSIS & REFLECTION PROJECT (100 POINTS)**

Students will complete a data analysis paper focusing on childhood poverty in the State of Texas. This assignment allows students to review data that focuses on trends of data collected on childhood poverty. It also allows students to depict how these trends have changed over the past five years. This assignment will need to be in APA format, in 12-point Times New Roman font. A cover page will also need to be included in APA format. Student's papers should include a report that contains a table that reflects five Texas counties data compared to the overall state of Texas. Students will also include a line graph of the five counties data compared to Texas. Lastly, students will create a bar graph for each of the five years to depict the changes in data across the five counties compared to the state of Texas. **The paper will need to be submitted as a pdf.**

### **AGENCY PROJECT (100 POINTS)**

There are two options on how you can complete this assignment. Please choose only one of the following options:

#### **\*\*\*OPTION #1: AGENCY SERVICE-LEARNING REFLECTION PAPER:**

Students must complete a minimum of 5 hours of service-learning at a social service agency throughout the course of the semester. If you are taking SOWK 4540 Diversity, you may count your hours in that class as hours in SOWK 1450 Introduction to Social Work. If selecting this option, students will need to complete a 2-page written reflection of their experience and what they gained at the end of the semester after completing their volunteer hours. Students will also be expected to keep a timesheet signed by an agency representative to verify hours are completed. This will be turned in with your paper. Students will be graded according to the number of documented hours they complete and a well-written and thoughtful reflection paper. The total length of this paper is not to exceed 4 pages. This includes the cover page and the signed Service-Learning Log. The cover page and paper will need to be in APA format, 12-point Times New Roman font.

#### **\*\*\*OPTION #2: AGENCY REFLECTIONS PAPER:**

Students must research 2 social service agencies and discuss the prompts provided below for each agency. The paper will need to be in APA format with a cover page and a reference page. The reference page should include a reference for each agency selected. The paper will need to be in 12-point Times New Roman font. The paper should be at least two pages, this does not include the cover page or reference page.

#### **Agency Overview**

- What is the mission/vision statement and goals of the agency?
- What are the populations/clients served at the agency?
- What types of programs are offered by the agency?
- What types of services and resources are offered at the agency?
- How is the agency funded? Is it for profit or non-profit?

#### **Social Work Perspective**

- What social work core values should be used at this agency? Explain the reason why you selected to use the social work values at the agency.
- Does the agency focus on micro, mezzo, or macro social work practices? Explain and provide examples of which level of social work practice is used at the agency.
- Preparatory Empathy: If you were a student volunteering for this agency, how would you prepare yourself before volunteering with this vulnerable population?

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

*It is expected that readings will be done prior to class discussions. The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule, as needed at their discretion.*

Weeks Title	Content & Readings	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> Course Overview	Course Introduction Review APA Formatting Guide	Review Syllabus & Complete Weekly Module  Introduction Post Due <b>Sunday 1/21 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 2</b> The Social Work Profession & Ethics	Read Chapter 1 Read NASW Code of Ethics Read Self-Care & Stress Management Resources	Complete: Weekly Module  Discussion Board Initial Post Due <b>Wed. 1/24 by 11:59 PM</b> Response Post Due <b>Sunday 1/ 28 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 3</b> The History of Social Work	Read Chapter 2	Complete: Weekly Module  World View Reflection Due <b>Sunday 2/4 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Generalist Social Work Practice: The Planned Change Process	Read Chapters 3	Complete: Weekly Module  Discussion Board Initial Post Due <b>Wed. 2/7 by 11:59 PM</b> Response Post Due <b>Sunday 2/11 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Advocacy in Social Work	Read Chapters 4	Complete: Weekly Module  Discussion Board Initial Post Due <b>Wed. 2/14 by 11:59 PM</b> Response Post Due <b>Sunday 2/18 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Poverty and Inequality	Read Chapters 5	Complete: Weekly Module  Data Analysis & Reflection Due <b>Sunday 2/25 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Health Care & Health Challenges	Read Chapter 7	Complete: Weekly Module  Discussion Board Initial Post Due <b>Wed. 2/28 by 11:59 PM</b> Response Post Due <b>Sunday 3/3 by 11:59 PM</b>

<b>Week 8</b> Family and Child Welfare & Veterans & Families	Read Chapters 6 & 15	Complete: Weekly Module  Midterm Due <b>Sunday 3/10 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Spring Break 3/11-3/17</b>	<b>No Material</b>	<b>No Assignments</b>
<b>Week 9</b> Physical, Cognitive, and Developmental Challenges	Read Chapter 8	Complete: Weekly Module  Discussion Board Due <b>Wed. 3/20 by 11:59 PM</b> Response Post Due <b>Sunday 3/24 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 10</b> Mental Health	Read Chapter 9	Complete: Weekly Module  Work Week
<b>Week 11</b> Substance Use and Addiction	Read Chapter 10	Complete: Weekly Module  Social Work Research Project Due <b>Sunday 4/7 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 12</b> Helping Older Adults	Read Chapter 11	Complete: Weekly Module  Discussion Board Initial Post Due <b>Wed. 4/10 by 11:59 PM</b> Response Post Due <b>Sunday 4/14 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Criminal Justice	Reach Chapter 12	Complete: Weekly Module  Agency Project Due <b>Sunday 4/21 by 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Week 14</b> Communities at Risk & Housing	Read Chapter 13	Complete: Weekly Module  Review Week
<b>Week 15</b> Finals Week	Course Wrap Up	Self-Care & Stress Management Reflection  Final Exam Due <b>Sunday 5/5 by 11:59 PM</b>

***Failure to complete all the above assignments may result in a failing grade.***