



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**School of Social Work**

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2017

**Course Title:** Forensic Social Work

**Course Prefix/Number/Section:** SOCW 4371/5371 (formerly SOCW 4329/SOCW 6329)-003

**Instructor Name:** Anne Nordberg, PhD, MSW

**Faculty Position:** Assistant Professor

**Faculty Profile:** N/A

**Office Number:** 208B

**Phone Number:** N/A

**Email Address:** annenordberg@uta.edu

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Day and Time of Class (if applicable):** Online

**Location:** Online

Equipment: A laptop computer with wireless capability or equivalent is required for all SSW classes.  
Blackboard: <https://elearn.uta.edu>

**A. Description of Course Content**

This course develops the understanding of the role of social workers with clients within the criminal justice system and the legal system. This course will focus on theory, intervention, and advocacy with diverse forensic populations including juveniles, adults, people accused of crimes, victims of crimes, and related systems. Forensic practice in family and social services, juvenile justice and criminal justice, child welfare, and mental health and substance abuse will be explored. This course assumes a justice oriented multisystems and interdisciplinary approach. Prerequisites: For 4329 - SOCW 3301, 3302, 3317, 2313, and 3304. For 6329 - SOCW 5301, 5317, and 5304.

**B. Student Learning Outcomes**

SOCW 4329/6329 addresses the following foundation educational objectives:

1. Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
2. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
3. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.
4. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
5. Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions.

## **Core Competencies and Practice Behaviors**

SOCW 4329/6329 addresses the following Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) requirements for Core Competencies and Practice Behaviors:

**Educational Policy 2.1.2—Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.** [Social workers have an obligation to conduct themselves ethically and to engage in ethical decision-making. Social workers are knowledgeable about the value base of the profession, its ethical standards, and relevant law. Social workers:]

- (a) Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.
- (b) Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Social Workers
- (c) Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts; and
- (d) Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.

**Educational Policy 2.1.3—Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.** [Social workers are knowledgeable about the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and reasoned discernment. They use critical thinking augmented by creativity and curiosity. Critical thinking also requires the synthesis and communication of relevant information. Social workers:]

- (a) Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.

**Educational Policy 2.1.4—Engage diversity and difference in practice.** [Social workers understand how diversity characterizes and shapes the human experience and is critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. Social workers appreciate that, as a consequence of difference, a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers:]

- (a) Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
- (b) Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
- (c) Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences; and
- (d) View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.

**Educational Policy 2.1.5—Advance human rights and social and economic justice.** [Each person, regardless of position in society, has basic human rights, such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, health care, and education. Social workers recognize the global interconnections of oppression and are knowledgeable about theories of justice and strategies to promote human and civil rights. Social work incorporates social justice practices in organizations, institutions, and society to ensure that these basic human rights are distributed equitably and without prejudice. Social workers]

- (a) Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.
- (b) Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice; and
- (c) Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.

**Educational Policy 2.1.6—Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.** [Social workers use practice experience to inform research, employ evidence-based interventions, evaluate their own practice, and use research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery. Social

workers comprehend quantitative and qualitative research and understand scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers:]

(a) Use research evidence to inform practice.

**Educational Policy 2.1.7—Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.** [Social workers are knowledgeable about human behavior across the life course; the range of social systems in which people live; and the ways social systems promote or deter people in promoting and maintaining health and well being. Social workers apply theories and knowledge from the liberal arts to understand biological, social, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development. Social workers:]

1. utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, and evaluation; and
2. critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to demonstrate the following knowledge areas through their course assignments, papers, examinations, and group projects:

This course aims at enabling students to:

1. Identify theoretical, policy, and practice issues related to justice-involved people. (EP 2.1.4 (a-d), 2.1.5 (a-c), 2.1.7 (a & b); Achieved through: DB, Final Exam, Paper)
2. Identify historical, political, socioeconomic forces that contribute to mass incarceration and justice-related disparities (EP 2.1.4 (a-d), 2.1.5 (a-c), 2.1.6, & 2.1.7 (a & b); Achieved through: DB, Final Exam, Paper)
3. Identify how sociopolitical, interpersonal, and socio-cultural processes promote/block optimal health and well being for justice-involved people. (EP 2.1.3(a), 2.1.4 (a-d), 2.1.5 (a-c), & 2.1.7 (a & b); Paper, DB)
4. Develop strategies to counter discriminatory policies and practices in social institutions. (EP 2.1.4 (a-d) & 2.1.5 (a-c); DB)
5. Develop specific strategies that promote economic and social justice for populations at risk. (EP 2.1.3 (a), EP 2.1.4 (a-d) & 2.1.5 (a-c); DB, Paper)

### **C. Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials**

Maschi, T., Bradley, C., & Ward, K., LCSW. (2009). *Forensic social work: Psychosocial and legal issues in diverse practice settings*. New York: Springer Pub. Co.

The following materials are available online through the UTA library:

Madden, R. G., & Wayne, R. H. (2003). Social work and the law: A therapeutic jurisprudence perspective. *Social Work*, 48(3), 338-347. doi:10.1093/sw/48.3.338

### **D. Additional Recommended Textbooks and Other Course Materials**

Materials will be posted on Blackboard weekly.

### **E. Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations**

**Note.** Much of what students learn is affected by two sources: the level of effort contributed by the individual, and the learning community that is created through the shared ownership and contributions of the collective whole. Everyone is asked to participate to her/his fullest extent in the learning environment, and to facilitate others' ability to participate at the same time. This means that we come prepared to join in the classroom learning experience by having our readings and other work completed, we respect ourselves and others who are posting on the discussion boards, and we take responsibility for completing assignments in a competent and timely manner. But much more than this, it also means that we each take a shared responsibility for the growth and professional development of each of the individuals in our learning community. The assignments for this course have been designed with these ideas in mind.

NOTE: Please refer to our Blackboard course for session readings, course material, discussion topics, and assignment dates.

### **Assignments:**

#### **1) Discussion board (DB) posting, 10 postings, 10 points total (Due as assigned via Blackboard)**

Throughout the semester, we will have 10 discussion entries on blackboard. These discussions will build upon the week's topic and be used for expanding the class's insight into the given topic. It is expected that the discussion board post will be thoughtful. Your original post should be 300 to 500 words (2 to 3 good paragraphs). Your responses should be thoughtful and respectful. **There is no partial credit. You must make an original post and respond to a classmate to get the point for the discussion entry.**

Note: Discussion entries and response to peers will be due on Wednesday nights at 11:59 - the final day of that week's topic.

#### **2) Annotated Bibliography (AB), 25 points (Due 10/19/17 by 11:59pm submitted via Blackboard)**

The purpose of this assignment is to assist you in identifying and synthesizing peer reviewed articles as they relate to your population of interest and subsequent Paper. You will be responsible for completing a review (in annotated bibliography form) of peer reviewed journal articles in the area of your chosen interest. **The topic area must relate to this course (Forensic Social Work) and be approved by the professor.** A place on Blackboard is available for submission of the topic. A template for this assignment will be provided on Blackboard. Typically, each entry from an article in the annotated bibliography is a half page to one page. For undergraduate students, you will need 7-10 articles for this review. For graduate students, you will need 10-15 articles for this review.

#### **3) Human Rights Paper (35 points) Due 11/22/17 at 11:59 pm submitted via Blackboard**

The purpose of this paper is to allow you the opportunity to build on the work you started in the annotated bibliography assignment, building upon your problem statement and research, and incorporating human rights into your discussion. This analysis will utilize comprehensive materials covered throughout the semester related to human rights, including: text, external materials, lecture materials, and your own research using peer-reviewed journal articles. You must analyze and discuss the literature you review through a human rights lens. For undergraduate students, this paper is 7 to 10 pages. For graduate students, this paper is 10-15 pages.

**A note on written assignments:** Please do not plagiarize. Work should be cited if it is not your own. This includes writing in the discussion forum and both papers. As an exception in the discussion forum, if the forum question relates to a specific reading, you do not need to cite that reading when talking about it since we understand what you are referring to. Other writings should be cited though. Direct quotes should be exceptionally rare in all writing. While it is possible to put together a paper that uses direct quotes for nearly every paragraph, this does not reflect your original work. I want your papers to reflect your words and your thoughts. **As such, undergraduate students may not have more the 3 direct quotes in their final paper. Graduate students may not have more than one direct quote in their final papers. Annotated bibliographies should not contain any direct quotes.**

#### **4) Final Exam (30 points)**

**Available for completion on 12/11/17. Must be submitted before midnight on 12/12/17.**

There will be a Final Exam in this course. It will be administered online and will be worth 30 points. It will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

## **F. Attendance**

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients. As the instructor of this section,

Attendance will be monitored through Blackboard use records but no grade will be assigned for attendance.

## **G. Grading**

This course uses a standard 90-80-70 grading scale. The course has 100 points broken down as follows:

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Discussion boards      | 10 points |
| Annotated Bibliography | 25 points |
| Human Rights Paper     | 35 points |
| Final Exam             | 30 points |

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see "Student Support Services," below.

## **H. Make-Up Exams**

There will be no make-up exams. Assignments and tests must be completed on time. No late assignments will be accepted and students will receive a grade of "0" for anything submitted after the due date and time.

## **I. Course Schedule**

| Unit  | Week beginning | Topic   | Assignments (all readings from textbook unless otherwise specified) | Due Dates  |
|---|----------------|---|---|--|
| <b>One: Intro</b>                                       | 8/24           | Forensic Social Work Defined: Collaborative Roles in FSW & History                                  | Chapters 1 & 2, As assigned on Blackboard                           |  |
|   | 8/31           | Social Work Ethics with forensic populations, a social justice systems perspective                  | Chapters 3 & 23, As assigned on Blackboard                          |  |
|   | 9/7            | Civil & Criminal law, Death Penalty, Mitigation   | Chapter 4, As assigned on Blackboard                                | <b>DB#1 due 9/13</b>                                   |
|   | 9/14           | Criminological Theory   | As assigned on Blackboard   | <b>DB#2 due 9/20</b>                                   |
| <b>Two: Mass Incarceration</b>                          | 9/21           | Mass Incarceration and International comparisons  | As assigned on Blackboard   | <b>DB#3 due 9/27</b>                                   |
|   | 9/28           | Practice in prisons & with prisoners  | Chapter 19  | <b>DB#4 due 10/4</b>                                   |
|   | 10/5           | Mental Health & Substance Abuse; Programming  | Chapters 14 & 15, Madden & Wayne, As assigned on Blackboard         |  |
|   | 10/12          | Women in prison, SMI, Immigrants, and Refugees  | Chapters 16, 24, 25, As assigned on Blackboard                      |  |
| <b>Three: Paths to Incarceration</b>                    | 10/19          | Policing  | As assigned on Blackboard   | <b>Annotated Bibliography DUE 10/19 DB#5 due 10/25</b> |
|   | 10/26          | Juvenile Justice; School as a practice setting for prevention and reentry of justice-involved youth | Chapters 10, 11, 18, As assigned on Blackboard                      | <b>DB#6 due 11/1</b>                                   |
|   | 11/2           | Child welfare and Crossover Youth, Assisting families through forensic roles                        | Chapters 6, 7, 12, 13, As assigned on Blackboard                    | <b>DB#7 due 11/8</b>                                   |
| <b>Four: Release from detention and paths to reform</b> | 11/9           | Specialty courts  | As assigned on Blackboard   | <b>DB#8 due 11/15</b>                                  |
|   | 11/16          | Restorative Justice; Human Rights Issues  | Chapter 22, As assigned on Blackboard                               | <b>DB#9 due 11/22</b>                                  |
|   | 11/23          | Reentry Issues: Planning & preplanning for success on the outside                                   | Chapter 20, As assigned on Blackboard                               | <b>Human Rights Paper DUE 11/22 DB#10 due 11/29</b>    |

|  |       |   |                           |                                  |
|--|-------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | 11/30 | Advocacy and Smart Decarceration: Possibilities for FSW | As assigned on Blackboard | <b>Final Exam<br/>Dec. 11-12</b> |
|--|-------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

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### **J. Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional three hours (for each hour of class or lecture per week) of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for assignments and exams, and reviewing online content, etc.

### **K. Grade Grievances**

See BSW Program Manual at: [https://www.uta.edu/ssw/\\_documents/bsw/bsw-program-manual.pdf](https://www.uta.edu/ssw/_documents/bsw/bsw-program-manual.pdf)  
Or MSW Program Manual at: [http://www.uta.edu/ssw/\\_documents/msw/msw-program-manual.pdf](http://www.uta.edu/ssw/_documents/msw/msw-program-manual.pdf)

### **L. Student Support Services**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email [IDEAS@uta.edu](mailto:IDEAS@uta.edu) or call (817) 272-6593.

The UT Arlington School of Social Work community is committed to and cares about all of our students. If you or someone you know feels overwhelmed, hopeless, depressed, and/or is thinking about dying by suicide or harming oneself or someone else, supportive services are available. For immediate, 24-hour help call MAVS Talk at 817-272-TALK (817-272-8255). For campus resources, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (817-272-3671 or visit <http://www.uta.edu/caps/index.php>) or UT Arlington Psychiatric Services (817-272-2771 or visit <https://www.uta.edu/caps/services/psychiatric.php>) for more information or to schedule an appointment. You can be seen by a counselor on a walk-in basis every day, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Ransom Hall, Suite 303. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do - for yourself and for those who care about you.

### **M. Librarian to Contact**

The Social Sciences/Social Work Resource Librarian is Brooke Troutman. Her office is in the campus Central Library. She may also be contacted via E-mail: [brooke.troutman@uta.edu](mailto:brooke.troutman@uta.edu) or by phone: (817)272-5352 below are some commonly used resources needed by students in online or technology supported courses:

<http://www.uta.edu/library/services/distance.php>

The following is a list, with links, of commonly used library resources:

Library Home Page..... <http://www.uta.edu/library>  
Subject Guides..... <http://libguides.uta.edu>  
Subject Librarians..... <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php>  
Course Reserves..... <http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do>  
Library Tutorials ..... <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php>  
Connecting from Off- Campus..... <http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus>  
Ask a Librarian..... <http://ask.uta.edu>

## N. Drop Policy

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

## O. Disability Accommodations

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

## P. Non-Discrimination Policy

*The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

## Q. Title IX Policy

The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment;



and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

## **R. Academic Integrity**

Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

## **S. Electronic Communication**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

## **T. Campus Carry**

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

## **U. Student Feedback Survey**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

## **V. Final Review Week**

For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as

required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.