Days and Time: Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Instructor: Ericka Robinson-Freeman, LMSW
Classroom: SW Bldg A Room 308
E-mail: erickarobinson@uta.edu
Contact phone: 817-774-8420
Office: Social Work Complex, Building A, 101F
Office Hours by appointment only.

Course Description
Undergraduate Catalog Description:
An overview of the social work profession, its fields of practice, methods of social intervention, its historical context, and its relationship to the social welfare system.

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to the profession and practice of social work and, for students who elect to major in social work, as preparation for advanced coursework. It also provides students with information on available social services, offers an introduction to social policy issues and citizenship decisions, and provides an introduction to the various fields of social welfare and social work. The course will explore the values, code of ethics, knowledge base, and skills necessary for social work practice.

Educational Objectives Addressed
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) 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 Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles.
(b) Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts.
(c) 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: 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. Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups. Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.

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: Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice.

Educational Policy 2.1.8 - Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services. Social work practitioners understand that policy affects service delivery, and they actively engage in policy practice. Social workers know the history and current structures of social
policies and services; the role of policy in service delivery; and the role of practice in policy development. Social workers: Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the semester, each student should be able to...
1. Describe the development of social work and social welfare.
2. Define and describe the fields of social welfare, social work, and human services.
3. Explain and analyze contemporary social problems in our society.
4. Explain current social services designed to meet these problems.
5. Discuss gaps in current services and controversial issues in each service area.
6. Describe the generalist framework for social work practice with systems of all sizes.
7. Identify and discuss the knowledge, skills, and values needed for effective social work practice.
8. Demonstrate awareness of personal values in regard to critical issues of social work practice.
9. Demonstrate awareness of values and ethics of the social work profession.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY, CLASS PARTICIPATION and COMMUNICATION**

**Attendance Policy**

Due to the format, time frame, and content of this course, regular and punctual attendance is imperative and expected. Attendance is part of your final grade. As a matter of fairness and equity, **anyone missing more than one (1) scheduled class session will lose 5 points off his/her attendance-participation grade per day absent (unless emergency/extenuating circumstances as approved by instructor).** Additionally, it is expected for students to be on time and not leave early. Repetitive lateness, as well as leaving class early, may affect your final attendance-participation grade. Role will be taken at the beginning of each class. If it is necessary for you to be late or leave class early, please let me know in advance.

**Class Participation**

It is important for students to come to class prepared to take part in informed discussion each week, based upon the class readings. This part of the grade will be determined by class attendance and participation in discussions and group work.

**Communication and Feedback**

I will be available by email, phone or text to answer questions about assignments. Students should submit questions or requests for clarification at least 24 hours before an assignment is due. If an assignment is due in less than 24 hours, I cannot guarantee a timely response.

Feedback is two-way! During this course students will be asked to provide feedback on their learning in informal as well as formal ways, including the use of anonymous surveys. It is very important for me to know your reactions to what is taking place in class, so that adjustments can be made if necessary to best meet your needs. If you are concerned about your class performance, I am more than willing to work with you to help you improve your understanding of course content. I am happy to meet with you. Please contact me via email or phone to schedule a time to meet.

**Class Environment**

It is essential that we create an environment conducive to learning. Please avoid distracting or disrupting the class. There is also the possibility that you may disagree with another student or the instructor. This is to be expected with the issues social workers confront and our tendency to be passionate about our values and opinions. However, it is important that we be respectful of each other and their opinion. **Each student will sign a course confidentiality agreement.**
Use of technological devices (cell phones, iPods, mp3s, etc) is not permitted during class. A minimum of one (1) point will be deducted from the student's attendance-participation grade each time an incident occurs. However, the use of a laptop for note-taking is permitted. If you are the caregiver for a child or other family member, you may leave your cell phone on vibrate/silent mode for emergency phone calls (calls should be taken outside the classroom).

Readings: Readings will be assigned from the textbook and may be augmented with class handouts. Additional readings include case study material from the online assignment. A combination of lecture, discussion and in-class and out-of-class exercises (individual and small group) will highlight the major concepts covered in the course.

Blackboard: Blackboard is a Learning Management System licensed by UTA for faculty members to communicate electronically with students. It will be used as a mechanism to deliver class materials. There are many Blackboard features that will be used during the course of this class, including posting of course material, class assignments, and grades.

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 3 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIAL

Students are responsible to review and do case study activities for an assigned family posted free online at www.routledgesw.com/cases.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMINATIONS, AND GRADING
Fields of Practice Paper - 20%
Students will select a field of social work practice (e.g., child welfare, schools, workplace, criminal/juvenile justice, elderly, mental health, health, substance abuse, military, social advocacy, community) and submit a research paper. If a specific field is not mentioned in the textbook, please contact me for permission to write your paper on that topic. Additional information on the content, style, and grading of this assignment will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

Exams (2) – 25% Each
Two examinations will be given during the semester. Exam II will NOT be comprehensive. Exam material will come from lectures, assigned readings, and any handouts given in class. A review will be provided for each exam. Make-up exams will be provided at the instructor's discretion. If you must miss an exam for an unavoidable reason, you must contact me by email or phone before the time of the scheduled exam.

Online Case Study – 15%
Students will complete online assignments as they coincide with the text and are provided by the publishers of the text. These assignments will last for 4 weeks. Students will be expected to complete
and submit the online assign and be prepared to discuss their work in class. Additional information on assignment content will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Article Discussion – 5%**  
This should be interactive and educational. Each student will choose a current news or published article related to Social Work and will lead one brief class discussion regarding the contents of the article. A sign-up sheet will be provided with available dates for presentations. Additional information on assignment content will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

**Participation – 10%**  
Attendance is vital to active and engaged participation in class. As a result, each student is allowed up to one (1) absence without grade reduction penalty. Each absence after the first (1st) absence will result in a 5 point reduction in participation grade per absence. (e.g. absence #2 = 95, absence #3=90, etc.).

**Extra Credit**  
From time to time university presentations, volunteer experiences, and community service learning opportunities are presented which are beneficial to the learning experience of this class. At the instructor’s discretion, extra credit may be given for these types of activities.

**GRADING**  
90 and Above =A  
80 - 89.9 = B  
70 –79.9 = C  
60 - 69.9 = D  
Below 60 =F

Written work must be clear, concise, and grammatically correct. Deficiencies in areas such as spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and incoherent organization will result in lower grades. Plagiarism (using someone else's words, thoughts, or ideas and claiming them as your own – i.e., using direct sentences written by others) will result in a failing grade for the course.

All written assignments will be due on the date listed on the class schedule. **Ten points will be deducted for late assignments. No assignment will be excepted after 5 days late.**

**Course Syllabus Modifications**  
Modifications to assignments and the class schedule may be necessary. Modifications to these items and the course syllabus, if needed, will be made at my discretion based on new materials, class discussions, or other needs of the class. Modifications will be distributed to students in a timely fashion either via email, Blackboard, or classroom distribution.

**OTHER INFORMATION AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**  
1. **Dropping the Class:** If you choose to drop this course at any point during the semester, please be attentive to specific University calendar dates established for completing this process. It is the student's responsibility to complete the necessary paperwork according to the University's schedule. **Not doing so will result in a failing grade. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.**

2. **Student Support Services/Student Retention:** The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, 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, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.
3. **Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2). All students enrolled in this course 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.*

For this class, be attentive to the manner in which you use and cite reference material. When in doubt, it is best to insert a citation. Avoid the excessive use of quotations – cited or not – and if you use any kind of a writing tutor, be careful about the degree of assistance they provide to you. Assignments are intended to represent YOUR work – for better or worse - so over-reliance on outside help is discouraged.

4. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please see me at the beginning of the semester. Faculty members are required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364, located in the lower level of the University Center.

5. **Bomb threats:** If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

6. **Librarian to Contact:** The Social Sciences / Social Work Resource Librarian is John Dillard. His office is in the main library. He may also be contacted via E-mail: dillard@uta.edu. The SWEL web page is linked to the School of Social Work Main Page and through the Central Library web page.

7. **E-Culture Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. All communication for this class will be conducted through the UTA email system. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email. All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. *Students are responsible for checking their UTA issued email regularly.*

8. **Incompletes:** Incompletes are given only in exceptional and very rare situations that involve Acts of Nature and/or other things beyond the ability of the student to anticipate or overcome. Students must speak with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester to determine eligibility.

9. **Grade Grievance Policy:** It is the obligation of the student, in attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor with whom the grievance originated. Individual instructors retain primary responsibility for assigning grades. The instructor's judgment is final unless compelling evidence shows preferential treatment or procedural irregularities. If students wish to appeal, their requests must be submitted in writing on an Academic Grievance Form available in departmental or program offices to the department chair or program director. Before considering a grievance, the department chair or program director will refer the issue to a departmental or program
committee of graduate faculty. If the committee cannot reach a decision acceptable to the parties involved, the department chair or program director will issue a decision on the grievance. If students are dissatisfied with the chair or director's decision, they may appeal the case to the academic dean. If they are dissatisfied with the academic dean's decision, they may appeal it to the dean of Graduate Studies. Students have one year from the day grades are posted to initiate a grievance concerning a grade.

10. **Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a 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 enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit [http://www.uta.edu/sfs](http://www.uta.edu/sfs).

### CLASS SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/2/14</td>
<td>Introductions, Syllabus Review, Assignments</td>
<td></td>
<td>Course Confidentiality Agreement (online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/3/14</td>
<td>Glimpse into the world of Social Work</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/5/14</td>
<td>Social Work with Individuals and Families AND Online Case Study</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/9/14</td>
<td>U.S. Poverty and Implications for Social Work</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Articles Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/10/14</td>
<td>The Social Work Environment</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Articles Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/11/14</td>
<td>Fields of Social Work Practice</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Articles Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/12/14</td>
<td>Case Study – Engagement Phase *Review on own for Exam I (Posted on Blackboard.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6/12: “Engage&quot; ONLINE ASSIGNMENT due by 12:30 p.m. - No In-Person Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/16/14</td>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Exam I (online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/17/14</td>
<td>Values and Ethics in Social Work</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>In-Class Discussion of “Engage”</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/18/14</td>
<td>Social Work Perspectives and Methods</td>
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<td>Articles Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/19/14</td>
<td>Case Study – Assessment Phase</td>
<td></td>
<td>6/19: “Assessment” ONLINE ASSIGNMENT due by 12:30 p.m. - No In-Person Class</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/23/14 (Mon)</td>
<td>Diversity in Social Work</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/24/14 (Tues)</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Groups</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/25/14 (Wed)</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Organizations, Communities, Policy</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/26/14 (Thur)</td>
<td>Sanchez Case Study – Intervention Phase</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/30/14 (Mon)</td>
<td>The Social Work Profession *Review on own for Exam II (Posted on Blackboard.)</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>In-Class Discussion of “Intervention”</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/1/14 (Tues)</td>
<td>Sanchez Case Study – Evaluation Phase</td>
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<td>7/1: “Evaluation” ONLINE ASSIGNMENT due by 12:30 p.m. – No In-Person Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/2/14 (Wed)</td>
<td>Wrap Up and Online Survey</td>
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<td>Articles Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/3/14 (Thur)</td>
<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>In-Class Discussion of “Evaluation”</td>
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Exam II (online)