THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

School of Social Work

Semester/Year: Spring 2016
Course Title: Introduction to Social Work
Course Prefix/Number/Section: SOCW 2311-004/005
Instructor Name: Ericka Robinson-Freeman, MSSW/LMSW
Faculty Position: Assistant Professor in Practice
Faculty Profile: http://www.uta.edu/profiles/ericka-freeman
Office Number: SOCW Bldg A, 101F
Phone Number: Emailing is preferred.
Email Address: erickarobinson@uta.edu
Office Hours: Tues 5-7 p.m., Wed 2-4 p.m., Thur 8-9:30 a.m.
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/webapps/login/

A. Catalog Course Description/Special Requirements (Prerequisites/Out of Class Meetings):

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.

Students should expect to spend about 9 additional hours outside of class each week reading the
text and materials, the writing assignment, & studying for exams, and preparing for classroom
discussions.

B. Measurable Student Learning Outcomes:

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:

- 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;
- tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts; and
- 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.** 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:

- 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

C. **Required Text(s) and Other Course Materials:**


This text has an accompanying online supplement. [www.routledgesw.com/cases](http://www.routledgesw.com/cases).

D. **Additional Recommended Text(s) and Other Course Materials:**


E. **Major Course Assignments & Examinations:**

Community Assignment: (Addresses EPAs 2.1.2,2.1.3)
For 20% of the grade, students may choose one of the following options:

1. Complete 10 community service hours in a nonprofit social service agency. Students must complete the “Intent to Complete Community Service Hours” form (due week 3) & provide proof of hours in the form of agency letter head and signature of the volunteer coordinator. Community Service Forms must be approved prior to beginning the service hours.

OR


The Social Worker must have a bachelor’s or master’s degree from an accredited university. Interviews may be conducted in person, skype, or by telephone.

Quizzes

(Addresses EPAs 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.8.)

There will be 10 short quizzes administered during the semester. Quizzes are formulated from the text. Quizzes account for 10% of the student’s total grade.

Weekly Discussions

(Addresses EPAs, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.8.)

For 10% of the student’s total grade, students will participate in discussions regarding the chapter readings, current events, and course events as they relate to Social Work. Students should be prepared to discuss the topic presented as it relates to that week’s text reading and the concepts as they relate to Social Work of “Engage”, “Assess”, “Intervene”, and “Evaluate”. Students are expected to read the text each week in preparation for class discussions. Although students will be able to view the discussion question(s) earlier, each actual discussion board "closes" on the corresponding week's Saturday at 11:59 p.m. (a stroke before midnight). Due to the interactive nature of this course and this assignment, it is not possible to grant extensions on discussion board submissions.

Fields of Practice Paper

(Addresses EPAs, 2.1.3)

A Score of 100 is possible for 20% of the total course grade.

Students select a field of practice (child welfare, schools, workplace, criminal/juvenile justice, elderly, mental health, health, substance abuse, military, social advocacy, community) and submit a research paper in APA format. For guidance on correct APA style go to http://www.uta.edu/library/help/files/cite-apa.pdf 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 this course. Additional information on the content, style and grading of this assignment will be posted on Blackboard in the Assignments folder.

Examinations
There will be both a Midterm (20% of the grade) and a Final Exam (20% of the grade). Both will be administered online using Blackboard (or in class if needed) and will be multiple choice questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points. There will be no makeup exams unless the student can provide a written request and receives approval from the professor. Exams are developed from the text, discussions, and the weekly quizzes.

F. Grading Policy

All written assignments must be grammatically correct using APA style. Assignments with many grammatical errors, misspellings and SafeAssign scores of 40% or greater will not receive a satisfactory grade. All written assignments will be due on the date listed on the Course Schedule. **Ten points will be deducted for late assignments. No assignment will be accepted after five days late.**

**Grading:** 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; Below 60 = F. *A grade of Incomplete will not be given for this class.*

**Note:** Grades will be posted to the campus MyMav system at course completion and made available on the University Schedule for posting of grades. Grades cannot be given by email or individually by the instructor, per University Policy.

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.

G. Make-Up Exam or Assignment Policy:

There will be no make-up exams unless the student can provide a written request and receives approval from the professor before the scheduled exam(s). All written assignments will be due on the date listed on the Course Schedule. **Ten points will be deducted for late assignments. No assignment will be accepted after five days late.**

H. Attendance Policy:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, 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. As the instructor of this section,

As this is an online course, no "attendance" is taken; however, students will be held accountable for completing weekly assignments and actively and appropriately participating in all discussion boards. This course runs on a calendar week, which means each week begins on a Sunday (at 12 a.m.) and ends on a Saturday (at 11:59 p.m.).

I. Course Schedule:

A. Course Schedule:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE(s) OF CLASS</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>REQUIRED READINGS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS/ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/24 to 1/30    | A Glimpse into the World of Social Work | Read Syllabus Read Chapter 1 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 1.  
• Due: Discussion Board 1  
• Due: Quiz 1 over Syllabus |
| 2    | 1/31 to 2/6     | History of Social Work & Social Welfare | Read Chapter 2 Read Hull House Article | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 2.  
• Due: Discussion Board 2  
• Due: Quiz 2 over Chapter 2 |
| 3    | 2/7 to 2/13     | U.S. Poverty and the Implications for Social Work | Read Chapter 3 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 3.  
• Due: Intent to Complete Volunteer Hours Form  
• Due: Discussion Board 3  
• Due: Quiz 3 over Chapter 3 (2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.8) |
| 4    | 2/14 to 2/20    | The Social Work Environment | Read Chapter 4 Read Article from the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs [http://undesadspd.org/Poverty/PovertyandInequality.aspx](http://undesadspd.org/Poverty/PovertyandInequality.aspx) | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 4.  
• Due: Discussion Board 4  
• Due: Quiz 4 over Chapter 4 (2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.8) |
• Due: Discussion Board 5  
• Due: Quiz 5 over Chapter 5 (2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5) |
| 6    | 2/28 to 3/5     | Values and Ethics in Social Work Practice | Read Chapter 6 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 6.  
• Due: Discussion Board 6  
• Due: Quiz 6 over Chapter 6 (2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4) |
| 7    | 3/6 to 3/12     | Social Work Perspectives and Methods | Read Chapter 7 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 7.  
• Due: Discussion Board 7  
• No Quiz this week  
• Due: Mid-Term Exam (by end of week, Saturday, 3/12/16, at 11:59 p.m.) (2.1.2) |
| 8    | 3/13 to 3/19    | Spring Break! Enjoy your week. | | |
| 9    | 3/20 to 3/26    | Fields of Social Work Practice | Read Chapter 8 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 9  
• Due: Online Plagiarism Tutorial  
• Due: Discussion Board 8  
• No Quiz this week (2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.5) |
| 10   | 3/27 to 4/2     | Fields Of Social Work Practice Cont’d | Continue reading Chapter 8 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 10  
• No Discussion Board this week  
• Due: Quiz 7 over Chapter 8 (2.1.3, 2.1.4) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read Chapters</th>
<th>Additional Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 11   | 4/3 to 4/9  | Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families | Read Chapter 9  | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 11.  
• Due: FIELDS OF PRACTICE PAPER DUE (by end of week, Saturday, 4/9/16 at 11:59 p.m.) Papers must be posted on Blackboard in SafeAssign. No emailed papers accepted.  
• No Discussion Board this week  
• Due: Quiz 8 over Chapter 9 (2.1.2, 2.1.3,2.1.8) |
| 12   | 4/10 to 4/16| Social Work Practice With Groups           | Read Chapter 10 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 12.  
• Due: Discussion Board 9  
• Due: Quiz 9 Over Chapter 10 (2.1.2,2.1.3,2.1.4) |
| 13   | 4/17 to 4/23| Social Work Practice With Organizations, Communities, & Policy Practice | Read Chapter 11 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 13.  
• Due: Discussion Board 10  
• Due: Quiz 10 over Chapter 11 (2.1.3,2.1.8) |
| 14   | 4/24 to 4/30| The Social Work Profession                 | Read Chapter 12 | • Complete all activities as listed in Week 14.  
• No Discussion Board this week  
• No Quiz this week (2.1.2, 2.1.3,2.1.4,2.1.5,2.1.8) |
| 15   | 5/1 to 5/7  | No Text Reading This Week                  |                 | • Due: Community Assignment Students must submit either Volunteer Hours or Interview with Social Worker.  
• Due: Final Exam (by end of day, 5/7/16, 11:59 p.m.—last day of class) (2.1.2,2.1.3) |

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.

**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 Grievance Policy:**


**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 and writing support, students may visit the Office of Advising and Student Success located on the third floor of Building A of the School of Social Work Complex or contact the Administrative Assistant at 817-272-3647. Also, the Maverick Resource Hotline may be contacted at 817-272-6107, or send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

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 self or someone else, supportive services are available. For immediate, 24-hour help call 1-800-273-TALK or visit http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/ for a live chat. For campus resources, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (817-272-3671) or UT Arlington Psychiatric Services (817-272-2771) 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 John Dillard. His office is in the campus Central Library. He may also be contacted via E-mail: dillard@uta.edu or by Cell phone: (817) 675-8962. 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-test.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php
- Database List.................... http://www-test.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php
- Course Reserves................... http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do
- Library Catalog.................. http://discover.uta.edu/
- E-Journals......................... http://utalink.uta.edu:9003/UTAlink/az
- Connecting from Off-Campus... http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus
- Ask a Librarian................... http://ask.uta.edu

N. Emergency Exit Procedures:

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exits, which are the stairwells located at either end of the adjacent hallway. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

O. 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/ao/faq/).

**P. 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). 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 or calling 817-272-3364.**

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.**

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.

**Q. Title IX:**

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. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

**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 as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) 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.

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. Student Feedback Survey:

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.

U. Final Review Week:

This ONLY applies to courses administering a major or final examination scheduled in the week and locations designated for final examinations following last classes. 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.