Instructor:  Dr. Christopher M. Shar  
Email: christopher.shar@angelo.edu  
Phone: 325.486.6426  
Office: HHS 224R  
Office Hours: Online by appointment  

Course Information  

Course Dates, Times, and Location  
Summer Semester, 2020 – June 1st through August 5th  
Tuesday evenings – 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  

Course Description  
This course provides knowledge and skills required for advanced practice relating to children and families with an emphasis on diverse populations. Topics include the changing dynamics of families, social problems faced by children and families, and counseling and intervention programs for children and families. Although families are often defined by politicians and society as comprising a married husband, wife, and their child(ren), the actual nature of the family may also include single parents, extended family caretakers of children, domestic partnerships, same-sex marriages, blended families, and multiethnic families. This course offers an examination of the range of family arrangements encountered in contemporary American society.  

Course Credits  
3  

Prerequisites  
Formal admission to the MSW program, completion of all MSW foundation curriculum, and good standing in the MSW program.
Prerequisite Skills
This course requires students to have an existing understanding of the values, ethics, skills, and knowledge base of the profession as well as the general intervention model and how to apply it to social work practice.

General skill-based requirements of this course include: basic computer proficiencies (e.g., accessing Internet websites, using online and on-campus library resources, and familiarity with Microsoft Office programs) and the ability to understand and apply the formatting and style guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

Program Outcomes
Upon completion of the program of study for the Master’s degree in Social Work, the graduate will be prepared to practice as an advanced generalist in the field of social work as well as become licensed as a master’s level social worker.

Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignments and Activities</th>
<th>Mapping to Program Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competency 1:</strong> Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior</td>
<td>Assessment/intervention papers; treatment plan; presentation</td>
<td>A1.3: Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze cases and articulate how to manage ethical issues in practice scenarios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competency 3:</strong> Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice</td>
<td>Assessment/intervention papers; treatment plan; presentation</td>
<td>A3.3: Compare how social, economic, cultural, and political frameworks can oppress and violate human rights</td>
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</table>

Course Delivery
This section of SWK 6367: Advanced Research – Practice and Program Evaluation is an online course with learning resources and supplemental materials posted in Angelo State University’s Blackboard Learning Management System, which can be accessed at ASU’s Blackboard System.
Required Texts and Materials


Note: All assignments submitted in this course are to be written in strict accordance with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). If you do not already own the *Publication Manual*, this is a **required** text.

Recommended Text

Technology Requirements
To successfully complete this course, students **must** have access to the following devices, software, and services:

- A computer capable of running Windows (7 or later), or Mac OSX (10.8 or later)
- The latest version of Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Mac Safari web browsers
- Microsoft Office Suite (or a compatible Open Office Suite)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (or similar PDF reader)
- High Speed Internet access and an Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam with microphone
- Respondus Monitor and LockDown Browser software (available for download from the Technology Support tab in Blackboard)

Refer to [Angelo State University’s Distance Education](https://www.angelo.edu) website for further technology requirements.

Communication
All communication (email or phone) **typically receives a response within 24 hours** at the latest. Messages sent on weekends and evenings may receive a longer wait for responses than during morning or afternoon hours during the week. Emails received after 6:00 p.m. may not be addressed until the following morning.

Ask questions and participate in all opportunities for course discussion. Graduate learning is dependent upon your synthesis of the material with your existing knowledge base. Active learning improves student outcomes as demonstrated by a well-established evidence base.

Utilize virtual office hours as needed. I am happy to make an appointment to speak via phone, or through Webex, Zoom, or Blackboard Collaborate at a time convenient to both of our
schedules. I encourage all students to take advantage of access as a resource for any and all course-related questions and concerns.

All course-related communication must be conducted in a civil, polite, professional manner. This encompasses all email, discussion board, or Collaborate communication. Individuals who violate this guideline will receive one (1) warning. Further violations will result in a failing grade for the course and possible expulsion from the MSW program [based on the severity and circumstances of the incident(s)].

**Topic Outline**

The first half of this course discusses the developmental stages for children and moves into the engagement, assessment, and interventions appropriate for children. The second half of the course addresses families and examines the different types of family systems. Interventions at the child and parental levels are explored as well as those for couples.

**Grading**

**Evaluation and Grades**

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment/Intervention Papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plan</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading System**

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

**Grading Scale**

A = 90 to 100   B = 80 to 89   C = 70 to 79   D = 60 to 69   F = 59 and below

**Teaching Strategies**

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.
Assignment and Activity Descriptions
Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located on the Blackboard course website.

Assessment and Intervention Papers 30%
Students will write three 4-page papers discussing how to assess and intervene with children in each of the following age groups: 0 to 6 years of age; 7 to 12 years of age; and 13-18 years of age. Each paper will address the following areas:
- **Engagement** – including initiating the therapeutic relationship and rapport-building
- **Assessment** – including the selection and rationale of the assessment method/tools and the reliability and validity of the assessment method/tool
- **Intervention** – including the selection and rationale of the intervention, the research supporting the efficacy of the intervention, and corroborating evidence from research
- **Evaluation** – including the method(s) and rationale for assessing intervention implementation

Treatment Plan 30%
Students will conduct a literature review of at least 5 peer-reviewed journal articles dealing with interventions for family systems. Based on this literature review, students will create and develop and thorough treatment plan intended to be used as part of the final presentation (see following assignment).

Presentations 40%
Students will organize and execute a presentation focused on assessment of and interventions for one of the following types of family groups:
- Families with adopted and/or foster children (Webb, Chapter 10)
- Families with single parents, divorcing parents, or blended families (Webb, Chapter 11)
- Families impacted by death and/or chronic or terminal illness (Webb, Chapter 12)
- Families with substance-abuse issues, problems, and/or disorder (Webb, Chapter 13)
- Families with domestic and/or community violence (Webb, Chapter 14)
- Families experiencing victimization or perpetration of bullying (Webb, Chapter 15)
- Immigrant or refugee families (Webb, Chapter 16)

More information about this final project is provided on the course's Blackboard web pages. This assignment will be discussed in greater detail during semester orientation and throughout the semester.

Assignment Submission
All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments links on the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Emailed submissions will NOT be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at my ASU email address (christopher.shar@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. You must also contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab in Blackboard to report the issue. This lets faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the
online submission feature in Blackboard. If you do not contact the IT Service Center and receive an email that acknowledges the receipt of your report, your submission will not be accepted.

Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

Note: All assignments, including the outline for the policy presentation, must be written in strict accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy
Late assignments are not accepted. Accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis, but only for extreme circumstances of University-approved or instructor-approved absences.

General Policies Related to This Course
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog
- Angelo State University Honor Code
- Angelo State University Statement of Academic Integrity

Student Responsibility and Attendance
This section of SWK 6367: Advanced Research – Practice and Program Evaluation is taught face-to-face on campus. It is especially important for you to be present and attentive to understand and be able to apply the concepts and procedures featured in this course. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in any individual and/or group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you must participate in all course activities. Students are expected to engage in course assignments and submit work on or before the assignment’s deadline. Students will be graded in part on their ability to make substantive contributions reflecting an integration of course-related material. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. Generally, you should expect to spend a minimum of six to nine hours of studying the assigned readings, completing course assignments, and consuming other course-related material.

As a graduate student, you are expected to attend and participate in all class activities and sessions. Because this section meets once per week for 2 hours and 50 minutes, more than one absence during the semester will result in a failing grade for this course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
(ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee responsible for reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is Ms. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Disability Services. Her office phone number is (325) 942-2047 and her University email address is dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

Title IX
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manners:

- **Online** – www.angelo.edu/incident-form
- **Face-to-Face** – Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
- **Phone** – (325) 942-2022
- **Email** – michelle.boone@angelo.edu

**Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator.** Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State University’s policy, please visit ASU’s Title IX webpage.
Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19: Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Incomplete Grade Policy
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11: Grading Procedures for more information.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from Angelo State University. The Archer College of Health and Human Services adheres to the Statement of Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity Policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft. In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Please consult the ASU Writing Center’s Academic Honesty resources for more information.

Copyright Policy
Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Syllabus Changes
The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course
Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.
Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Required Readings and Assignments</th>
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| **Week 1** 6/1 to 6/5 | **Readings:** Practice with Children and Their Families: A Relational Practice Perspective – Chapter 1  
                    Early Experiences Matter – Chapter 2 |
|                | **Assignment:**                                                                                     |
| **Week 2** 6/8 to 6/12 | **Readings:** Learning How to Love – Chapter 3  
                    Child-centered Assessment: Lives in Translation – Chapter 4 |
|                | **Assignment:** Assessment # 1 – Children Ages 0 to 6 Years                                         |
| **Week 3** 6/15 to 6/19 | **Readings:** Therapeutic Conversations with Children – Chapter 5  
                    Working with Parents – Chapter 6 |
|                | **Assignment:** Assessment # 2 – Children Ages 7 to 12 Years                                         |
| **Week 4** 6/22 to 6/26 | **Readings:** Play and Expressive Therapies – Chapter 7  
                    Working with Adolescents – Chapter 8 |
|                | **Assignment:** Assessment # 3 – Children Ages 13 to 18 Years                                        |
| **Week 5** 6/29 to 7/3  | **Readings:** Neurodiversity and Developmental Disabilities of Childhood – Chapter 9  
                    Family Disruption and Ambiguous Losses – Chapter 10 |
| **Week 6** 7/6 to 7/10 | **Readings:** Death and Grief in Childhood – Chapter 11  
                    The Impact of Violence on Children – Chapter 12 |
|                | **Assignment:** Treatment Plan Due 7/10 by 6:00 p.m.                                                |
| **Week 7** 7/13 to 7/17 | **Readings:** Children of the World – Chapter 13  
                    Epilogue – Chapter 14 |
| **Week 8** 7/20 to 7/24 | **Assignment:** Presentations Due on 7/24 by 6:00 p.m.                                             |
List of Hyperlinks Referenced Within This Syllabus

ASU Blackboard LMS
https://blackboard.angelo.edu

ASU Catalog
https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/26596-2019-2020-graduate-catalog-archive

ASU Distance Education
https://www.angelo.edu/online-education/index.php

ASU Honor Code
https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

ASU Operating Policy 10.19: Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day
https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of

ASU Statement of Academic Integrity
https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php

ASU Student Handbook
https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

ASU Title IX webpage
https://www.angelo.edu/TitleIX

ASU Writing Center’s Academic Honesty resources
https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

Student Disability Services website
https://www.angelo.edu/ADA communication