Department of Social Work and Sociology

SWK 2316 Social Work Theory and Practice

Fall 2021

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Office: 120C
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 9am-11am, Tues/Thurs 9am-12pm or by appointment
Class: Mon/Wed/Fri 11am-11:50am

Course Description
This practice course uses an approach based on the stages of the helping process. It is designed to link theory and beginning-level generalist social work practice. The content in this course provides opportunity for students to experience practice situations through role plays and other experiential activities. These activities are designed to help students understand the very important relationship between theoretical orientation and stages of the helping process. Theoretical information appropriate for beginning-level generalist social work practice is presented.

Course Credits
3 credit hours

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses
SWK 2307
**Prerequisite Skills**

Accessing Internet websites, working knowledge of the APA’s writing style, using ASU Library resources, using Blackboard, and proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are expectations of the course.

**Program Outcomes**

**Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice.** Social workers understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience and are critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including but not limited to age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. Social workers understand 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 also understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values, including social, economic, political, and cultural exclusions, may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create privilege and power.

**Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.** Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of interprofessional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

**Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.** Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to
effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of interprofessional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and inter-organizational collaboration.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</th>
<th>Mapping to Program Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand how diversity and difference characterize and shape the human experience.</td>
<td>Theory and Practice Paper</td>
<td>Competency 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice.</td>
<td>Theory and Practice Paper</td>
<td>Competency 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice.</td>
<td>Theory and Practice Paper</td>
<td>Competency 8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Course Delivery**

Face-to-face sections of this course have learning resources and supplemental materials posted in Blackboard. The course site can be accessed at ASU’s Blackboard Learning Management 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.).

Recommended Texts and Materials
NASW Code of Ethics
Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council

Technology Requirements
Testing via Respondus™ Monitor

You will need access to Blackboard, Angelo State University’s learning platform. Access to examinations will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

If you have any technical problems associated with the test (i.e. webcam problems, lock down browser problems) you should contact the IT Department. The IT Service Department is open M-F from 8-5 and the number is (325) 942-2911. If you call any time after 5 or on the weekend, most likely you will not be able to get assistance until the following weekday, so please plan accordingly.

There is one practice quiz: over ASU trivia that is not graded. This tool will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through the practice quiz in advance of taking a graded quiz. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

To participate in one of ASU’s distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OS X 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University’s Distance Education website for further technology requirements: [Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

**Topic Outline**
Module 1: Includes chapters 1-4 and discusses the role of theories in social work practice, ecological and systems theories, the strengths perspective, and the task-centered model.
Module 2: Includes chapters 5-8 and this module looks at conflict theory, humanism and client-centered theory, cognitive and behavioral theory, and empowerment theory.
Module 3: Includes chapters 9-11 and analyzes narrative theory, solution-focused brief theory, crisis theory.
Module 4: Includes chapters 12-14 and discusses feminist and critical theories, transtheoretical model, and theory and practice: pulling it all together.

**Communication**
Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday; working hours are defined as Monday through Friday (with the exception of university approved holidays) between 0800 and 1700. Weekend and/or holiday messages may not be returned until the next work day.

**Written communication via email:** All e-mail will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

**Virtual communication:** Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, E-Mail, etc.

**Grading**

**Evaluation and Grades**

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.
## Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percent/Points of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Performance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Practice Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>50%</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.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- **A** = 90.00-100 points
- **B** = 80.00-89.99 points
- **C** = 70.00-79.99 points
- **D** = 60.00-69.99 points
- **F** = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

## 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

*Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.

**Professional Performance (10%)**
This is relevant to participation in course activities. An expectation of a professional social worker is that they are present in their practice setting. The expectation for students in a social work program is that they are motivated to learn and have a sense of dedication to their studies. Students are also expected to demonstrate professional performance including in all course-related correspondence with peers and the instructor.

**Examinations (50%)**
There will be four (4) online, timed (75 mins), examinations in this course. You will not be allowed to use books, notes, ppts, or any other type of assistive materials. Each of these examinations is worth 10% of your total course grade. You will take each of these examinations via Blackboard using the Respondus LockDown browser.

**Theory Paper (40%)**
Compare and contrast two theories discussed in this class. Identify contraindications of each, as well as strengths of each. Support your discussion with a minimum of 8 peer reviewed scholarly articles. You may also use the text. Write your findings in an 8- to 10-page paper, using APA style. The following outline provides the structure which presentations should follow:

1. Introduction
2. Identification and Definition of Theories
   a. History and Development of Theories
   b. Key Concepts and Terms of Theories
   c. Application of Theories
   d. Populations best suited for Theories
3. Strengths, Limitations, and Differences of Theories
4. Theory best suited for your personality style
5. Conclusion

**Assignment Submission**

All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at Andrew.rivera@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue. This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. 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.

**Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy**

Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule. Failure to submit your assignments on the assigned date will result in no credit awarded for the assignment. No papers, assignments, or examinations will be accepted after the due date indicated in the syllabus unless the late assignment is due to a university approved absence.

**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

**Student Responsibility and Attendance**

This is a face-to-face class. Attendance is expected and required. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 9 study hours per week on average.

**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 ASU.

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1 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
2 https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.³

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
ASU 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 website⁴ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs 325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

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 Procedures⁴ for more information.

³ https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
⁴ https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
⁴ https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
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. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

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.

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.

5 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
6 https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php
7 https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of
It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

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 manner:

**Online:** [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://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 (325-9422171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1: Aug. 23-29 | Review Syllabus  
|                 | Read – Chapter 1: The Role of Theories in Social Work Practice |
| Week 2: Aug 30-Sept 5 | Read – Chapter 2: Ecological and Systems Theories |
| Week 3: Sept 6-12 | Read - Chapter 3: The Strengths Perspective |
| Week 4: Sept. 13-19 | Read - Chapter 4: The Task-Centered Model  
|                 | Exam 1: Chapters 1-4 Due 9/19 at 23:59 |
| Week 5: Sept. 20-26 | Read – Chapter 5: Conflict Theory |
| Week 6: Sept. 27- Oct 3 | Read – Chapter 6: Humanism and Client-Centered Theory |
| Week 7: Oct. 4-10 | Read – Chapter 7: Cognitive and Behavioral Theories |
| Week 8: Oct. 11-17 | Read – Chapter 8: Empowerment Theory  
|                 | Exam 2: Chapters 5-8 Due 10/17 at 23:59 |
| Week 9: Oct. 18-24 | Read – Chapter 9: Narrative Theory |
| Week 10: Oct. 25-31 | Read – Chapter 10: Solution-Focused Brief Therapy |
| Week 11: Nov 1-7 | Read – Chapter 11: Crisis Theory  
|                 | Exam 3: Chapters 9-11 Due 11/7 at 23:59 |
| Week 12: Nov 8-14 | Read – Chapter 12: Feminist and Critical Theories |
### Grading Rubrics

Grading rubrics are in Blackboard.

### 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.

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
4. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
5. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
6. Developing creative capacities (inventing, designing, writing, performing in art, music, drama, etc.)
7. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.)
8. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing
9. Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth
10. Developing ethical reasoning and/or ethical decision making
11. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
12. Learning to apply knowledge and skills to benefit others or serve the public good
13. Learning appropriate methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical information

End of Syllabus

1 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
2 https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
3 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
4 https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
5 https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
6 https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
7 https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php
8 https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of