SEM: Forensic Social Work - 60036 - SOWK- 4334 -110
Summer 2020 – 10 WK
Texas A&M University - Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

Thursdays, 5 pm – 7:30 pm

This course will be provided 100% online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Tammy Day LMSW, LCDC
Phone: 254.262.6199
Email: t.day@tamuct.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 5 pm, contact for appointment

Student-Instructor Interaction:
I will be checking and replying to student emails daily. Please give up to 24 hours for a response. Alternative ways we can connect is by making an appointment during office hours for a phone call or to meet virtually by way of video chat using Skype, Duo, or Zoom. Please feel free to contact me by text or email to arrange appointments.

WARRIOR SHIELD
Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course develops the understanding of the role of social workers within the criminal justice and legal system. This course will focus on theory, intervention, and advocacy with diverse forensic populations including adults, people accused of crimes, victims of crimes, and related systems.
Course Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Define Forensic Social Work and basic terminology used in the field, and understand the convergence of social work and the criminal justice system
2. Explore the ethical dilemmas inherent in forensic social work. For example, our ethical obligation to advocate for a client’s self-determination contrasted with the needs of the community for safety and justice
3. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs for offenders, victims of crime, and families
4. Understand how biological and environmental risk and protective factors lead to criminal trajectories and the types of intervention strategies to improve outcomes
5. Apply the principles of evidence-based practice and restorative justice in treatment, program development and evaluation, assessment, planning, and interventions with individuals, groups and communities
6. Demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of clients and victims of crime
7. Apply the NASW Code of Ethics to practice in the criminal justice system

Competency Goals Statements (Certification or Standards)

The Social Work Program curriculum is rooted in a framework established by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Specifically, the program endeavors to develop social workers who promote human and community well-being by being able to demonstrate the following 9 core competencies upon graduation:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
Competency 4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Each core competency has specific, measurable practice behaviors that help students and their professors determine if the competency has been achieved. There are 41 total practice behaviors. The complete list of practice behaviors can be found by reviewing the student handbook.

Course Related CSWE Practice Behaviors
This course provides content that helps to prepare you, the generalist social work student, to engage in the following CSWE competencies and related practice behaviors:

1.2 Use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice situations
2.1 Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels
3.1 Apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels

4.3 Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery

5.1 Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services

5.2 Assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services

**Required Reading**

Resources will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. These resources are not required reading. They are resources that will assist in completion with coursework, projects, and topics discussed in class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Final Points & Percentages:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% to 100%</td>
<td>415 to 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89% to 80%</td>
<td>380 to 414</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79% to 70%</td>
<td>345 to 379</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69% to 60%</td>
<td>210 to 344</td>
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**Posting of Grades:**

Please allow 3-5 days for grades to be posted to Canvas. The goal is always to get students grades posted in a timely manner. An email will be sent if there are any anticipated delays in meeting this goal.

**Grading:**

Each assignment will be graded on content relevancy, overall clarity, organization, APA format, and demonstration of understanding of the material.

**Late Work:**

Late work will only be accepted with written excuse i.e. medical, emergency, or exceptional personal circumstance.

**Attendance:**

Attendance will not be graded, but expected. Prerecorded video lectures will only be available from 4 pm to 8 pm on Thursdays. If you cannot make it to the designated class time, please email me for access to the materials. This course meets once per week and absences should be limited.
# COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY 4 PM ON THE DAY LISTED UNLESS SPECIFIED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Meet the Professor</td>
<td>6/4</td>
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<td>Syllabus and Assignment Overview</td>
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<td>Lecture – 8 Parts of a Forensic Assessment</td>
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<td>Intro to theoretical models (Solution-Focused, ACT, Motivational Interviewing, etc.)</td>
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<td>Introduce guest speakers</td>
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<td>Populations (Criminal Offenders, Sex Offenders, Immigration, Human Trafficking, Gangs, Pregnancy and Prison, etc.)</td>
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<td>Day 1 Questions (+3 Bonus pts), due before next class</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Answer any questions about the course/syllabus</td>
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<td>Advocacy vs Community Safety</td>
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<td>Lecture – Criminal History</td>
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<td>- Pre-Trial, Arrests, Charges, Incarceration, Probation and Parole</td>
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<td>Lecture – Medical</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Diagnoses, Hospitalizations, Injury, Family Medical History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Motivational Interviewing in Forensic Social Work</td>
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<td>Discuss Vignette Assignments and Discussion Board Responses</td>
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<td>Class Icebreaker due, (10 pts)</td>
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<td>Video Responses due, (100 pts)</td>
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<td>Submit Questions for Guest Speakers based on Bios, (10 pts)</td>
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<td>Lecture – Family &amp; Social</td>
<td>6/18</td>
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<td>- Domestic Violence and CPS</td>
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<td>- Efficacy of Programs for Offenders, Families, and Victims</td>
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<td>- Risk Factors and</td>
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<td>Lecture – Legal</td>
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<td>- Transitional Services and Competency Hearings</td>
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<td>- Role of the Social Worker, Expert Witness, Inter-agency Collaboration</td>
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<td>Criminal History Vignette Question Set due, (20 pts)</td>
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<td>Medical Vignette Question Set due, (20 pts)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Guest Speaker Dr. A. Pierce</td>
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<td>Trauma Assessments; Efficacy and Limitations</td>
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<td>Trauma Informed Service</td>
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<td>ACT in FSW</td>
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<td>Resources Provided on Canvas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Criminal History Discussions due, (10 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical Discussions due, (10 pts)</td>
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### PROJECTS

#### Class Participation:

Students will need to provide thoughtful and relevant comments to three of their peers’ Weekly Vignette Question Set posts. **All three comments must be completed for the 10 points to be awarded, no partial grades.**

**Icebreaker (10 pts) + Guest Speaker Questions (10 pts) + 6 Discussion Boards (60 pts) = 80 pts**
Weekly Vignette Question Sets:

Every week we will cover competencies of the Forensic (Bio-Psycho-Social) Assessment: Criminal History, Medical, Family and Social, Legal, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Employment & Education. I will provide a hypothetical scenario of a client’s presenting history based on the weekly topic.

Students will submit a minimum of TEN hypothetical questions (typically open-ended) based on the theory of Motivational Interviewing using the client information provided. Students will provide a short description (a few sentences) as to why the question is relevant to the assessment. This will be submitted via the Assignment folder for professor review by 4 pm on the due date. 20 pts each, 120 pts total

Forensic Service Plan Outline:

Students will be given an example outline of a Service Plan and a fictional client history based on a biopsychosocial assessment. Students will create a service plan based on client history, overall needs assessment. Assignment expectations will be discussed in class. 100 pts

Journal Article Review:

Students will select a journal article topic discussed in the course related to Forensic Social Work and the Criminal Justice system. Examples of articles will be provided on Canvas. The article of choice should be evidence-based and academic in nature. Essay should be at minimum one-page and written in APA format with proper citations. Grading is based most heavily on the content and student perspective. Some interesting topics are listed below, but students have the freedom to choose a topic that is most relevant/interesting to them. 100 pts

Examples of topics: Prison overcrowding, pregnancy in prison, imprisonment vs mental health treatment, discrimination/justifiable treatment of sex offenders, identifying sex trafficking victims, incarceration vs rehabilitation, substance abuse, recidivism, racial profiling, POC in the criminal justice system, etc.

Video Response:

Students will write one paragraph summarizing the Social Work topics covered in the assigned video (i.e. rehabilitation, advocacy, etc…), and one paragraph providing insight and feedback on the topic and how it relates to Forensic Social Work. 100 pts

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

Please see [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html] for important university dates.
TECHNOLOGY

Technology Requirements
This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.
Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support
Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.
For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing
A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support
For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
Phone: (254) 519-5466
Web Chat: [http://hdc.tamu.edu]
Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy
If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web. [https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2F Submit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web
and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**Academic Integrity**
Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more information regarding the Student Conduct process, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].
If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a report, [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

**Academic Accommodations**
At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

**Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**
Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs’ Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit Student Affairs [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these
requirements and guidelines online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

**Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in the Fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

**University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Summer 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This summer, the UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays starting June 27th and ending July 18th.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!
Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WCONline [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library
The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work-spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our Library website [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas
Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don’t agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don’t be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention
Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting concerning behaviors, or individuals causing a significant disruption
to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2]. Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person’s behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.