Bachelor of Social Work Program
SOWK 4344, Section 110

Forensic Social Work

Semester:	Summer 2023
Meeting Time/Place:	This is a 100% online course, and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com/]. We will be meeting via WebEX on Wednesdays during our normally scheduled class time of 11:00 AM-1:30 PM.
Instructor:	Andreja Lukic
	Professor
Office:	Warrior Hall 4th Floor.
Phone & E-Mail:	alukic@tamuct.edu
	By Appointment Only
Office Hours:	I am most reliably reached via my email.

Canvas

Portions of this course are delivered via Canvas. Please ensure you have access to Canvas. For concerns, please contact the Online Learning department at http://www.ct.tamus.edu/departments/online/learners.php

Email

Important Course Access Information:

The social work program, as well at TAMU-CT, corresponds frequently with students via your student email. Personal email addresses should be connected to your TAMUCT email address.

911 Shield: TAMUCT safety application links you directly to the campus safety forces. Download the App

 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://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html] 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 Overview and 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.

Prerequisites: None

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 clients' 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 that 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

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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 and Textbook(s)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

Quizzes (*4 Quizzes at 10 points each = 40 points total*)

There will be 4 quizzes in this course that cover content from the textbook. Quizzes will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true or false questions. Quizzes will be untimed and you will only have ONE attempt at taking them. There will be NO MAKEUPs allowed for any missed quizzes, as you will be given one week to complete them. All assignments will open on Monday at 9AM and will close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM to allow you time to complete them at your own pace.

Journal Article Reviews: (*2 @ 10 Points= 20 Points- Due by 11:59 PM July 11*th *and July 25*th *@ 11:59 PM*)

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.

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.

Expert Witness Response Paper *(10 Points):*

Students will write a 1-2 page response summarizing the Social Work topics covered in the assigned interview (i.e. rehabilitation, advocacy, etc...), and one paragraph providing insight and feedback on the topic and how it relates to Forensic Social Work. Students will also share a paragraph on what they learned from this interview.

Discussion Boards/ Participation *(5 Points)*

Class will be held via Webex once a week on Monday during our normally scheduled class time of 11:00 am-1: 30 PM. You will be expected to attend class regularly and participate. Please remember professional etiquette when meeting virtually. This means no driving; no background distractions, and being in a quiet place where you can engage with our meetings. Please also remember to be dressed appropriately. In addition there will be discussion boards throughout the course posted underneath the weekly Canvas modules. Each of these discussion boards will be for credit and you will not be able to make them up so please plan accordingly to complete them on time.

Problem Identification and Response Paper *(25 Points) DUE BY FRIDAY 8/13 at 11:59 PM (*last official day of class)

Students will select a problem area within the realm of Forensic Social Work and discuss possible solutions to improve / help correct the problem. Further details will be provided on Canvas surrounding this assignment and expectations.

A total of 100 points may be earned from the course assignments, as follows:

Course Assignment	Total Points
Journal Article Review (2 @ 10 Points)	20
Expert Witness Response Paper (1 @ 10 Points)	10
Problem Identification and Response Paper	25
Quizzes (4 quizzes @ 10 points each)	40
Participation/ Discussion Boards	5
Total	100 Points

Final Class Grades are based on the following: A: 90 to 100 B: 89 to 80
C: 79 to 70   D: 69 to 60 F: 59 or less

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

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%2FSubmit%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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. 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/pregnant-and-parenting-students.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. 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

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 Spring 2021 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 Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. 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 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams 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].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

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 Wellness and 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, 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.

Textbook Purchasing

A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

The professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time, as needed.

TAMUCT Bachelor of Social Work Program

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION IN

SOWK 4320 Research I

All written assignments are expected to be the original work of the student. While paraphrasing and some direct quotations are permitted, it is expected this will be done within the context of your own analysis and synthesis of the information read. Paraphrasing is a skill of reading information and, using your own thoughts, summarizing the information in a way that supports the topic discussed. While the paraphrase involves your own thoughts, it originates from a source and that source is cited. Quoting is a matter of taking words, verbatim, from another source and restating them without, or with minimal, manipulation. Quotations are placed in quotation marks ("") or placed in a block format within the text. Quoting does not involve analysis and synthesizing and, therefore, does not require critical thinking except when used appropriately to support (not substitute) an idea. Because of this, students are discouraged from using significant quotations as this limits your learning experience. Students

found to excessively quote will be penalized. Students using words as their own without **appropriately citing will be penalized** – including failing the assigned project and up to failing the course. Students found to have plagiarized (using words as your own without giving **proper credit**, whether paraphrasing or directly quoting) will also be referred to the Student Affairs. Therefore, it is **VERY** important that students take academic integrity in writing very seriously. If you are in doubt, it is always best to cite your source and/or speak with your professor for more guidance. The Writing Center and Purdue OWL are also resources that can help you.

With regard to submitting assignments online, all **assignments must be turned in (received by the instructor) by the due date and time indicated to receive credit**. Late work ***will not*** be accepted or graded unless this has been discussed with and approved by the professor **BEFORE** the due date (not the due time) of the assignment. Allowing students to turn in assignments late for a grade is not fair to other students who get their work done on time, disrupts the grading process for the professor, and sends a message that such behavior is professionally "okay," which it is not. *This, as well as all other policies related to assignment submission outlined in this syllabus will be held to strict code, and failure to adhere to this policy will result in a zero (0) for the assignment. This is inclusive of all assignments.*

You are being asked to acknowledge receipt and understanding regarding the policy for academic integrity and assignment submission in this course by emailing your acknowledgement statement (in the grey box below) no later than the 2ⁿᵈ week of class. Failure to do so will result in consultation with the professor and could inhibit your successful continuation in this course.

I acknowledge that I have received and agree with the Academic Integrity and Assignment Submission policy for this course. I willingly agree to abide by ALL academic integrity and assignment submission parameters for this course as outlined in this syllabus (including ALL university policies). I understand that should I have issues submitting an assignment via Canvas that I can contact TAMUCT's IT Department directly at 254-519-5466, its@tamuct.edu, helpdesk@tamu.edu, and https://hdc.tamu.edu (live chat). I also understand that I should give myself at least an hour of time before the due time and date to submit my assignments. I understand that it is my responsibility to demonstrate that the assignment was successfully submitted and that the University's IT department is available to provide me with the assistance needed. I also acknowledge that I can utilize and/or contact

the APA manual, Tutoring Services, Purdue OWL, Tutor.com, and my professor for writing assistance and with questions about academic integrity. I further understand that failure to adhere to integrity and professionalism in writing and assignment submission can result in academic penalties including and leading up to failure of the course and/or referral to Student Affairs.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____   Witness: _____