



## SOCW 4335: Communities & Organizations

Fall 2023

### Instructor Information

Instructor: Kristin Mycke, LCSW

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Office Hours: Wed 1-2:30PM (Other appointment times available by appointment or via video conferencing)

**Course Information: Monday/Wednesdays 2:30-3:55pm in Room CAS 210**

**Credit Hours:** 3 Credit Hours

**Course Format:** Hybrid after 1<sup>st</sup> week.

**Time and place of Class Meetings:** Hybrid: Wednesdays, 2:30-3:55pm Room CAS 210

### Covid Precautions

*It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources](#) for support.*

**Description of Course Content:** The course will examine barriers to out-group participation in society with attention to building systems responsive to the physical, psychological, social and economic needs of minority populations. Students will complete organizational and community assessments, identify change targets, and propose strategies & tactics for creating change. The course emphasizes a strengths-based perspective in effectuating community and organizational change.

**Prerequisites:** SOCW 2361, SOCW 2362, SOCW 2371, SOCW 3303, SOCW 3304, SOCW 3308, SOCW 3108, SOCW 3409 SOCW 4132, SOCW 4331.

**Corequisite:** None

**Course Overview:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with strategies and tactics to effectively promote community and organizational change. Students will demonstrate competencies by developing and implementing a seminar or conference that addresses a social problem germane to the East Texas region. The course content will reflect the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) requirements for accreditation.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Below are the Nine (9) CSWE Core Competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education. Each of the competencies is included as an objective to understand and be met as appropriate for each course learning objective.

**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**

The Nine CSWE Core Competencies are the basis for the Learning Outcomes that follow.

**Student Learning Outcomes for SOCW 4335:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following outcomes as progression in the noted areas of the nine Core Competencies established by the Council on Social Work Education (EPAS 2015):

1. Demonstrate the ability to critically examine one's personal strengths, natural aptitudes, values and beliefs and the ethical effective use of these attributes and values to intervene on multiple system levels on behalf of client populations. Demonstrate adherence to the NASW Code of Ethics and professional development and conduct. **Competency 1**
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of human behavior and diversity including those factors and strategies that contribute to empowerment of persons and groups who have experienced formal and informal discrimination. **Competencies 2, 3, 6**
3. Demonstrate a commitment to human rights and social justice and to the self determination of individuals and communities in a diverse practice environment. **Competency 3**
4. Demonstrate knowledge of change related tasks and the problem-solving process including identifying issues, assessing research-based empirical evidence including data collection and analysis, identifying strengths and assets, community and client systems' goals, designing

and implementing plans for meeting those goals with the utmost respect for client self-determination. **Competencies 4, 6-8**

5. Demonstrate awareness of the dynamics of power, the importance of people and relationships as assets, community organization and empowerment through participatory research, neighborhood enhancement and coalition building. **Competencies 4, 5**
6. Demonstrate an understanding of historical social welfare institutions and local and global efforts for macro-level interventions to empower disadvantaged and at-risk populations. **Competencies 2, 5, 8**
7. Demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to analyze, critique, and identify appropriate application for social work practice theories and modalities including person-in-environment, strengths/capacity building, perspectives of human development and social systems (e.g., families, groups, organizations, communities, and societies). **Competency 6**
8. Articulate and implement action strategies and tactical planning at multiple organizational levels. Demonstrate knowledge and skills of policy influencing various populations, and demonstrate policy development and/or change via lobbying, legislative action, and grassroots community organization. **Competencies 5, 8.**
9. Demonstrate ability to engage, assess, intervene, and perform evaluation with all clients. **Competencies 6-9**

**Required Textbook:** Netting, F. Ellen, Kettner, Peter M, McMurtry, Steven L, & Thomas, Lori M.. (2017) 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. Social Work Macro Practice (Connecting core competencies). Boston, MA: Pearson, ISBN-13: 9780133948523

Ehrenreich, B. (2010). *Nickel and dimed*. Granta Books. (Cheap on amazon).

### **Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations:**

**Capstone Project:** Students will help organize and assist with a seminar or conference related to a social problem relevant to the East Texas region. (Worth 300 Points). Seminar date set for September 29th. Participation is mandatory. Conference debrief paper due 10/08/2023.

**Chapter Quizzes:** Students will complete 10 throughout the semester via canvas. (Worth 100 Points).

**Final Advocacy Event:** The final assignment ties together a comprehensive overview of the entire semester content. Students will work together to plan an outreach event based on the community needs assessment in partnership with local agency. Students will be graded for the group project as well as individual reflection paper. **Tentative date for event is November 10, 2023. (Worth 300 points). Paper due 11/19/2023 by 11:59pm.**

**Community Needs Analysis:** This paper will identify a particular population and community need. (Worth 200 points) Complete online and due by 12/3/23.

**Participation:** Instructor will consider the extent of student presence in class, participation in discussions and overall engagement. Class attendance will greatly impact participation grade. See attendance policy for grading (Worth 100 points).

## Grading Information and Letter Grade Assignment

Capstone Project:	300 Points or 30%
Chapter Quizzes	100 Points or 10%
Advocacy Event	300 Points or 30%
Needs Assessment:	200 Points or 20%
Participation:	100 Points or 10%

### Total Points Available for Course=1000

Letter Grade

1000-900 Points =	A (100%-90%)
899 - 800 Points =	B (89%- 80%)
799 - 700 Points =	C (79%-70%)
699 - 600 Points =	D (69%-60%)
599 or less =	F (59% or less)

All written assignments must be grammatically correct using APA style. Assignments with many grammatical errors, misspellings, and/or evidence of plagiarism will not receive a satisfactory grade. All written assignments will be due on the date listed on the course schedule. Ten points will be deducted for late assignments. **No assignment will be accepted after five days late.**

A grade of incomplete will not be given for this class.

### Make-Up Exams:

Late assignments (including exams) are strongly discouraged. There will be 10 points (total) deducted for each late assignment and exam. No assignment or exam will be accepted after 5 days following the due date. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her work is completed on time and submitted correctly.

### Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

### Attendance:

Due to the interactive style and group projects, attendance is required. Students are expected to be present and participate each class period. Group projects and participation grade will be reflective of attendance. Students are given 2 free absences. Additional absences (regardless of reason) will result in 10 points off for each absence. Students who miss more than 5 classes will not pass the course.

The Census Date for the semester is September 1, 2023 This is the last day students may withdraw from the course without penalty.

## Course Schedule

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As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner through UT Tyler email and announcement(s) in Canvas. Institutional Information

**Week One:** Date 8/21/23 and 8/23/23

Learning Outcomes: 1, (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Conference Speaker

Discussion: Review syllabus; Introduction to course.

**Week Two:** 8/30/23

Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 5, 6 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Ch. 1 review: Micro, Mezzo, Macro; Client Empowerment; Dress and demeanor. Book discussion

**Week Three** 9/6/23

Learning Outcomes: 2, 3 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Planning; Book discussion

Chapter 2 quiz

**Week Four:** 9/13/23

Learning Outcomes: 3, 4 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Planning; Book discussion

Chapter 3 Quiz

**Week Five:** 9/20/23

Learning Outcomes: 1, 3 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Planning; Book discussion

Chapter 4 Quiz

**Week Six:** 9/27/23

Learning Outcomes: 2, 4, 6 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Planning; book discussion

Chapter 5 Quiz

**9/29/23-Conference (Participation is mandatory for all students)**

**Week Seven:** 10/4/23

Learning Outcomes: 4, 5 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Program Needs Assessment; Book discussion

Chapter 6 quiz

**Conference Debrief paper due 10/06/2023**

**Week Eight:** 10/11/23-**No Class**

Discussion: Community analysis; Book discussion

Chapter 7 quiz

**Week Nine:** Date 10/18/23

Discussion: Program Evaluation; book discussion

Chapter 8 quiz

**Week Ten:** 10/25/23

Learning Outcomes: 6, 7 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Planning; Book discussion

Chapter 9 quiz

**Week Eleven:** 11/1/23

Learning Outcomes: 2, 6-9 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Planning; book discussion

Chapter 10 quiz

**Week Twelve:** 11/8/23

Learning Outcomes: 9 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Evaluation; Book discussion

Chapter 11 quiz

**\*Mandatory Advocacy Event 11/10/2023**

**Week Thirteen:** 11/15/23

Learning Outcomes: 3-5 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Evaluation

**Advocacy Paper due 11/19/2023 at 11:59pm**

**11/20/23-11/26/23 THANKSGIVING BREAK-NO CLASSES**

**Week Fourteen:** 11/29/23

Learning Outcomes: 6-9 (see full description of learning outcomes on pages 2-3)

Discussion: Project Evaluation

Class Debrief and Program Evaluation Discussion

**Program Needs Assessment due by 12/3/23**

**Week Fifteen:** Finals week 12/4/23-12/7/23 (No final)

**Institutional Information**

**UT Tyler Honor Code**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

**Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

**UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University**

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waiver through Financial Aid State-Mandated
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### **Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

### **Disability/Accessibility Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a

history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application.

The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.utt Tyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

### **Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

### **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
  - copying from another student's test paper;
  - using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
  - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
  - possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
  - using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
  - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;



- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
  - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
  - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
  - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
  - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
  - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
  - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

### **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](http://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter) (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](http://www.uttyler.edu/tutoring) (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](http://www.uttyler.edu/counseling) (903.566.7254)

