**Multidisciplinary Studies Curriculum and Course Outline**

**Degree:** BA **Major:** Multidisciplinary Studies **Concentration:** Youth Advocacy & Social Justice **Major Requirements:** 39 credit hours (plus 9 credit hours of related coursework)

Core 2 (18 credit hours)

Sociological Foundations in Human Services

Core 1 (18 credit hours)

Social Justice & Youth Welfare

SOCY 101 Introduction to Sociology

SOCY 210 Sociology of the Family

SOCY 230 Criminology

SOCY 337 Gender and the Law

SOCY 3X5 Violence and Victims

PHIL 382 Philosophy of Religion

SOWK 102 Modern Social Welfare Dilemmas

SOWK 201 Welfare Policy and Economics

SOWK 303 Social Welfare and the Law

SOWK 304 SW, Corrections, and Alt. Treatment

SOWK 313 Family Violence

SOWK 323 Human Behav. & Social Env. II

SOWK 350 Encounters in Human Diversity

Relative Elective Courses (# of credits)

Capstone (3 credit hours)

THEA 1XX Creative Process

THEA 3X2 Education Theater

SPAN 102 Elementary Spanish

SOWK 300 Co-op Experience in SOWK

**Course Descriptions**

**Core One Descriptions:**

**SOWK 102: 3.s.h Modern Social Welfare Dilemmas:** Introduction to social work’s approach to social problems, including how public-policy decisions affect individuals and families; overview of competing public-policy agendas in social welfare and alternative strategies for problem resolution, societal values and trends affecting service delivery; understanding social work in action; examining core concepts, values and ethics.

**SOWK 201: 3 s.h. Social Welfare Policy and Economics:** This course offers a general understanding of economic theory as it applies to both microeconomic and macroeconomic decision making. The course comprises two major foci: 1) practical applications of decision-making paradigms for practice with individuals and families in the social work context; and 2) understanding the effects of economic conditions on social welfare policy, those who make policy and those who advocate for changes in the policy arena. **Prereq:** SOWK 102 or approval of instructor, social justice minor

**SOWK 303: 3 s.h. Social Welfare and the Law:** Significant legislation, court decisions and regulatory language shape public social policy and affect the legal base for social work practice. Among substantive areas discussed are family law and policy, mental health and substance abuse law and policy, constitutional and civil rights, poverty law and policy, social welfare law and policy, and professional licensing. Prereq: C or better in SOWK 102 or permission of instructor; GOVT 111 or 112; SOWK majors and social justice minors.

**SOWK 304: 3 s.h. Social Work, Corrections and Alternative Treatment Approaches (G3):** Provides students a general introduction to the study of the correctional system in the United States as well as assessment and treatment of adults and youth who may be at risk for interacting with the system. A historical perspective of adult and juvenile corrections will be offered along with discussions and examinations of the etiology and extent of crime as well as antecedents of violence, environmental and ecological factors for the causes of criminality, and assessment of adult offenders and at-risk youth and their families. A historical perspective, rehabilitation approaches, de-institutionalization, community-based programs and alternatives to incarceration will be reviewed.

**SOWK 313: 3 s.h. Family Violence (P):** Professionals and society at large have recognized violence in the family against children, spouses, and the elderly as a social problem. Other emerging related issues include cross-cultural violence, partner violence in gay/lesbian relationships, courtship violence and date rape. Focus will also include theories of abuse with various populations as well as treatment approaches to the various forms of family violence. **Prereq:** COMM 100, ENGL 110 and junior status.

**SOWK 323 (405): 3 s.h. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II:** The second of two courses in human behavior and the social environment, emphasizing 1) the interaction of social and economic forces with individuals and social systems; 2) traditional and alternative theories about systems as they interact with people, promoting and impeding health, welfare and well-being in the context of human culture and diversity; and 3) knowledge about opportunity structures and how they promote and deter human 8 development and meeting needs. **Prereq:** C or higher in SOWK 203. SOWK majors and social justice minors.

**SOWK 350: 3 s.h. Encounters in Human Diversity:** An upper-level, multicultural, interdisciplinary, interactive course designed to enhance students’ knowledge, skills, and values relative to working with people in professional situations within a diversityembracing atmosphere. Focuses on the various differences in communication styles brought about by gender and culture. Designed for students whose anticipated careers are primarily oriented to direct work with people. **Prereq:** COMM 100, ENGL 110 and junior status.

**Core Two Descriptions:**

**SOCY 101: 3 s.h. Introduction to Sociology (G3**): Introduction to the scientific study of human groups, organizations, and societies. Examination of major sociological questions and approaches to studying them.

**SOCY 210: 3 s.h. Sociology of the Family (G3):** The family as a social institution. Topics include the family in mass society, diverse family forms, human sexuality, typologies of love, mate selection, husband-wife interaction, parent-child interaction, family disorganization and American ethnic families. Specific topics may vary.

**SOCY 230: 3 s.h. Criminology (G3, W):** The nature and causes of criminal behavior and the types of social response to law violation. Offered fall, spring. **Prereq:** SOCY 101, ENGL 110

**SOCY 337 3 s.h. Gender and the Law (G3):** Analyzes how the courts and the law construct gender, how these social constructions of gender in the law impact individuals, families, groups, and institutions. Examines the lives of women and girls as offenders, prisoners, victims/survivors, and workers in the criminal justice system from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. Analyzes how the intersections of sexism, racism, heterosexism, and classism impact the lives of individuals and communities in regard to criminality. **Prereq:** SOCY 101, 230

**SOCY 3X5 3 s.h. Victims and Violence:** The nature, extent, origins and possible “solutions” to select problems in contemporary criminology. A thorough and critical examination of family violence from a sociological perspective. Topics include the meaning, nature, and types of family violence; biological, psychological, anthropological and sociological theories which attempt to explain hostility, aggression and violence.

**PHIL 382 3 s.h. Philosophy of Religion (exception):** An examination of the justifiability of religion and of the nature of the religious experience, especially religious language.

**Related Elective Courses:**

**THEA 101 Creative Process:** Creativity takes many forms and contributes to every field of study. Visual, narrative, spatial and performative expressions of ideas all contribute to the 9 collaborative art of theatre. In this participatory class, students gain confidence in their individual intuitions and in the collaborative process as they explore different types of creative expression. Students build their own aesthetic framework as they practice critiquing works of art. Satisfies General Studies Foundations-Fine Arts requirement.

**THEA 302 Education Theater:** NOTE: Course no longer listed in 2017-2018 catalog. Transfer credit (Albright College)

**SPA 102 Elementary Spanish II:** Continuation of SPA 101. This course expands the students’ ability to understand and produce written and spoken Spanish. It emphasizes accuracy in pronunciation and familiar grammatical constructions and acquisition of new structures that enable students to handle more complex tasks. Spanish 102 emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, and continues the exploration of cultures of the Spanish-speaking world through a variety of materials. Conducted in Spanish, except for clarification of grammar and culture. Four class meetings per week. **Prerequisite:** SPA 101

**Capstone Course:**

**SOWK 300:** **3-12 s.h.** **Co-Op Ed Experience in Sowk**

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