Disability & Social Work Syllabus

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2018  
**Course Title:** Disability & Social Work  
**Course Prefix/Number/Section:** SOCW 3312-001  
**Instructor Name:** Darlene Hunter, LMSW, Ph.D.  
**Faculty Position:** Assistant Professor in Practice  
**Faculty Profile:** N/A  
**Office Number:** 111 Building C  
**Phone Number:** N/A  
**Email Address:** darlene.hunter@uta.edu  
**Office Hours:** by appointment  
**Location:** Online  
**Online Equipment:** A laptop computer with wireless capability or equivalent is required for all SSW classes. Blackboard: https://elearn.uta.edu

A. **Course Description:**

Examines major themes in disability and social work. Topics include basic understandings of disability, lived experiences of people with disabilities, legal and policy perspectives, working with adults and children with a variety of disabilities, history of disability policy and disability rights, disability advocacy, and resources in the community, among others. Offered as DS 3312 and SOCW 3312; credit will only be granted in one department.

B. **Learning Outcomes**

C. **Required Textbook and other Course Materials:**


D. **Additional Recommended Textbooks and other Course Materials**

Supplied in Blackboard Shell

E: **Descriptions of Major Assignments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>5 points each</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59PM CST</td>
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<tr>
<td>(10)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59PM CST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>October 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview Paper</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>October 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>November 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflective Journal</td>
<td>30 points (10 points each)</td>
<td>Sept. 2, Oct. 21 &amp; December 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong> 300 points</td>
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**Reading Quizzes:**

The quizzes will act as participation and reviewing the concepts of the reading of the week. The quizzes will be taken each class as listed on the syllabus.

**Reflective Journal:**

- *Reflective Journal 1*: Describe your perspective of disability in your personal life or in society.
- *Reflective Journal 2*: Look through the lens of someone with a disability as you explore your day. Write about the barriers you came across that someone with a disability would face in navigating those places. Integrate course material that you have learned in this course to support your statement. Finally, what are some solutions to help with those barriers?
- *Reflective Journal 3*: Integrate analysis of the course content and personal experience, what have you learned over the course of this semester that you will use in working with individuals with a disability?

**Reflective Journal Rubric:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follow APA guidelines / Grammar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used at least 3 journal articles or scholarly sources</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss the experience:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>What happened? What did you observe? How has this experience impacted you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explain your experience using one or more of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory of Disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal and Policy Perspective</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inequality, Oppression, and Disability Perspective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Future Plans/Self Reflection:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What have you learned? What can you take with you in the future in working with people with disabilities?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points:</strong> 10</td>
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**Interview Paper:**

Part 1. Interview someone with a disability (intellectual or physical). If you have a disability, you must interview someone with a different disability other than your own. For example, if you have a physical disability, interview someone with an intellectual disability. The paper summarizing the interview must be at least 3 pages long.

Sample questions for the interview:
1. What is your disability?
2. How does the disability impact your daily life?
3. What are the biggest challenges you face as an individual with a disability?
4. What, if anything, would you change about your disability?
5. What would you want to share with others, if ever in your same situation?
6. What do you wish social workers knew about assisting you in regard to your disability?
7. Is there anything else you would like to share as an individual with a disability to others who may be assisting you with future needs?

Part 2. Summarize the interviewee’s experiences. Analyze what you have learned from this interview using one of the theories presented in the textbook.

Interview Paper Rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follow APA guidelines / Grammar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarize and Discuss the interview</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze what you have learned using one of the theories presented in the textbook</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze the person’s experience from a policy perspective using the textbook and ADA materials covered in class as a guide:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Is ADA sufficient?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• What could be improved related to the policy?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• What could be improved related to the policy’s implementation?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Plans/Self Reflection:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What have you learned? What can you take with you in the future in working with people with disabilities?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points: 50</td>
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Book Review

Read a book about a person with a disability and write a 3-page review of the book. Integrate what you have learned throughout this course and how it applies to the individual you are reading about. Discuss the challenges that the individual faced, how they overcame them, how they obtained help from others to reach their goals and what the implications are for you in working with persons with a disability.

F. Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own
methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

G. Grading

Course Grade:
Letter Grade Points
A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 59% and below

H. Make-up Exams

Make-up exams or work is only offered to students that were personally hospitalized for the entire week of the exam. Students who miss exams or work due to other reasons will not be afforded the opportunity to make-up the exam.
### I. Course Schedule

| Week 1: August 20 | **Topic:** Syllabus, Course Overview, What is Disability? Understanding Disability in the US  
**Reading:**  
**Assignment:** Post to the Introduction Discussion Board 1  
**Due:** August 26, 11:59pm CST |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 2 August 27 | **Topic:** Lived Experience of Impairment, Disability & Social Work  
*Guest Panel: Individuals with Disabilities*  
**Reading:** Simcock & Castle (2016). Chapter 1 pg. 6-12.  
**Due:** September 2 by 11:59PM CST: Reflective Journal #1; Reading Quiz #1 |
| Week 3 September 3 | **Topic:** Theories & Models of Disability  
**Reading:** Simcock & Castle (2016). Chapter 2 pg. 13-32.  
**Assignment:** Reading Quiz #2; Discussion Board 2 |
| Week 4 September 10 | **Topic:** Disability from a Life Course Perspective  
**Reading:** Simcock & Castle (2016). Chapter 3 pg. 33-53  
**Assignment:** Reading Quiz #3; Discussion Board 3 |
| Week 5 September 17 | **Topic:** Legal & Policy Perspective of Disability  
*Guest Speaker: ADA Lawyer*  
**Reading:** Simcock & Castle (2016). Chapter 4 pg. 54-74.  
**Assignment:** Reading Quiz #4; Discussion Board 4 |
| Week 6 September 24 | **Topic:** Inequality, Oppression and Disability  
**Reading:** Simcock & Castle (2016). Chapter 5 pg. 76-90.  
**Assignment:** Reading Quiz #5; Discussion Board 5 |
| Week 7 October 1 | **Topic:** Advocacy  
**Movie:** *Best of Men* |
| Week 8 | October 8 | Topic: Disability & Diversity  
Reading: Simcock & Castle (2016). Chapter 6 pg. 91-103.  
Assignment: Midterm |
|--------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 9 | October 15| Topic: Communication & Engagement  
http://www.tccd.texas.gov/resources/people-first-language/  
Due: October 21 by 11:59PM CST: Assignment: Reflective Journal #2; Reading Quiz #7 |
| Week 10 | October 22| Topic: Working with Children with Disabilities  
Guest Speakers: Parents Panel  
Reading: Simcock & Castle (2016). Chapter 8 pg. 118-139.  
Due: October 28 by 11:59PM CST: Assignment: Interview; Reading Quiz #8 |
| Week 11 | October 29| Topic: Working with Adults with Disabilities  
Assignment: Reading Quiz #9; Discussion Board 7 |
| Week 12 | November 5| Topic: Safeguarding, Social Work & Disability  
Assignment: Reading Quiz #10; Discussion Board 8 |
| Week 13 | November 12| Topic: Collaborative Practice  
Due: November 18 by 11:59PM CST: Assignment: Book Review |
| Week 14 | November 19| Thanksgiving; Discussion Board 9 |
| Week 15 | November 26| Topic: Resources in the Community  
Reading  
Due: December 2: Assignment: Reflective Journal #3 |
| Week 16 | | Topic: Wrap up & Future Plans  
Discussion Board 10 |

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.

J. 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 three hours (for each hour of class or lecture per week) of
their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for assignments and exams, and reviewing online content, etc.


L. Student Support Services:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php. The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

The UT Arlington School of Social Work community is committed to and cares about all of our students. If you or someone you know feels overwhelmed, hopeless, depressed, and/or is thinking about dying by suicide or harming oneself or someone else, supportive services are available. For immediate, 24-hour help call MAVS Talk at 817-272-TALK (817-272-8255). For campus resources, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (817-272-3671 or visit http://www.uta.edu/caps/index.php) or UT Arlington Psychiatric Services (817-272-2771 or visit https://www.uta.edu/caps/services/psychiatric.php) for more information or to schedule an appointment. You can be seen by a counselor on a walk-in basis every day, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Ransom Hall, Suite 303. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do – for yourself and for those who care about you.

M. Librarian to Contact:

The Social Sciences/Social Work Resource Librarian is Brooke Troutman. Her office is in the campus Central Library. She may also be contacted via E-mail: brooke.troutman@uta.edu or by phone: (817)272-5352 below are some commonly used resources needed by students in online or technology supported courses: http://www.uta.edu/library/services/distance.php

The following is a list, with links, of commonly used library resources:
Library Home Page ...................... http://www.uta.edu/library
Subject Guides ...................... http://libguides.uta.edu
Subject Librarians ...................... http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians
Course Reserves ...................... http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do
Library Tutorials ...................... http://library.uta.edu/how-to
Connecting from Off-Campus ........ http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus
Ask a Librarian ...................... http://ask.uta.edu

N. Drop Policy:
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering.

**Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wwweb.uta.edu/aaao/fao/).

**O. Disability Accommodations:**

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**P. Non-Discrimination Policy:**

_The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates._ For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

**Q. Title IX Policy**

The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleix or contact Ms. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or titleix@uta.edu
R. Academic Integrity

Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at [https://www.uta.edu/conduct/](https://www.uta.edu/conduct/). Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials [http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism](http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism) and [http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/](http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/)

S. Electronic Communication:

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at [http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php](http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php).

T. Campus Carry:

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/](http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/)

U. Student Feedback Survey:

At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit [http://www.uta.edu/sfs](http://www.uta.edu/sfs).
V. Final Review Week:

For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.