



SLWK 201: Introduction to Social Work

SPRING 2024

SLWK 201, Harris Hall
(Erica Jackson, LCSW, MSW)
Tues & Thurs: 8:00 am - 9:15 am

Instructor: Erica Jackson, MSW, LCSW

Email: jacksonec@vcu.edu

Office hours: (By appointment)

Office Phone: 804-628-0100

NOTE: Each student is required to read the syllabus, and additional syllabus information in our Learning Management System, Canvas, in their entirety and be familiar with the policies, procedures, and course information contained therein. Students are responsible for any information, clarification, or adjustments made during class, on Canvas and via e-mail. Adjustments to this syllabus will be discussed in class or posted on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to ask questions to clarify any course material they do not understand.

The VCU School of Social Work stands against all acts of oppression, while acknowledging the particular role of anti-Black racism and white dominance within our communities. To learn more about [Our Commitment to Social and Racial Justice](#), visit the website [here](#). You can also learn more about VCU School of Social Work racial justice initiatives [here](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Semester course; 3 lecture hours; 3 credits.

Systematic overview of the social work profession. Begins the process of professional socialization, both through class content and required service experience. Knowledge of the nature of social work, the fields of social work practice, target populations, overview of social work methods.

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY

I am available to students outside the classroom for consultation by appointment and I encourage you to speak with me as soon as possible about any questions or concerns you may have regarding the syllabus, course material, or assignments. E-mail and/or phone is my preferred

method of communication and I check my e-mail multiple times, daily. Although I will do my best to respond quickly whenever possible, please allow up to 24 business hours for an e-mail response. You may also call me at my office number listed above. I expect students to demonstrate professionalism in email communication.

COMPETENCIES AND BEHAVIORS

Upon completion of this course, students will achieve a beginning level of skill in demonstrating the following competencies as evidenced by the related behaviors:

Course Competencies	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	Voice Threads	Interview Project
Competency 1 Behavior 1 Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior					
1. Make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context;	X	X	X	X	
Competency 1 Behavior 3 Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior					
3. Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication;	X	X	X	X	X
Competency 2 Behavior 6 Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice					
6. Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels;	X	X	X	X	X

Competency 5 Behavior 14 Engage in Policy Practice					
14. Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services;	X	X	X		X
Competency 7 Behavior 19 Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities					
19. Collect and organize data, and apply critical thinking to interpret information from clients and constituencies.	X	X	X		X

REQUIRED TEXT

Segal, E. A., Gerdes, K. E., & Steiner, S. (2019). *An introduction to the profession of social work: Becoming a change agent (6th ed)*. Cengage Learning.

Our text can be found in a variety of different places. I encourage you to look around to find one that is most affordable for you. We will be using it every week.

COURSE FORMAT

Our class sessions will consist of:

- a. Instructor lectures
- b. Group work activities (large and small group)
- c. Informal discussions of the readings and other course material
- d. In-class activities
- e. Guest presentations
- f. Video presentations

EMAIL & Canvas:

It is required that all students check their VCU e-mail daily and use Canvas outside of class hours to participate in the class, receive class announcements and other information, including clarifications to assignments and answers to questions asked by other students. **It is the responsibility of the student to seek clarifying information posted on Canvas prior to requesting individual assistance via email.** All assignments will be submitted using Canvas, so please familiarize yourself with this application prior to the due date of your first assignment.

****Students who do not feel proficient in the use of Canvas please see modules in Canvas that outline and detail the use of Canvas.**