



**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

FOCUSED AREAS OF STUDY

BLACK STUDIES FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL WORK

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

PUERTO RICAN/LATIN@ STUDIES IN SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS

SOCIAL WORK WITH WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN FAMILIES

URBAN ISSUES IN SOCIAL WORK

2016 - 2017



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

FOCUSED AREAS OF STUDY

A focused area of study provides an opportunity for students to organize nine of their elective credits on a population or social problem area as a complement to their method concentration. Students with a record of coherent academic accomplishment completing all requirements in an area of study will receive a letter of recognition. Focused area offerings are based on faculty expertise and student interest as well as being reflective of the School's mission.

Students may choose to organize nine elective credits in one of seven focused areas of study:

- Black Studies for Social Work Practice
- International Issues in Social Work
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice
- Puerto Rican/Latino/a Studies in Social Work
- Social Work Practice with Older Adults
- Social Work with Women and Children in Families
- Urban Issues in Social Work

Requirements

All focused areas of study in the curriculum consist of the following components:

- Each area would require nine elective credits. Of these nine credits, students must take one 3-credit required course that contains the core knowledge deemed to be essential by Focused Area faculty.
- A year-long field placement in a field or practice relevant for the focused area of study (*required*).

The remaining 6 credits may be allocated as follows:

- An elective from a carefully selected list of Focused Area of Study electives offered at the School;
- Relevant graduate electives from other departments or professional schools of the University may be used toward the focused area of study with permission of the chair;
- An independent study or special topics course of no more than three credits, approved by the Focused Area of Study Chairperson;



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

BLACK STUDIES FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Focused Area of Study

Designed to provide interested students with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge about issues relative to social work practice with people of African descent and increase practice skills for offering services to this population. The Black Studies Focused Area of Study is open to all concentrations.

Students may enroll in this Focused Area during the first or second year, although they are encouraged to enroll during the first year.

Students must complete nine credit hours of courses which contain the essential, core knowledge as deemed by the Black Studies for Social Work Practice focused area of study faculty.

Specific course requirements:

- HBEL 5327: The Black Experience and Its Consequences for Practice (*required*) (3 credits)
- One year-long field placement in a practice setting relevant to the people of African descent: Focused Area in Black Studies for Social Work Practice (*required*)

Additional six credits are required and may be selected by the student from the following elective course offerings at UConn School of Social Work:

- HBEL 5347: Black Family Life (3 credits)*
- HBEL 5367: Culture and Health/Mental Health Disparities: A Micro and Macro Perspective (3 credits - only offered in the spring term)
- SWEL 5317: Women, Children, and Families: Social Policies & Programs (3 credits)
- SWEL 5377: Urban Policy Issues (3 credits)
- SWEL 5385: Human Rights and Social Work (3 credits)
- IS 5394: Independent Study (by arrangement, on a topic approved by the Focused Area of Study Chairperson) (1-3 credits)

**Strongly recommended*

Relevant graduate electives from other departments or professional schools of the University may be used toward the focused area of study with permission of the chair.

**Focused Area of Study Chairperson: Dr. Barris Malcom
(860) 570-9168**



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL WORK

Focused Area of Study

Designed for students who want to include a global perspective in their social work program. International issues specialization is useful for students considering careers in international development; work with immigrants, refugees, or inter-country adoption; advocacy work on global policy issues; and those who wish to broaden their domestic practice competence through understanding social issues internationally. International Issues in Social Work focused area of study is an elective, sub-specialization leading to a certificate in international issues; it requires nine course credits and a related field placement.

Specific course requirements:

- SWEL 5348: International Social Work: Global Social Issues and the Profession (*required*) (3 credits - offered only in the fall)
- One year-long field placement in an organization emphasizing international practice, issues or populations (*required*). Options include agencies such as: Save the Children; the United Nations; the Center for International Social Work Students at the School of Social Work; the Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, refugee resettlement and service programs; new arrivals programs in school systems; inter-country adoption programs, and more.

Placements may be completed in other countries, depending upon language requirements, availability of appropriate supervision, and planning with the concentration for completion of course requirements. Early planning is advised and there is a special application process for an international placement.

Additional six credits are required and may be selected by the student from the following elective course offerings at UConn School of Social Work:

- HBEL 5328: Ethnic Minorities and the Social Work Profession: The Puerto Rican/Latino/a Experience (3 credits)
- SWEL 5310: Services to Immigrants and Refugees and Cross-Cultural Helping (3 credits)
- SWEL 5333: Travel Study for Social Work in Puerto Rico (3 credits) (will be offered in 2017)
- SWEL 5345: International Development Theory and Practice (3 credits)
 - Please note: As part of this course a one day trip to New York City or Washington DC to meet with bilateral and multilateral organizations and NGO's doing international work is required. Students will be responsible for all expenses incurred.
- SWEL 5350: Comparative Social Welfare Policy between the United States and the Second World (3 credits)
- SWEL 5377: Urban Policy Issues* (3 credits)
- SWEL 5385: Human Rights and Social Work (3 credits)
- IS 5394: Independent Study on a topic approved by Focused Area Chair (1 to 3 credits)

*Students selecting this course are to notify the instructor of their focused area.

Relevant graduate electives from other departments or professional schools of the University may be used toward the focused area of study with permission of the chair.

**Focused Area of Study Chairperson: Dr. Rebecca Thomas
(860) 570-9169**



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Focused Area of Study

Designed to provide interested students with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills about issues relevant to social work practice with children, adolescents, adults and families affected by mental illness and substance abuse. Offers the graduate social work student the opportunity to develop advanced knowledge, skills, and values in the areas of micro and macro practices in mental health and substance abuse. This focused area of study is consistent with the school's mission to educate students to work with oppressed and disenfranchised populations.

Specific course requirements:

- HBEL 5393: Emerging Issues in Mental Health and Substance Abuse (*required*) (3 credits)
- One-year field practicum or block placement comprising 560 hours in an agency setting serving primarily clients with mental health and/or substance abuse problems. This can include public and private agencies, inpatient, residential, or outpatient settings.

Students must complete six (6) additional credits from a combination of the following elective course offerings from UConn School of Social Work: **All CSWK students are required to take either CSWK 5345 Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents or CSWK 5346 Clinical Conditions with Adults and Older Adults to fulfill their requirement for the Casework Concentration. That one course cannot also be used to satisfy the requirements for the Focused Area of Study in Mental Health and Substance Abuse. However, a Casework student can elect to take the other of the two courses for elective credit to be used toward the Focused Area of Study.**

- CSWK 5345: Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents (3 credits)
- CSWK 5346: Clinical Conditions with Adults and Older Adults (3 credits)
- DSEL 5320: Direct Practice in School for Children with Educational Disabilities and Their Families (3 credits)
- GRWK 5342: Group Work Practice in Therapeutic Settings (3 credits)
- HBEL 5300: Substance Abuse I: Introduction to Alcohol and other Drugs (3 credits)
- HBEL 5301: Substance Abuse II: Treatment and Prevention of Alcohol and other Drugs (3 credits)
- HBEL 5344 Aging and Mental Health (3 credits)
- HBEL 5352: Death and Dying (3 credits)

Relevant graduate electives from other departments or professional schools of the University may be used toward the focused area of study with permission of the chair.

**Focused Area of Study Chairperson: Dr. Barris Malcom
(860) 570-9168**



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PUERTO RICAN/LATIN@ STUDIES IN SOCIAL WORK

Focused Area of Study

This area of study is designed to provide a social work perspective on contemporary issues affecting the Puerto Rican/Latin@ population with a focus on their resiliency and strengths. Some of the courses are also offered to non-matriculated students.

The curriculum highlights multidimensional aspects of various Latin@ groups such as *immigration, migration and health status and disparities; the strengths of Latin@ families as protective factors; the influence and practice implications of the political, social, economic, and cultural realities on Latin@ communities.*

The area underscores the importance of addressing issues of class, acculturation, discrimination and oppression and aspects of homophobia among the various Latin@ groups. Special attention is given to the needs and contributions of Latina women and the social action taken by Latin@ communities.

Specific course requirements:

A total of nine elective credits,* and a one year-long field placement working with Latin@ populations** is required to complete this focused area of study.

- *HBEL 5328: Ethnic Minorities and Social Work Practice: The Puerto Rican/Latin@ Experience (*required*) (3 credits - only offered in the fall term)
- **One year-long field placement in a field of practice with Puerto Rican/Latin@ populations (*required*)

The additional six credits can be selected from the following list of elective course offerings from UConn School of Social Work:

- HBEL 5367: Culture and Health/Mental Health Disparities: A Micro and Macro Perspective (3 credits) **only offered in the spring term*
- HBEL 5376: Puerto Rican/Latina Women and their Reality (3 credits) *offered every other spring term*
- SWEL 5310: Services to Immigrants & Refugees & Cross-Cultural Helping (3 credits)
- SWEL 5317: Women, Children, and Families: Social Policies & Programs (3 credits)
- SWEL 5333: Travel and Study for Social Work in Puerto Rico (3 credits) *offered every two years – will be offered in 2017*
- SWEL 5348: International Social Work: Global Social Issues & the Profession (3 credits)
- SWEL 5377: Urban Policy Issues (3 credits)
- SWEL 5385: Human Rights and Social Work (3 credits)
- IS 5394: Independent Study for 1 to 3 credits (*requires advance approval by the Puerto Rican/Latin@ Studies Project Director*)

Relevant graduate electives from other departments or professional schools of the University may be used toward the focused area of study with permission of the Puerto Rican/Latin@ Studies Project Director.

**Focused Area Study Chairperson: Dr. Cristina Wilson
(860) 570-9051**



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH OLDER ADULTS

Focused Area of Study

Provides MSW students with the additional educational training in both theory and practice that prepares them for practice in the Social Work Practice with Older Adults specialized area. Training includes grounding in current demographic patterns of aging as well as the fundamentals of social gerontology (theories of physical and social aging, developmental processes of aging, major social issues of aging, etc.) as the basis on which advanced practice with older adults is built.

Specific course requirements:

- HBEL 5357: Social Gerontology (*required*) (3 credits)
- One year-long field practicum in an approved gerontological setting (*required*)*

*The practicum may be completed in either the student's first or second field placement following all requirements for the School's regular field placement process.

Additional six credits are required and must be selected from the following list of elective course offerings from UConn School of Social Work:

- HBEL 5344: Aging and Mental Health (3 credits)
- HBEL 5352: Death and Dying (3 credits)
- SWEL 5351: Policy Issues in Aging (3 credits)
- CSWK 5346: Clinical Conditions with Adults and Older Adults (3 credits) *Note: Class assignments for this course must be done on older adults*

Or

Electives/select course offerings from other graduate units of the University of Connecticut to which students may enroll to complete focused area of study requirements:

Human Development and Family Studies

HDFS 5242: Aging in the Family (3 credits)

HDFS 5244: Housing for the Elderly (3 credits)

HDFS 5248: Adaptation and Development in Adulthood (3 credits)

HDFS 5545: Aging Policy and Programs (3 credits)

Public Health

PUBH 5475: Public Health & Policy in an Aging Society (3 credits)

Law School

LAW 7901: Elder Law (seminar) (3 credits)

In addition, students may elect to take:

- One gerontologically-focused Special Topics course (*requires the advance approval by the Focused Area of Study Chairperson*)

Or

- IS 5394: Independent Study for a maximum of 3 credits (*requires the advance approval by the Focused Area of Study Chairperson*)

**Focused Area Study Chairperson: Dr. Catherine Medina
(860) 570-9176**



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SOCIAL WORK WITH WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN FAMILIES

Focused Area of Study

Offers MSW students an opportunity to focus their elective course of study on policies, programs, and practice with women, children, and families. The Social Work with Women and Children in Families focused area of study pays special attention to the needs of women and children, especially those who are impoverished and living in the urban areas and central cities of the state and region.

Students complete one required course on policies affecting women and children (SWEL 5317), and take the remaining six (6) credits from the following list of three-credit courses offered at the UConn School of Social Work, courses offered in other UConn graduate programs, or an independent study.

Specific course requirements:

- SWEL 5317: Women, Children, and Families: Social Policies & Programs (*required*) (3 credits)
- A year-long placement or block placement comprising 560 hours in an agency setting serving primarily women and/or children (*required*)

Additional six credits are required and may be selected from the following list of elective course offerings at the UConn School of Social Work:

- CSWK 5345: Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents (3 credits)
- DSEL 5310: Current Trends in Family Intervention (3 credits)
- DSEL 5320: Direct Practice in School for Children with Educational Disabilities and Their Families (3 credits)
- HBEL 5347: Black Family Life (3 credits)
- HBEL 5373: Leadership Development in Anti-Violence Work: The Susan Schechter Social Action (3 credits)
- HBEL 5376: Puerto Rican and Latina Women and Their Reality (3 credits)
- HBEL 5381: Child Maltreatment: History, Theory, Prevention, and Intervention (3 credits)
- SWEL 5310: Services to Immigrants and Refugees and Cross-Cultural Helping (3 credits)
- SWEL 5321: Social Work Perspectives on Adoption (3 credits)
- SWEL 5345: International Development Theory & Practice (3 credits)
 - Please note: As part of this course a one day trip to New York City or Washington DC to meet with bilateral and multilateral organizations and NGO's doing international work is required. Students will be responsible for all expenses incurred.
- SWEL 5371: Permanent Families for Children (3 credits)
- SWEL 5385: Human Rights and Social Work (3 credits)

In addition, students may elect to take:

- IS 5394: Independent Study (*no more than 3 credits*) (*requires the advance approval of the Focused Area of Study Chairperson*)

Relevant graduate electives from other departments or professional schools of the University may be used toward the focused area of study with permission of the chair.

**Focused Area Study Chairperson: Dr. Kathy Libal
(860) 570-9078**



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

URBAN ISSUES IN SOCIAL WORK

Focused Area of Study

Examines issues that affect the context for urban social work practice areas across concentrations and diverse populations. The content in this focused area of study combines and expands interest in specific populations with a broader understanding of urban political economy, the impact of globalization on cities, and the problems that affect all urban communities, across race and ethnicity. Courses to complete the focused area of study requirements cover content relevant to: a) urban issues and populations; and b) issues pertinent to social work practice in urban areas.

Specific course requirements:

- SWEL 5377: Urban Policy Issues (*required*) (3 credits)
- One field placement must be in an agency that is situated in an urban area and/or focuses on the issues of urban populations (*required*)

Additional six credits are required and may be selected from the following list of elective course offerings at the UConn School of Social Work or other UConn departments:

Elective courses which address social, political and economic issues relevant to urban social work concerns, and organizing techniques relevant in urban settings:

- CORG 5370: Grassroots Neighborhood Organizing (3 credits)
- SWEL 5348: International Social Work: Global Social Issues and the Profession (3 credits)
- SWEL 5360: Economic Justice, Labor and Social Work (3 credits)
- SWEL 5380: Political Social Work Practice (3 credits)

Elective courses which address urban populations:

- HBEL 5327*: The Black Experience and Its Consequences for Practice (3 credits)
- HBEL 5328*: Ethnic Minorities and the Social Work Profession: Puerto Rican/Latino/a Experience (3 credits)
- HBEL 5347*: Black Family Life (3 credits)
- HBEL 5376*: Puerto Rican and Latina Women and Their Reality (3 credits)

*These four courses all focus on populations found in large measure in urban areas and the issues that confront social workers engaging in practice in urban areas. Issues of racism and social justice are covered in the required course (SWEL 5377) and these courses reinforce the themes of that course.

Or

- IS 5394: Independent Study, by approval of Focused Area chair
- Special Topics courses may be developed which include substantial urban content and/or are relevant to urban issues.

Or

Elective select course offerings from other graduate offerings within University of Connecticut departments (Sociology, Political Science, Economics, and Public Health), with approval of Focused Area of study chair, which students may enroll in to complete focused area of study requirements are:

Sociology

SOCI 5501: Racism (seminar) (3 credits)

SOCI 5703: The Metropolitan Community (3 credits)

SOCI 5706: Seminar in Comparative Urbanization (3 credits) SOCI 5809: Inequality and the Welfare State (3 credits)

Political Science

POLS 5430: Politics, Society, and Educational Policy (3 credits)

Economics

UConn

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

ECON 5439: Urban and Regional Economics (3 credits)

ECON 5441: The Labor Market (3 credits)

Public Health

PUBH 5474: Urban Health (3 credits)

**Focused Area Study Chairperson: Dr. Louise Simmons
(860) 570-9181**