

**YOUR UNIVERSITY'S NAME HERE**

**FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK: A SOCIAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS APPROACH**

**Course Number and Section Semester and Year**

**Course #:** SW ????-??

**Term:** Spring, Fall, or Summer Year

**Class Schedule:** Day and Time

**Class Location:** Building, Room #

**Course Management Web Address:** If applicable

**Instructor:** Instructor's Name Here

**Office location:** ?

**Office hours:** ?

**Telephone:** ?

**E-mail:** ?

**Required Texts:** Maschi, T., Bradley, C., & Ward, K. (Eds.) (2009). *Forensic social work: Psychosocial and legal issues across diverse practice settings*. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

**Additional Readings:** Available from Instructor and/or Guest Presenters (see bibliography)

**Course Description:**

This course provides an overview of forensic social work practice and theory. Additionally, it illustrates skills for working with diverse populations across the lifespan and across diverse settings, such as community, medical, school, child welfare, mental health and addictions, and juvenile and criminal justice settings.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students that participate in this course will be able to:

1. Articulate and apply relevant theoretical frameworks and approaches to client populations impacted by legal issues.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and processes of the legal system in the United States and how it impacts social work practice with diverse populations and settings throughout the life course.
3. Critically analyze ethical issues and legal issues related to social work and the law.
4. Develop familiarity with the adversarial nature of the legal process and with the civil and criminal issues and laws that impact client populations.
5. Identify social and legal issues and their relationship to social human rights, social justice, and social welfare.
6. Demonstrate how to work and advocate on behalf of their clients and learn how social workers interface with the law, lawyers, & the courts.

## FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK COURSE OUTLINE

**Required Texts:** *Forensic social work: Psychosocial and legal issues across diverse practice settings.*  
New York: Springer Publishing Company. (\*MBW)

| Class #  | Date | Modules and Session Numbers   | Readings   |
|--|------|---|--|
| <b>OVERVIEW OF FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK</b>                      |      |   |  |
| 1.   |      | COURSE OVERVIEW<br>INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK   | *MBW: Chap. 1  |
| 2.   |      | HISTORY OF FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK   | *MBW: Chap 2   |
| 3.   |      | DEFINING AND CONCEPTUALIZING<br>COLLABORATIVE FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK<br>HUMAN RIGHTS & FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK | *MBW: Chap. 3, 23  |
| 4.   |      | CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW, AND ETHICS FOR<br>SOCIAL WORKERS  | *MBW: Chap 4   |
| 5.   |      | COLLABORATION   | *MBW: Chap 5   |
| <b>PRACTICE FIELDS AND SETTINGS FOR FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK</b> |      |   |  |
| 6.   |      | FAMILY: YOUTH AND ADULTS<br>OLDER ADULTS AND ELDER ABUSE  | *MBW: Chap 6, 8, 9   |
| 7.   |      | SOCIAL SERVICES   | *MBW: Chap 7   |
| 8.   |      | SCHOOLS   | *MBW: Chap 10, 11  |
| 9.   |      | CHILD WELFARE   | *MBW: Chap 12, 13,<br>Appendices, B & E                                |
| 10.  |      | MENTAL HEALTH/ADDICTIONS  | *MBW: Chap 14, 15, 16<br>Appendix B                                    |
| 11.  |      | JUVENILE JUSTICE: Overview  | *MBW: Chap 18, 21,<br>22Appendix C, D                                  |
| 12.  |      | CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: CORRECTIONS  | *MBW: Chap 19, 17  |
| 13.  |      | CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: REENTRY  | *MBW: Chap 21  |
| <b>DIVERSITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION</b>               |      |   |  |
| 14.  |      | FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK WITH<br>UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS AND<br>IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES                          | *MBW: re-review Ch 23,<br>and Chap 24, Chap 25,<br>Chap 21, Appendix F |
| 15.  |      | FORENSIC SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AND<br>EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE<br>FUTURE DIRECTIONS                         |  |

## Bibliography

*(This list includes journal articles that could be included as additional course readings)*

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- Austin, W. G., & Kirkpatrick, H. D. (2004). The investigation component in forensic mental health evaluations: considerations for parenting time assessments. *Journal of Child Custody*, 1(2), 23-46.
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Alternative Sentencing Social Work Field Education Program – Interdisciplinary program between social work field education programs at universities and the Public Defender system in Kentucky. – Funded by federal block grant to place social work students with public defender attorneys to work on juvenile cases and award stipends. – Orientation, training, and supervision required. – Social work students utilized practice skills, conducted assessments, identified underlying issues, and prepared and presented alternative sentencing plans that linked juveniles to resources that promote rehabilitati intersection of social work practice and the legal system. Maschi and Killian. (2011), however, have argued for a broader and more integrative definition. that not only explicitly includes our profession’s commitment to both social. justice and human rights, but also stresses the collaborative nature of forensic. social work. Forensic social workers are found in a variety of settings and. Preparing graduates. in forensic social work to tackle social welfare and criminal justice reform. is critical for the social work profession to be at the forefront of this. transformation. With the recent release of the Council on Social Work Education’s 2015. Educational Policy (CSWE, 2015), the time is ripe for examining ways. in which we might better address forensic issues and content in our courses. and curriculum.