

Final Spring 2022 GSSW Denver Campus Special Topics Courses

SPRING 2022: all of these courses will be listed as SOWK 4990, but will have a unique CRN number

Special Topic Course Title	Course Description	Instructor	Mode	Day/Time
<p>Non-Violent/ Compassionate Communication SOWK 4990-1 (Values) 3 Credits</p>	<p>Nonviolent Communication (NVC) are applicable to any individual or system with whom you work. Compassionate presence allows an important practice to sustain yourself in social work as well as listen fully to the needs of your client or client systems. We will cover the four core skills of observation vs. observation mixed with evaluation, feelings vs. faux feelings & self-responsibility, needs vs. strategies, & dem&s vs. requests. In addition we will learn how to move from the Domination Paradigm of Power over & power under towards a Partnership Paradigm of Power with, working with enemy images & the life-giving nature of the empowerment of anger & the needs underneath. This is a practice course, where everyone will be invited to practice each week to develop their own empathy practice along with key projects to apply NVC distinctions & skills to your client population you are either currently working with or hope to in the future. Susan is a Certified Trainer & has applied NVC in schools, nonprofit organizations & community settings, & currently uses NVC in her private coaching practice, Restorative Conversations (RJ) & Equity & Inclusion work. She has developed Communication as a Spiritual Practice, Walking with Grief retreats & workshop series, & the Inner Journey of Racial Healing retreat & series. She currently uses NVC in healing processes for congregations & leadership development for Beloved Community, A Resiliency project of the United Methodist Church in the Denver Metro area.</p>	<p>Susan Kaplan susan.kaplan@du.edu</p>	<p>Online Sync.</p>	<p>Tuesday 8:00-10:50 am CRN: 3432</p>
<p>Green Chimneys Concerence (HAEI-SW) SOWK 4990-2 1 Credit</p>	<p>Students will participate in an annual conference hosted by The Same and Myra Ross Institute in partnership with University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work and the Institute for Huamn-Animal Connection. Friday April 29-30, 2022. A unique and innovative human-animal interaction (HAI) conference, this conference will highlight the role of the many species of animals in human services including those animals participating in a wide range of environments with diverse populations. This course is for HAEI-SW certificate students.</p>	<p>Nina Ekholm Fry Nina.Ekholm-Fry@du.edu</p>	<p>Online Sync</p>	<p>Fri/Sat Apr 29-30 CRN: 5298</p>

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Groups for Children & Adolescents SOWK 4990-3 (Methods/Skills) 3 Credits	<p>The course provides preparation for use of clinical group work methods with vulnerable & resilient child & youth client populations, who may be experiencing an array of concerns & problems, & who are seen in different contexts & practice settings. Group work is conceptualized in terms of its historic mission within social work -- to bring about change in the individual group members, their social environment, & the larger social system. The impact of gender, age / development, race / ethnicity, sexual orientation, social class, ability / disability, & spirituality on group formation & dynamics is addressed. Evidence of practice effectiveness of group methods is examined. Ethical conflicts & dilemmas involved in group work are considered within the framework of social work values & ethics.</p>	Rose Johnson Caracostas rose.caracostas@du.edu	On-Campus	Thursday 8-10:50 am CRN: 5686
EmBODYed Practice SOWK 4990-4 (Values) 3 Credits	<p>Weight-based discrimination is a significant source of social inequity (e.g. economic, healthcare, educational). This class explores body-based oppressions through a lens of weight stigma, body image, & body liberation. Course topics include: weight stigma & eating disorders, weight science & associations between weight & health, neoliberal origins of the healthism, racial origins of fat phobia, queering & crippling fatness, indigenous perspectives on embodiment, size-inclusive care, & ethical responses to weight stigma. Students will participate in a photo-voice reflection project to increase awareness of fat discrimination, tell their own body story using traditional or digital mediums, participate in a book club, & write an "ethics brief" documenting their approach to body diversity within the scope of their professional practice.</p>	Erin Harrop erin.harrop@du.edu	On-Campus	Tuesday 2-3:50 CRN: 4744
Digital Storytelling for Social Justice SOWK 4990-5 (Values) 3 Credits	<p>In this course, students will practice critical skills in digital audio/video production skills to tell social justice stories. Following traditions of oral history storytelling, story circles, & testimonial, students will record, edit, & publish digital media stories.</p>	Ethan Crawford ethan.crawford@du.edu	On Campus	Tuesday 4-5:50 pm CRN: 4745

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Community Food Security & Food Justice SOWK 4990-8 (Methods/Skills) 3 Credits	COVID & the pandemic economy has highlighted food insecurity, inequities in the food system, & the need for food justice. Students will be introduced to food systems & efforts to address food insecurity at the local level, food justice & health equity. Through individual efforts, students will examine food-focused organizations that provide food assistance in high need neighborhoods, examining urban farmers & cooperatives, schools & non-profit groups, & academic-community linkages. This 3-credit, elective course is designed for Social Work, Public Health, or Masters-level students in other fields (e.g., Urban Planning, Environmental Sustainability, or Health Policy).	Patti Iwasaki iwa2pat@gmail.com	On Campus	Tuesday 4:00-5:50 pm CRN: 4753
PhotoVoice as Intervention & Research Methodology SOWK 4990-10 (RESEARCH) 3 Credits	This course explores the use of PhotoVoice as a social work intervention, advocacy tool, & research method. Through participating in a mini-photovoice project, students will learn basics of implementing PhotoVoice, ethics surrounding the approach, & the various ways it can be applied in practice, advocacy, & research.	SOWK 4990 Danielle Littman danielle.littman@du.edu	On Campus	Tuesday 12-2:50 pm CRN: 4757
Dialectical Behavioral Therapy SOWK 4990-11 (Methods / Skills) 3 Credits	This course will provide an overview of Dialectical Behavior Therapy, from research & theory to implementation & adaptation. We will explore the relevance of dialectical philosophy in social work practice of all kinds.	Kathryn Butts Kathryn.Butts@du.edu	On-Campus	Tuesday 3:00-5:50 pm CRN: 4768
SW Prog Eval: Qualitative Methods (RESEARCH) SOWK 4990-12 3 credits	This course provides students with the knowledge to develop skills for evaluation designs that incorporate qualitative methods appropriate for use in micro and macro level practice. The course integrates evaluation methods that focus on applied qualitative methodologies (e.g. grounded theory, phenomenology, narrative, case study, and ethnography). Students will prepare a qualitative evaluation proposal of their professional practice in various systems and contexts.	Mary Jo Stahlschmidt MaryJo.Stahlschmidt@du.edu	On-Campus	Monday 8-9:50 am CRN: 5260
Black Lives Matter in Social Work SOWK 4990-14 (VALUES) 3 credits	Our postmodern moment of racial reckoning madates fresh deliberation and anti-performative social justice. This interdisciplinary course exposes racism in social work, criminal justice, educational and health care systems. Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a decentralized Movement advocating for non-violent protest, accountability for incidents of police brutality, and the elimination of all racially motivated violence against Black people. Since BLM's inception in 2013, countless Black individuals have succumbed to the absurdity of anti-Black violence. Unchecked police brutatlity, sentencing disparities,	Darlene Sampson Darlene.Sampson@du.edu		Tuesday 4:30-7:20 pm CRN: 5261

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	disproportionate deaths during the pandemic, economic upheaval, refusal of authentic history, and a revival of law and order politics summons Social Workers to center the experiences of Black Lives in Social Work toward more pragmatic, empathic, and social justice approaches to Black wellness; and, the upending of oppressive structures within the field of social work and society, to think historically and authentically about race, racism, and the implications for social work.			
Wellness for Social Workers SOWK 4990-15 (METHODS) 3 credits	This elective course engages students in learning and practicing skills to support their health and well-being. Through a hands-on approach students learn to apply the science and spirit of wellness to manage stress and promote resilience, conduct an inventory of personal and workplace wellness, examine how community contexts (e.g., social, economic, political) support and impede their wellbeing, and engage in strategies to promote health and wellness. Students will create their own unique goals and strategies for wellness and self-care practices with the aim of developing life-long habits to support personal and professional success.	Nicole Nicotera nnicoter@du.edu	On-campus	Thursday 4:00 – 5:50 PM CRN: 5263
Anti-Oppressive Approaches to Youth Engagement SOWK 4990-107 (METHODS) 3 credits	Agency and self-determination are core values of the social work profession (NASW, 2017). Yet, too often our approaches to child well-being do not forefront agency and self-determination for young people, and often reify hierarchical structures more consistent with power and control. Yet there are ways to bring youth from passive service recipients to co-constructors of the policies, programs, and practices that govern their lives. In this course, students will be introduced to approaches to youth engagement including youth organizing, youth participatory action research, youth advisory boards, and youth-adult partnerships. These approaches can disrupt the abuses of power in young people’s lives and transform contexts with and for young people. After completion of this course, social workers will be better prepared to live out our ethical mandates and authentically engage youth in micro, mezzo, or macro practice settings.	Heather Kennedy heather.kennedy@cuansc.hutz.edu	On Campus	Monday 6-7:50 pm CRN 5262
Exp. Course: Rural Child Welfare SOWK 4990-201 Four Corners MSW (VALUES) 3 credits	This course is required for all Title IV-E students in the rural programs and MSW@Denver and is open to others. For students outside of the Four Corners program, to register for this course, you will need to complete a visiting student application. Students may take up to 10 credits in a DU graduate program outside of their home program. If a student is interested in taking a class in a different program, they must submit their request for approval through an online survey 6 weeks before the start of the quarter, linked here (GSSW Student Resource Portal - Registrar Forms) For students not in the Title IV-E program, approval is not guaranteed and courses are subject to availability.	Carla Hase Carla.Hase@du.edu	On-line Sync.	Tuesday 4:40-6 pm CRN 4625

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Are you taking two special topics courses?

If you want to register for more than one Special Topics course, since they all have the same course number SOWK 4990-

You need to register for one, (student must register for the first special topics course) and then:

- Send an email to GSSW.Registrar@du.edu with the following information:
 - **Subject line: Second special topics course registration request**
 - **Include:**
 - Your complete name, DU ID#, and
 - Course Name, Course Number, Section and CRN of the special topics course *you already registered &*
 - Course Name, Course Number, Section and CRN of the special topics course *you want to add*

Are you wondering if your interest in a special topic course will count for a specific type of required course?

- Courses are listed by the TYPE of course, such as methods/skills, values, or research:
- ONLY those listed as research count for concentration research requirement to substitute for SOWK 4900
- ONLY those listed as values count for a concentration values requirement—we will NOT substitute a methods class for Values requirement.
- IF the course is listed as methods and you want it to substitute for a required methods course in your concentration, you must check with your Concentration Lead to see if the course could count for the requirement.
- Most likely special topics courses designated as methods will be counted as an elective, unless you submit a substitution form for a required concentration course.