

Master Class Series- Summer 2009

Department of Social Work

Master Classes qualify as electives in the MSW program. MSW students may register for Master classes after successfully completing the foundation year of their specific program type.

SW 585-2 Spirituality and Religion in Social Work Practice (1 cr. hr. per module; each module stands alone) May 25-June 12 Online



Todd S. Stanfield, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University

This series of one credit hour courses will present an overview of the ways spirituality and religion play an important role in social work practice. Particular emphasis will be placed on the inclusion of spirituality and religion as necessary components of assessment, planning, treatment, and evaluation in culturally-competent social work practice. The series will examine the influences of a diverse range of religious traditions and spiritual practices.

Module I: Personal Aspects of Spirituality and Religion in Social Work Practice May 25-June 1 Online

The first course in the series will explore both the helpful and, at times, possibly deleterious effects of religion and spirituality on social work clients. Participants will explore how a diverse range of spiritual and religious variables influence people's willingness to utilize the services of social workers and related professionals, and become familiar with how to utilize spiritual and religious assessment in planning individual interventions. Particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of partnering with clergy and other religious leaders in providing comprehensive treatments that build on the spiritual and religious strengths of clients.

Module II: Family and Community Aspects of Spirituality and Religion in Social Work Practice June 1-8 Online

The second course in the series will examine how spiritual and religious factors affect the well-being of families and communities. Participants will gain an understanding of how family dynamics can be shaped by religious and spiritual traditions, and ways to incorporate religious and spiritual strengths into social work practice with families and communities. The course will also explore the ways in which faith communities can serve as a basis for both formal social services and as a more informal part of a broader social support network.

Module III: The Spirituality and Religion of the Social Worker June 8-15 Online

The final course in the series will examine the influence of the social worker's own personal religion and spirituality on their practice. The importance of self-assessment will be stressed in an effort to build the participants' awareness of how spiritual and religious factors are continually shaping their approach to social work practice. Particular emphasis will be placed on utilizing spiritual and religious resources to build worker resiliency and prevent compassion fatigue and burnout.

SW 580-1 HIV/AIDS (3 cr. hrs.) May 25-June 5 Capetown, South Africa

Rhonda E. Hudson, PhD, LCSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University

SW 580-2 Community Development (3 cr. hrs.) May 25-June 5 Capetown, South Africa

Roslyn Y. Wilson, MSSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University

Trauma (1 cr. hr.)

June/July

TBA



Theresa Blakley, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW
Associate Professor of Social Work
Union University



Nita Mehr, B.S., M.S.S.W.
Director of Social Work; Asst. Prof. of Social Work and Counseling
Freed-Hardeman University

Grant Writing (1 cr. hr.)

June 19-20

TBA

Vicki Lake, Ph.D.
Master Grant Writer
West Tennessee Healthcare