



**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**SUBSTANTIVE AREAS:
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

2009/2010



SUBSTANTIVE AREAS: FOCUSED AREAS OF STUDY

A substantive area: 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 certificate and notation on their final transcript. Substantive 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 substantive areas: 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 substantive areas: 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 Substantive Area: Focused Area faculty.
- A year-long field placement in a field or practice relevant for the substantive area: focused area of study (*required*).

The remaining 6 credits may be allocated as follows:

- An elective from a carefully selected list of Substantive Area: Focused Area of Study electives offered at the School;
- An elective from a carefully selected list offered in other graduate units of the University;
- An independent study or special topics course of no more than three credits, approved by the Focused Area of Study Chairperson

Black Studies for Social Work Practice

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 Substantive Area of study is open to all methods.

Students may enroll in this Substantive Area during the first or second year, although they are encouraged to enroll during the first year. Students receive a certificate of specialization following successful completion of the approved courses and a field placement in an agency in which a majority of their time will be spent providing service to people of African descent.

Students must complete nine credit hours of courses which contain the essential, core knowledge as deemed by the Black Studies for Social Work Practice substantive area: 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)*
- IS 5394: Independent Study (*by arrangement, on a topic approved by the Substantive Area: Focused area of Study Chairperson*) (1-3 credits)

**Strongly recommended*

Or at least one (3-credit) elective from the following list of relevant electives and select course offerings from UConn Graduate Schools of Sociology, Family Studies, Allied Health, collaboratively selected between Student and Chairperson:

Black Studies for Social Work Practice

Sociology

- SOCI 5501: Racism (*3 credits*)
- SOCI 5809: Inequality and the Welfare State (*3 credits*)

Human Development and Family Studies

- HDFS 5321: Seminar on Parent-Child Relations in Cross-Cultural Perspective (*3 credits*)

Allied Health

- GPAH 5360: Cross Cultural Health Care (*3 credits*)

Students may petition the Substantive Area: Focused Area chair for approval of other related courses throughout the University system.

**Focused Area of Study Chairperson: Karen Bullock
(860) 570-9148**

International Issues in Social Work

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.

Specific course requirements:

- SWEL 5348: International Social Work: Global Social Issues and the Profession (*required*) (3 credits)
- One year-long field placement in an organization dealing with 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 method 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) (offered in 2011)
- SWEL 5345: International Development Theory and Practice (3 credits)
- SWEL 5350: Comparative Social Welfare Policy between the United States and the Second World (3 credits)
- SWEL 5375: War, Militarism, Peace and Social Work (3 credits)
- SWEL 5377: Urban Policy Issues* (3 credits)
- IS 5394: Independent Study on a topic approved by Substantive Area: Focused Area Chair (1 to 3 credits)

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

International Issues in Social Work

Other courses in the School of Social Work with adequate international content may be taken, by arrangement, with the substantive area: focused area of study Chairperson and the instructor.

OR

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

Anthropology

- ANTH 5334: Culture and Religion (seminar) (3 credits)
- ANTH 5374: Culture, Power and Social Relations (seminar) (3 credits)

Law

- LAW 7653: European Human Rights (3 credits)
- LAW 7672: Immigration Law (3 credits)
- LAW 7873: International Conception of Rights (seminar) (3 credits)
- LAW 7679: International Law: Problems in Self Determination and Nationalism (3 credits)
- LAW 7878: International Human Rights (3 credits)
- LAW 7883: Human Rights and Retrospective Justice (3 credits)

Public Health

- PUBH 5462: International Health (3 credits)

Economics

- ECON 5348: Economic Development Policy (3 credits)
- ECON 5473: Economic Development (3 credits)

Education

- EDCI 5845: Seminar in International Education (seminar) (3 credits)

Human Development and Family Studies

- HDFS 5115: Cultural Issues in Child Development (3 credits)

**Focused Area of Study Chairperson: Lynne Healy
(860) 570-9149**

Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice

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 substantive area: 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 can not also be used to satisfy the requirements for the Substantive Area 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 Substantive Area.**

- CSWK 5345: Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents (3 credits)
- CSWK 5346: Clinical Conditions with Adults and Older Adults (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 5352: Death and Dying (3 credits)
- GRWK 5341: Group Work with Substance Abusing Women (3 credits)
- GRWK 5342: Group Work Practice in Therapeutic Settings (3 credits)

Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work Practice

- DSEL 5320: Direct Practice in School for Children with Educational Disabilities and Their Families (*3 credits*)
- HBEL 5344 Aging and Mental Health (*3 credits*)

OR

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

Public Health

- PUBH 5476: Community Mental Health (*3 credits*)

Law

- LAW 7763: Law and the Mental Health System (seminar) (*3 credits*)

Psychology

- PSYC 5140: Foundations in Neuropsychology (*3 credits*)

In addition, students may elect to take:

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

Students may petition the substantive area: focused area chair for approval of other relevant courses from throughout the University system.

**Focused Area Study Chairperson: Nina Heller
(860) 570-9174**

Puerto Rican/Latino/a Studies in Social Work

This area of study is designed to provide a social work perspective on contemporary issues affecting the Puerto Rican/Latino population with a focus on their resiliency and strengths. Some of the courses are also offered through our credit extension program (STEP).

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

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

Specific course requirements:

A total of nine elective credits, including one year-long field placement is required to complete this substantive area: focused area of study.

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

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

- HBEL 5376: Puerto Rican/Latina Women and their Reality (3 credits)*

**only offered in the spring*

- SWEL 5333: Travel Study for Social Work in Puerto Rico (3 credits) Offered every two years – will be offered in 2011.
- IS 5394: Independent Study for 1 to 3 credits (*requires the advance approval by the Substantive Area Chairperson*)

Electives/select course offerings from other graduate units of the University of Connecticut to which students may enroll to complete

Puerto Rican/Latino/a Studies in Social Work

substantive area: focused area of study requirements:

- PRLS 5300*: Special Topics in PRLS: Latinos and U.S. Education (3 credits)
- PRLS 4320*: Media and Special Audiences (3 credits)
- PRLS 3251*: Latinos: Sexuality and Gender (3 credits)
- PRLS 3270*: Latino Political Behavior (3 credits)

*The above courses are taken by graduate students with the approval of the instructor and the expectations of additional advanced work.

Students may petition the Substantive Area: Focused Area Chair for approval of other relevant courses from throughout the University system.

Focused Area Study Chairpersons:

Lisa Werkmeister Rozas
(860) 570-9175

Social Work Practice with Older Adults

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:

- SWEL 5351: Policy Issues in Aging (3 credits)
- HBEL 5344: Aging and Mental Health (3 credits)
- HBEL 5352: Death and Dying (3 credits)

OR

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

Human Development and Family Studies

- HDFS 5545: Aging Policy and Programs (3 credits)
- HDFS 5248: Adaptation and Development in Adulthood (3 credits)
- HDFS 5242: Aging in the Family (3 credits)
- HDFS 5244: Housing for the Elderly (3 credits)

Public Health

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

Social Work Practice with Older Adults

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 Substantive Area : Focused Area of Study Chairperson*)

OR

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

**Focused Area Study Chairperson: Waldo Klein
(860) 570-9154**

Social Work with Women and Children in Families

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 substantive area 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 and Children in Families: Social Policies and 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:

- DSEL 5320: Direct Practice in School for Children with Educational Disabilities and Their Families (*3 credits*)
- DSEL 5328: Social Work Practice with Children (*3 credits*)
- HBEL 5325: Social Work Perspectives on the Status of Women in Society (*3 credits*)
- HBEL 5362: Social Work Practice with Women (*3 credits*)
- HBEL 5373: Violence Against Women (*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 5321: Social Work Perspectives on Adoption (*3 credits*)
- SWEL 5345: International Development Theory & Practice (*3 credits*)
- SWEL 5371: Permanent Families for Children (*3 credits*)
- SWEL 5374: Social Work and the Legal Rights of Children (*3 credits*)

OR

Social Work with Women and Children in Families

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

Philosophy

- PHIL 5352: Seminar in Feminist Theory (seminar) (3 credits)

Anthropology

- ANTH 5315: Gender and Culture (seminar) (3 credits)

Psychology

- PSYC 5102: Psychology of Women and Gender (3 credits)

Women's Studies

- WS 5365: Women's Studies Research Methodology for Graduate Students (3 credits)

Law School

- LAW 7666: Feminist Legal Theory (seminar) (3 credits)

Human Development and Family Studies

- HDFS 5321: Seminar on Parent-Child Relations in Cross-Cultural Perspective (seminar) (3 credits)
- HDFS 5115: Cultural Issues in Child Development (3 credits)

In addition, students may elect to take:

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

**Focused Area Study Chairperson: Robin Spath
(860) 570-9069**

Urban Issues in Social Work

Examines issues that affect the context for urban social work practice areas across methods 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 substantive area 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 5375: War, Militarism, Peace 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

Urban Issues in Social Work

covered in the required course (SWEL 5377) and these courses reinforce the themes of that course.

OR

- IS 5394: Independent Study, by approval of Substantive Area: 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 Substantive Area: Focused Area of study chair, which students may enroll in to complete substantive area 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

- 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: Louise Simmons
(860) 570-9181**

**University of Connecticut School of Social Work
1798 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 570-9135
www.ssw.uconn.edu**