

SOW 5621:
Social Work with Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants
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Why should you care about this course?

Many social workers practice in settings that serve immigrant, refugee, and migrant clients as part of their caseloads. Thus, it is essential that social workers be prepared to work effectively with this population. Social work practice with refugees, immigrants, and migrants requires specialized knowledge of the unique issues of these populations. It also requires specialized adaptations and applications of mainstream services and interventions.

This course will provide you with knowledge and frameworks for understanding the experiences of immigrants, refugees, and migrants. The course addresses perspectives, problems, and processes related to uprooting, displacement, resettlement, and adaptation. Policy issues related to disadvantaged status and discrimination, availability and acquisition of services, and the legal status of refugees, immigrants, and migrants will be examined. The course presents and analyzes programs and intervention strategies utilized by service providers, institutions, and mutual aid groups. Social work interventions, concepts, and practices with displaced populations will be assessed.

How will this course help you succeed?

Upon completing this course, you will have:

1. An understanding of concepts and theories related to international migration.
2. Knowledge of historical and current immigration and refugee policies.
3. Familiarity with the network of governmental and private agencies serving immigrants and refugees.
4. An understanding of theories of uprooting, migration, resettlement, adaptation, and acculturation.
5. Sensitivity to cultural differences of various immigrant, refugee, and migrant populations regarding their needs, communications, behavioral patterns, and coping strategies.

6. A comprehension of theories of stress and coping in the process of adaptation to a new country and culture.
7. Assessment and intervention skills applied to various immigrant, refugee, and migrant groups.
8. Development of skills to serve various immigrant groups in resolving problems related to health, mental health, family dynamics, language, education, economic well-being, and intergroup relationships.
9. Appreciation of social work values related to immigrants, refugees, and migrants.

How will this course be taught?

This is a hybrid class, meaning we will be meeting in class every other week. It is important to note that the out-of-class “meeting time” is in addition to the homework and preparation that are assigned in all classes regardless of format. If you take a Hybrid course, you will need to self-regulate your out-of-class time so that you can keep up with both the face-to-face and out-of-class assignments and preparation. Some tasks must be completed prior to class and some after class. Paying attention to how the in- and out-of-class materials are connected is important.

This class is learner-centered, meaning the instructor serves as a facilitator of learning rather than a lecturer, and that students are active participants in hands-on application of the course material. Both in and out of class, we will have weekly activities applying the concepts covered. Consistent with the learner-centered approach, there will be no lectures on this class.

What are the course textbook and other materials?

Best Practices for Social Work with Refugees and Immigrants

Miriam Potocky and Mitra Naseh

2nd Edition, to be published by Columbia University Press, Fall 2019

Since this book is not yet published, it is available to you in manuscript form in the Textbook link under Modules on the course Canvas site.

Many **additional course materials** such as links, videos, exercises, etc. will be posted weekly in Canvas in Modules.

How will you succeed in this course?

1. Complete all assigned readings prior to the date on the course calendar.
2. Write at the graduate level with respect to spelling, grammar, organization, and conciseness. All written work must be in your own words and credit given to cited authors. Be sure to put quotation marks around quoted material.
3. Produce original written work. Work that is plagiarized from another source, including from current or past students, will automatically result in failing the course.
4. Seek help from the instructor as needed. Please take responsibility for your learning. If you need help, ask for it. There will be no option for make-ups, redoing assignments, or extra credit.

6. Participate in all in- and out-of-class activities (guided discussions in class, discussion posts on Canvas, debates, individual and group exercises, etc.).
7. Maintain confidentiality with regard to practicum and/or work experiences discussed in class. Clients should not be referred to by name. Sensitive information about agencies or agency personnel is expected to remain in the classroom.
8. Provide the instructor with continuous feedback on how the class is meeting your needs.

How can the instructor help you?

1. I am available to assist you individually with any questions, clarifications, discussions, etc. Please contact me through Canvas. I will generally respond within 1-2 days. You can also see me during office hours or by appointment.
2. I will provide detailed instructions for course assignments
3. I will grade all assignments within two weeks.

How will your progress be evaluated?

Chapter Discussion Posts: You will post a response to a question(s) based on each chapter reading. Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post. You are also encouraged (but not required) to engage with your classmates by responding to their posts.

In- and out-of-class activities: Structured activities will be done each week, except the last two weeks of class. These will include videos, case studies, debates, role plays, etc.

Interview and Culturagram: You will interview an individual who is an immigrant, refugee, or migrant from a national background other than your own. You will develop a culturagram based on the interview information. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Population/Social Work Practice Paper: You will write a paper about a specific immigrant/refugee/migrant population of interest and develop implications for social work practice with this population. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

How will grading be calculated?

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Chapter Discussion Posts	12	2	24
In- and Out-of-Class Activities	13	2	26
Interview & Culturagram	1	25	25
Population/Practice Paper	1	25	25
Total	N/A	N/A	100

Letter	Points	Letter	Points	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Course Calendar

Week	Topic	Text Reading	Class Activity
1	Course Overview	None	Ethnic self-awareness
2	Introduction	Chapter 1	Immigration Myths & Facts
3	International Migration Policies	Chapter 2	International Policies
4	U.S. Immigration & Refugee Policies	Chapter 3	U.S. Immigration Policies
5	Service Delivery Systems	Chapter 4	Service Delivery Systems
6	Culturally Competent Practice	Chapter 5	Cultural Competence
7	Health Issues	Chapter 6	Health Issues
8	Mental Health	Chapter 7	Mental Health
9	Motivational Interviewing (MI) Part I <u>INTERVIEW/CULTURAGRAM ASSIGNMENT DUE</u>	None	MI with Refugees Webinar 1
10	Motivational Interviewing (MI) Part II	None	MI with Refugees Webinar 2
11	Family Dynamics	Chapter 8	Family Dynamics
12	Language, Education, & Economics	Chapter 9	Education for Immigrant and Refugee Youth
13	Intergroup Relations	Chapter 10	Building a Nation of Neighbors
14	Additional Populations <u>POPULATION/PRACTICE PAPER DUE</u>	Chapter 11	None
15	Summary & Conclusion	Chapter 12	None

