

# THRIVING SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM FOR ADULT LEARNERS: FAITH IMPLICATIONS

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WHAT  
INTERESTS  
YOU ABOUT  
THIS TOPIC??



# LEARNING OUTCOMES



- UNDERSTAND ADULT LEARNERS (AL) AND BARRIERS TO LEARNING; STRATEGIES IN SUPPORTING ALS AND INTEGRATING FAITH ELEMENTS IN CURRICULUM FOR ADULT LEARNERS (AL).
- IDENTIFY ISSUES THAT IMPACT ADULT LEARNING ACROSS A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS. DISCUSSION OF MULTI-SYSTEMS APPROACH TO ETHICAL FAITH INTEGRATION IN DEGREE COMPLETION.
- ASSESSING AL EXPERIENCES AND HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE FIELD INSTRUCTION. FAITH INTEGRATION IN FIELD EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS WHO DON'T HAVE RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS.

# HISTORY OF BLENDED ONLINE FORMAT FOR ADULT LEARNERS

- PHILOSOPHY OF UNIVERSITY – FPU IDEA
- NEED IN CENTRAL VALLEY
- SOCIAL WORK GROWING PROFESSION IN REGION
- APPLYING FACE TO FACE MODEL TO A BLENDED FORMAT: TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE/DEGREE COMPLETION

[HTTPS://WWW.FRESNO.EDU/PROGRAMS-MAJORS/SOCIAL-WORK-PROGRAM/COURSE-LISTINGS](https://www.fresno.edu/programs-majors/social-work-program/course-listings)

Degree  
Completion





# PARAMETERS OF THE PROGRAM

- STUDENT POPULATION (DEMOGRAPHICS: AGE, ETHNICITY, DIVERSE FAITH BACKGROUNDS)
- PROGRAM FORMAT
- REGIONAL CAMPUSES
- FIELD EDUCATION



# BUILDING FOUNDATION

- PARTNERING WITH SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES (FAITH BASED & GOVERNMENT)
- PRESENTATIONS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES
- WORKING WITH MARKETING, ADMISSIONS, RECRUITERS, EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS
- EMPLOYING FACULTY
- CURRICULUM: SYLLABUS, FIELD, POLICIES/PROCEDURES
- CSWE: PARTNERSHIP WITHIN FORMATS, 11<sup>TH</sup> COMPETENCY



# COHORT MODEL

- DAILY DEVOTIONS/PRAYER
- COMMUNITY MEAL
- BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE/JESUS AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
- FAITH INTEGRATION:
  - SUPPLEMENTAL READING (CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, TOXIC CHARITY, WHY AM I A SOCIAL WORKER)
  - COURSE ASSIGNMENTS (FORUMS, CULTURAL COMPETENCY, ELEMENTS WITHIN ASSIGNMENTS)
  - SBIRT (SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING WITH FAITH INTEGRATION)  
[HTTPS://SBIRT.PUBLICHEALTHCLOUD.COM/WWW/LMS/DEFAULT.ASPX](https://sbirt.publichealthcloud.com/www/lms/default.aspx)

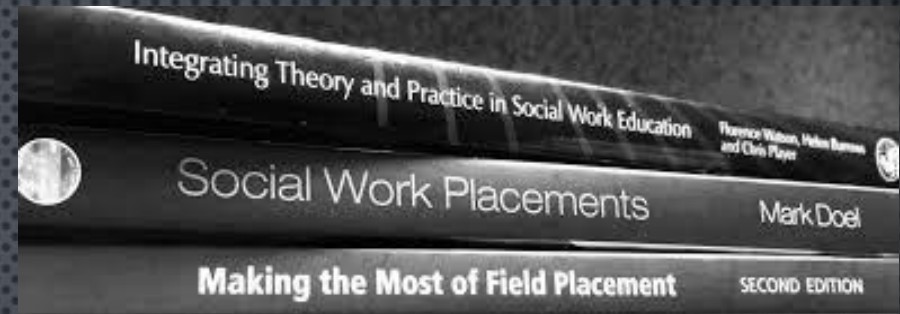
# FAITH INTEGRATION IN COURSES

- **SW 122: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK** – CAMP, WHY I AM A SOCIAL WORKER (NACSW PRESS, 2015), REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT
- **SW 301: HUMAN BEHAVIOR & THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT** – FOWLER'S THEORY OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT, LECTURE
- **SW 351: URBAN SOCIETY AND THE WELFARE STATE** – TOXIC CHARITY (NY HARPER, 2011), WEEKLY REFLECTIONS
- **SW 361: SOCIAL PROBLEMS & PUBLIC POLICY** – DEBATE OF THE DAY (FAITH & VALUES), FAITH INTEGRATION ANALYSIS IN SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT
- **SW 321: SOCIAL WORK WITH FAMILIES** – THEORY & PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES (OXFORD, 2016), NATURE OF SPIRITUALITY LECTURE (SUFFERING, FORGIVENESS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SPECIFIC LIFE ISSUES)
- **SW 401: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE** – CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIAL WORK (NACSW PRESS, 2012) BIO-PSYCHO-SOC-SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT, CASE PRESENTATION
- **SW 411: WORKING WITH GROUPS** – SUPPLEMENTAL READING WITHIN CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS
- **SW 430: CULTURAL COMPETENCY** – CHURCH VISIT, LORD SAVE US FROM YOUR FOLLOWERS (MOVIE), CULTURAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY, CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIAL WORK (NACSW PRESS, 2015)
- **SW 421: BECOMING A CHANGE AGENT** – CCDA: RESTORING AT RISK COMMUNITIES (PERKINS, 1996), WEEKLY DISCUSSION FORUMS, INTERVIEW CLERGY IN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT
- **SW 493-496: SENIOR INTEGRATIVE SEMINAR/THESIS** – SBIRT, FAITH IMPLICATIONS IN RESEARCH



# FIELD EDUCATION

- DC FORMAT
- FIELD COORDINATION
- PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAITH BASED & NON FAITH BASED GROUPS
- PLACEMENTS THAT NON-RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS WOULDN'T UTILIZE
- SEMINAR COURSES
- LIAISON VISITS: TEACHING & MODELING ETHICAL FAITH INTEGRATION
- RECEPTIONS





# COMMUNITY FORUMS

- QUARTERLY NACSW MEETINGS
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SOCIAL WORK CLUB
- SERVICE DAYS
- POLICY DAYS



# STRENGTHS OF ADULT LEARNERS

- WORK EXPERIENCE
- LIFE EXPERIENCE
- COMMUNICATION IN THE CLASSROOM
- CERTAINTY OF MAJOR
- NAVIGATE SYSTEMS
- ABILITY TO ADVOCATE
- HAVE SOFT SKILLS NECESSARY FOR FIELD PLACEMENTS



## CHARACTERISTICS OF ADULT LEARNERS

# BARRIERS TO LEARNING



- FULL TIME JOBS
- LIFE RESPONSIBILITIES
- RE-ENTRY STUDENTS
- WRITING
- LIMITED TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERIENCES
- MOVING BEYOND EXPERIENCES
- SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL CONCERNS
- CRIMINAL HISTORY/AOD



# GROUP DISCUSSION

- HOW WOULD/DO YOU INTEGRATE SPIRITUALITY/FAITH WHEN WORKING WITH ADULT LEARNERS?



# REFERENCES

- GARLAND, D. S. R. (2015). *WHY I AM A SOCIAL WORKER: 25 CHRISTIANS TELL THEIR LIFE STORIES*. NACSW PRESS.
- SCALES, T. L., KELLY, M. S., & NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIANS IN SOCIAL WORK. (2016). *CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIAL WORK: READINGS ON THE INTEGRATION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE*.
- PERKINS, J.M. (1996). *RESTORING AT-RISK COMMUNITIES: DOING IT TOGETHER AND DOING IT RIGHT*. BAKER PUBLISHING GROUP
- LUPTON, R. D. (2012). *TOXIC CHARITY: HOW CHURCHES AND CHARITIES HURT THOSE THEY HELP (AND HOW TO REVERSE IT)*. HARPER COLLINS PUBLISHERS.
- VANHOOK, M. (2013). 2<sup>ND</sup> ED. *SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH FAMILIES: A RESILIENCY BASED APPROACH*. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS.