Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
SOWK 135
SOCIAL WORK FIELD EXPLORATION AND OBSERVATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Social Work Field Exploration and Observation is the study of social work practice and settings of practice. Topics in the course are centered on social work practice in places such as child welfare, schools, domestic violence shelters, hospice, hospitals, mental health clinics, assisted living facilities, and early intervention programs. Participatory observation of a professional social worker for a full work week is also included in this course.

RATIONALE
Social workers practice in a variety of settings. This course exposes the student to different types of social work practice settings and prepares the student with foundational knowledge about the role of social workers. It includes a week-long practicum in a social service agency shadowing a social worker who has a degree in social work or who is licensed in social work. This course will also introduce the student to some of the research examining different social work practices. This course is designed primarily for social work students who will receive a pre-professional experience in social work.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
   A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
   B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
   C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
   A. Describe a variety of practice settings of social workers.
   B. Demonstrate a professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.
C. Analyze a social worker’s role and boundaries in the particular setting(s).
D. Distinguish and appraise multiple sources of knowledge regarding social work practice.
E. Recognize and communicate the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.
F. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication.
G. Integrate faith and practice through a process of ethical reasoning.
H. Practice self-reflection and self-correction to facilitate continual professional development.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to submit a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 350–450 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 150–250 words. Each thread and reply must follow current APA format. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)

D. Journal Article Reviews (4)

The student will identify 1 peer-reviewed journal article that reflects research applicable to the practice setting covered in the assigned module/week’s Reading & Study material and use this article as the basis of a 2-page review. The student must send the instructor a link to the full-text article to request approval at least 1 week prior to the assignment due date. In each review, the student must briefly summarize the purpose of the article, including the research question(s), methods used to examine the research question(s), and 1–2 key findings. The student will also describe 2 concepts he or she learned from the article and ask at least 1 knowledge-informed question about the practice setting. Each review must follow current APA format and include a title page and a reference page. The title page and reference page do not count towards the length requirement. (MLO: C, D, F)

E. 40-Hour Field Experience

The student will choose a practice setting in which he or she can observe a social worker for a 40-hour work week. This setting must be a placement that is of particular interest to the student. The assignments that go along with this experience are the 1) Agency Choice Form, 2) Chronological Report, 3) Evaluation Form, and 4) Written Reflection Paper. (MLO: B)
1. **Agency Choice Form**
   The student will complete a form indicating an agreement between the student and the agency social worker and/or administrator for the dates and expectations of the planned observation. If there are any special circumstances on the part of the student or agency, the student must delineate these on the form. The student, the social worker at the agency, and the instructor must all sign this form. (MLO: B, F)

2. **Chronological Report**
   The student will complete a daily journal indicating what activities he or she observed and/or participated in as well as the length of each activity. The journal must be double-spaced and include a heading above each entry specifying the day of the week. The student must write 200–300 words in each day’s entry for a total of 1,000–1,500 words. (MLO: F)

3. **Evaluation Form**
   The student will provide the agency social worker with an evaluation form at the beginning of the observation. The agency social worker will complete the form to evaluate the student. The student will also complete the form as a self-evaluative tool. Thus, the student will submit 2 copies of the form: the one completed by the agency social worker and the one completed by the student. (MLO: H)

4. **Written Reflection Paper**
   After completing the observation, the student will write a 4-page paper in current APA format that reflects on his or her shadowing experience. The student will have 1 week from to the end of his or her observation to complete the paper. The paper must include at least 3 references. At least 1 of these references must be a peer-reviewed journal article. (MLO: C, E, F, G, H)

F. **Quizzes (7)**
   Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 10 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and have a 15-minute time limit. (MLO: A, C, D, G)

VI. **Course Grading and Policies**

A. **Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (4 at 75 pts ea)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Article Reviews (4 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>40-Hour Field Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency Choice Form</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronological Report</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation Form</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Reflection Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
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Quizzes (7 at 10 pts ea)  

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Total 1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010  B = 800–899  C = 700–799  D = 600–699  F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

**SOWK 135**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Garland: Introduction, chs. 1–3 2 presentations | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
DB Forum 1  
Quiz 1 | 10 0 75 10 |
| 2           | Garland: chs. 7, 19 2 presentations | Journal Article Review 1  
40-HFE – Agency Choice Form  
Quiz 2 | 50 30 10 |
| 3           | Garland: chs. 5, 16–18 2 presentations | DB Forum 2  
Quiz 3 | 75 10 |
| 4           | Garland: chs. 22–25 1 presentation | Journal Article Review 2  
Quiz 4 | 50 10 |
| 5           | Garland: chs. 6, 12–15 2 presentations | DB Forum 3  
Journal Article Review 3  
Quiz 5 | 75 50 10 |
| 6           | Garland: chs. 20–21 1 presentation | 40-HFE – Chronological Report  
40-HFE – Evaluation Form  
Quiz 6 | 100 100 10 |
| 7           | Garland: chs. 4, 8–9 1 presentation | Journal Article Review 4  
40-HFE – Written Reflection Paper | 50 200 |
| 8           | Garland: chs. 10–11, 26 2 presentations | DB Forum 4  
Quiz 7 | 75 10 |
| **TOTAL**   |                 |             | **1010** |

DB = Discussion Board  
40-HFE = 40-Hour Field Experience

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.