

SMITH COLLEGE

School for Social Work

2019-2020

Academic Catalog

Ph.D. Program

Calendar

Our doctoral curriculum operates on a block plan of instruction in which students alternate periods of classroom study with periods of clinical and research study in the field. The program includes two and one-half summers of on-campus intensive study and two intervening eight-month clinical practice internships.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work requires 90 quarter hour credits as well as successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam and Dissertation to be eligible to graduate. Credits are required as:

- 54 quarter hours of core courses
- 30 quarter hours of clinical internship
- 6 quarter hours of research and dissertation

Core Courses

First Summer Required Courses (10 courses, 20 quarter hours)

SOCW 801 - Advanced Clinical Practice I, 802 - Advanced Clinical Practice II, 805 - Treatment of Oppressed Populations, 810 - Advanced Psychological Theory I, 811 - Advanced Psychological Theory II, 815 - Social Policy I: Health Policy and Services, 820 - Social Work Research Methods I, 821 - Social Work Research Methods II, 825 - Advanced Social Theory I: Sociological Paradigms for Clinical Practice, & 828 - Metaperspectives on Clinical Social Work

Second Summer Required Course (10 courses, 22 quarter hours)

SOCW 832 - Perspectives on Social Work Education I, 835 - Qualitative Research Methods, 837 - Contemporary Trauma Theory and Practice, 839 - Theory Development and Research: Infancy and Early Childhood I, 843 - Advanced Clinical Practice III, 846 - Advanced Social Theory II: Anthropological Perspectives on Development, 852 - Advanced Psychological Theory III: Object Relations Theories, 856 - Social Policy II: Mental Health Policy and Services, 858 - Statistical Methods for Data Analysis I, & 859 - Statistical Methods for Data Analysis II

Third Summer Required Courses (5 courses, 10 quarter hours)

SOCW 863 - Advanced Psychological Theory IV: Contemporary Trends in Psychoanalytic Theory, 865 - Senior Seminar in Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice: Intersubjectivity, 868 - Research on Clinical Social Work Practice, 870 - Dissertation Design Seminar, & 873 - Perspectives on Social Work Education II

Clinical Internship

First Winter SOCW 830; Second Winter SOCW 860

Research and Dissertation

Research Internship [SOCW 890](#)
Dissertation [SOCW 899](#)

Course Catalog

The core courses offered for the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work are listed below. Current students will find the semester course/section offerings are found on BannerWeb.

The course numbers listed are effective beginning Summer 2019. Former course number equivalencies can be found [here](#).

SOCW 801 – Advanced Clinical Practice I

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Differentially examines a number of interrelated psychodynamic theories as they apply to clinical social work practice with individuals. Drive theory and ego psychology are considered in the context of ongoing therapeutic interventions with clients in a wide range of diagnostic categories. Theoretical perspectives are illuminated through historical and contemporary case material so that the course pivots on a comparison between student and faculty generated ideas and classic and contemporary psychodynamic approaches to practice. Material that deals with the effects of trauma on psychosocial development, issues of race, historical and cultural context and a contemporary feminist critique are introduced.

SOCW 802 – Advanced Clinical Practice II

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Considers differential approaches in treating clients with borderline, schizoid and narcissistic personality organizations. It will focus on the contributions that object relations theory and self-psychology, as articulated by Winnicott, Mahler, Horner, Kohut and their followers, have made to treatment theory and technique. We will emphasize the clinician's role in establishing compensatory treatment relationships specifically designed to promote progressive emotional development and self-cohesion. Consideration will be given to modifying these traditional treatment approaches in ways that make them more sensitive to issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, disability, age, religion and sexual orientation. Attention is paid to the influences of trauma, substance use/abuse and social context in clinical practice. The conscious use of self provides the underpinning for clinical case discussions that address issues and ethical dilemmas regarding effective clinical interventions. Consideration is also given to research methodology that examines clinical processes.

SOCW 805 – Treatment of Oppressed Populations

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Focuses on fellows' clinical work with oppressed populations, with emphases on the ongoing formation and challenges of the working and therapeutic alliances in clinical work with such clients. In particular, we will explore fellow's/therapist's and client's race-, culture- and ethnicity-related intersubjective processes, including intersubjective perspectives of and approaches to transference, counter-transference, defenses and resistance. When present in the clinical material, other dimensions of diversity such as gender, social class and sexual orientation will also be incorporated and explored. The course will rely

on fellows' clinical work as material for discussion, exploration, critique and shared learning. Fellows are encouraged to incorporate the various psychological theories and research findings from their doctoral coursework and related professional learning, explore and apply diversity and multicultural material and perspectives presented in this course to their clinical work with oppressed populations, and develop an ability to revise, expand, refine and deepen their clinical understanding and skills in working with their clients.

SOCW 810 – Advanced Psychological Theory I

Ten-Week Course

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Explores those psychological theories which help illuminate the inner and interpersonal lives of individuals. Using drive theory, ego psychology, object relations theory, self psychology and intersubjective theories, students examine how theories are transformed by the internal and external critiques which revise them. These five psychologies are taught in their historical and sociocultural contexts, with attention paid to their biases and strengths especially as they relate to women and people of color. The influence of postmodernism on psychoanalytic theorizing is also considered. These courses are integrated with the content covered in Advanced Clinical Practice I & II. Ten week course, second five weeks is SOCW 811.

SOCW 811 – Advanced Psychological Theory II

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Explores those psychological theories which help illuminate the inner and interpersonal lives of individuals. Using drive theory, ego psychology, object relations theory, self psychology and intersubjective theories, students examine how theories are transformed by the internal and external critiques which revise them. These five psychologies are taught in their historical and sociocultural contexts, with attention paid to their biases and strengths especially as they relate to women and people of color. The influence of postmodernism on psychoanalytic theorizing is also considered. These courses are integrated with the content covered in Advanced Clinical Practice I & II. Ten week course, first five weeks is SOCW 810.

SOCW 815 – Social Policy I: Health Policy and Services

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Develops an understanding of the major components of the health care delivery and financing system in the United States, and to develop skills in health care policy analysis. Health policy formulation is discussed, as well as the impacts of these policies on the population, and on social work practice. The historical, economic, political, and social context of policy making will be covered, and frameworks for policy analysis will be presented. Major components of the role of social work in policy formulation will be addressed, including its major impact on health care policy in the past, and the impact of current health care policy on clinical social work practice is explored.

SOCW 820 - Social Work Research Methods I

Ten-Week Course

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Presents an overview and critical analysis of the research methods commonly used in social work and other related disciplines. They involve reading about these research methods, critically analyzing a variety of research reports that use them and applying research methods to an area relevant to the advancement of knowledge in clinical social work selected by each student. The importance of critical thinking and knowledge development for the profession is emphasized throughout, especially as it applies to the advanced practitioner/scholar. These courses prepares students for the application of research knowledge and skills in the required dissertation process. Ten week course, second five weeks is SOCW 821.

SOCW 821 - Social Work Research Methods II

Ten Week Course

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Presents an overview and critical analysis of the research methods commonly used in social work and other related disciplines. They involve reading about these research methods, critically analyzing a variety of research reports that use them and applying research methods to an area relevant to the advancement of knowledge in clinical social work selected by each student. The importance of critical thinking and knowledge development for the profession is emphasized throughout, especially as it applies to the advanced practitioner/scholar. These courses prepares students for the application of research knowledge and skills in the required dissertation process. Ten week course, first five weeks is SOCW 820.

SOCW 825 - Advanced Social Theory I: Sociological Paradigms for Clinical Practice

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Describes, critically examines and compares the three major sociological paradigms— structural-functional, conflict, symbolic interactional— which have historically influenced, informed and critiqued social work practice, programs and policy. Attention is paid to the role that ideology plays in the evolution of theory, policy, programs, practice and the profession. Students are encouraged to use these theoretical paradigms to examine their practice and the organizations in which their practice takes place in order to understand the effects of social and institutional forces on their day-to-day work with clients. This examination pays particular attention to issues of quality and distributive justice; poverty, class, race, gender and ethnicity are also considered. Implications for clinical social work practice are discussed.

SOCW 828 - Metaperspectives on Clinical Social Work

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

Examines how professional knowledge evolves in the context of broader intellectual currents in phi-

losophy, the philosophy of science and the social sciences. This course focuses on some contemporary debates in epistemology and the sociology of knowledge effecting clinical social work theories, practices and knowledge development. The course also addresses the relevance and practical utility for clinical social work practitioners and educators of remaining attuned to significant issues in the social, political and intellectual context of practice.

SOCW 830 - Clinical Internship in Casework & Research

Quarter Hours: 15

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: First Year Doctoral

The clinical internship affords the opportunity to study and apply advanced practice methods to a range of clients, and to study clinical theories and processes in depth. Ideally, fellows also gain experience in clinical teaching and contribute to theory development.

SOCW 832 - Perspectives on Social Work Education I

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Invites SSW fellows to consider the roles of the supervisor, consultant and adviser in clinical social work practice (knowledge, skills and values) across the continuum of professional development and practice. Fellows will be encouraged to consider differential supervisory styles which are theoretically informed by the various psychodynamic perspectives and by the developmental needs of supervisees. Similarities and differences in the expectations of settings where clinical social work teaching and practice occurs, whether academic or agency based, will be the primary focus. Discussions of clinical supervision, faculty academic and field advising and consultation are planned with the goals of greater understanding of educational assessment and evaluation of teaching/learning needs, and the use of self in these contexts.

SOCW 835 - Qualitative Research Methods

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Builds on the introduction to flexible or qualitative methods of research offered in 670/671. Beginning with the underlying philosophical connections between theory and method coupled with consideration of relevant ethical principles, the course presents an overview of the continuum of types of qualitative research and evaluation methods. Issues involved in the selection of research questions and approaches, ethical issues; selection of participants; observation, interviewing and the use of documents in data collection; and data analysis will be examined. The assumptions that guide the appropriate use of these methods, their strengths and limitations, and common omissions in accounts of these methods are examined and applied to the creation and critique of qualitative studies. Attention to issues of human diversity and applications to practice will be emphasized throughout; along with assessment of the quality of qualitative studies and reports.

SOCW 837 - Contemporary Trauma Theory and Practice

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Covers the basic tenets of trauma theory and its application in clinical settings. The course will offer a historical and political context for clinical theory and address the developmental lines of current trauma theory. Integrating new research on the physiology of trauma with attachment theory, developmental psychology, and the post-traumatic stress literature, the course will build an integrated model of trauma treatment with a focus on relational models of treatment. As part of the relational focus, there will be significant attention paid to the person of the therapist within the therapeutic relationship, especially on the constructs of countertransference and vicarious traumatization.

SOCW 839 - Theory Development and Research: Infancy and Early Childhood I

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Concepts of development underlie both retrospective and clinical information and theories of psychoanalytic change. Psychoanalytic theories in particular usually include an explicit “metaphor of the baby.” Such metaphors are often based on retrospective inference rather than on empirical observation. Recent research and theory from normal developmental psychology will be examined as it bears on one’s view of infancy and childhood. The work of Daniel Stern, Beatrice Beebe, Frank Lachmann, Edward Tronick and Carlin Lyons-Ruth and other infant researchers will be discussed as well as the work of such observers as John Bowlby, Mary Ainsworth, Mary Main and Margaret Mahler. We will study such topics as 1) infant competencies; 2) the origin of self and object; 3) the mutual influence model; 4) attachment to caregiver; 5) impact of maternal psychopathology; 6) mother-infant models of treatment. Later classes will demonstrate clinical possibilities for the use of infant development research in adult treatment.

SOCW 843 - Advanced Clinical Practice III

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Builds on object relations theorists that have been presented in Psychological Theories III. The focus is on the relational perspectives of contemporary clinical social work practice with individuals. These theoretical perspectives are illuminated through case material with an emphasis on what clinicians actually say in their sessions and understanding the dialogue between clinicians and clients as relational events. Consideration will be given to transference/counter-transference, resistance, empathy, self-disclosure, neutrality, interpretation and the process of working through as they affect the practice process. Some attention will also be given to research methods for evaluating the outcome of relational process.

SOCW 846 - Advanced Social Theory II: Anthropological Perspectives on Development

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Uses anthropological theories to consider concepts and constructions of the self cross-culturally and

within American society. Students examine some of the values embedded within their own culture's view of the self relative to other cultures. How different cultures construct gender, race, kinship organizations, affects, sexuality and disorders of the self are examined from a number of perspectives. Ethnographic methods, their strengths and limitations, are considered. Finally, this course looks at the relevance of the construction of self and self disorders to practice in a multicultural society.

SOCW 852 - Advanced Psychological Theory III: Object Relations Theories

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Object relations theory has become one of the most important paradigms in contemporary psychoanalytic theory and practice. Minimal attention has been given in this country to its early beginnings in the Hungarian School of Psychoanalysis, with links to its later development in the British School during the 1930-50s and continued evolution in contemporary relational theory. The objective of this course is to examine some of the seminal contributions of Ferenczi and his students to this theory and to trace its further development in the writings of his analysand, Melanie Klein, her contemporaries D. W. Winnicott and W. R. Fairbairn and finally in recent relational theorists like Mitchell, Chodorow, Cooper, Ogden, Maroda and others. The need for a cultural critique of object relations theory will be considered in the course of our reading and discussion.

SOCW 856 - Social Policy II: Mental Health Policy and Services

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Develops an understanding of the mental health service delivery system in the United States and skills in mental health policy analysis. The course identifies major components of and gaps in the current mental health service delivery system; describes the historical, social and economic influences on the development of mental health policy; considers the impact of national and other health reform efforts on the delivery and financing of mental health services; and considers the intended and unintended effects of mental health policy on vulnerable populations, including the poor and those with serious and persistent mental illness. The impact of mental health policy on clinical social work practice is emphasized.

SOCW 858 - Statistical Methods for Data Analysis I

Ten Week Course

Quarter Hours: 3

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Details the organization, transformation, analysis, interpretation and presentation of quantitative data. Univariate, bivariate and multivariate statistical procedures applicable to both parametric and nonparametric group data are covered, including the process of selecting statistics and the assumptions associated with each procedure. The course will review fundamental concepts of statistics, introduce computer-based analyses and introduce modeling procedures. Published examples of each statistic will be examined to illustrate appropriate use and interpretations. Students will work with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) on all aspects of the course. Ten week course, second five weeks is SOCW 859.

SOCW 859 - Statistical Methods for Data Analysis II

Ten Week Course

Quarter Hours: 3

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

Details the organization, transformation, analysis, interpretation and presentation of quantitative data. Univariate, bivariate and multivariate statistical procedures applicable to both parametric and nonparametric group data are covered, including the process of selecting statistics and the assumptions associated with each procedure. The course will review fundamental concepts of statistics, introduce computer-based analyses and introduce modeling procedures. Published examples of each statistic will be examined to illustrate appropriate use and interpretations. Students will work with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) on all aspects of the course. Ten week course, first five weeks is SOCW 858.

SOCW 860 - Clinical Internship in Casework & Research

Quarter Hours: 15

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Second Year Doctoral

The clinical internship affords the opportunity to study and apply advanced practice methods to a range of clients, and to study clinical theories and processes in depth. Ideally, fellows also gain experience in clinical teaching and contribute to theory development.

SOCW 861 - Field Instruction Social Work

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Third Year Doctoral

SOCW 863 - Advanced Psychological Theory IV: Contemporary Trends in Psychoanalytic Theory

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Third Year Doctoral

Examines some of the more recent developments in psychoanalytic theory and the controversies that these ideas have created for clinical practice. Several themes will be discussed, including the decreased importance of the tripartite model, the increased emphasis on non-pathological and normal child development and the increased focus on interpersonal experiences and other non-instinctual motives. However, the major focus will be on the conflict between "one person" versus "two person" psychologies. This conflict will be studied by examining current theories (including the work of Kohut, Weiss, Mitchell and others) to see what position they take on these controversies and the resulting implications for treatment.

SOCW 865 - Senior Seminar in Clinical Social Work Theory and Practice: Intersubjectivity

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Third Year Doctoral

Examines contemporary issues in clinical social work practice by considering dilemmas faced by advanced clinical social work practitioners and scholars. Topics might include such areas as 1) managing managed care; 2) trauma, false memory, MPD, ritual abuse and the practice dilemmas therein; 3) race, ethnicity and gender in advanced clinical social work practice; 4) boundary violations and boundary maintenance in the student/supervisor relationship and client/therapist relationship; and 5) issues/dilemmas in research on practice. Topics are developed between instructor and students, and selected case presentations are used.

SOCW 868 - Research on Clinical SW Practice

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Third Year Doctoral

Covers the history and current status of research on clinical social work practice and psychotherapy research in closely allied disciplines. The study of processes and outcomes, qualitative and quantitative approaches, group and single case methods as well as nomothetic designs are considered. The potential for research both to enhance, and to detract from, practice is discussed. The relationship between various practice theories and the research methods used to study them is examined. The “state of the art” of practice evaluation and research is appraised. Students are encouraged to identify the methods of systematic study that might be best suited to their own practices and future research.

SOCW 870 - Dissertation Design Seminar

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Third Year Doctoral

Covers the history and current status of research on clinical social work practice and psychotherapy research in closely allied disciplines. The study of processes and outcomes, qualitative and quantitative approaches, group and single case methods as well as nomothetic designs are considered. The potential for research both to enhance, and to detract from, practice is discussed. The relationship between various practice theories and the research methods used to study them is examined. The “state of the art” of practice evaluation and research is appraised. Students are encouraged to identify the methods of systematic study that might be best suited to their own practices and future research.

SOCW 873 - Perspectives on Social Work Education II

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Third Year Doctoral

Examines some of the issues involved in teaching theory and practice to M.S.W. students and to professional social workers. The course includes content on the development of clinical social work education in particular: classroom teaching; working with adult learners; the special challenges in teaching and learning clinical material; the use of the case in teaching; supervision, consultation and advisement as modes of teaching; and the development of a career in social work education. Students present and reflect on their own work as clinical teachers and/or supervisors.

SOCW 890 - Research Internship

Quarter Hours: 0-4

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills:

Eligibility: Doctoral

The research internship is a half-day 32-week internship. Research advisers works closely with students to develop and implement the research internship.

Students can choose from three options: Affiliate with an ongoing funded research project relevant to social work; collaborate with a [Smith College School for Social Work faculty member](#) on the faculty member's existing research project; propose a student-generated project to be supervised by a qualified faculty member.

A written proposal of the intended research internship and a written summary and reflection of its outcome are both required components of the successful completion of this requirement.

SOCW 899 - Dissertation Design

Quarter Hours: 2

Coordinating Sequence: Doctoral

Fulfills: Doctoral Core

Eligibility: Doctoral

The dissertation is a required independent scholarly research project in which students must examine a topic relevant to clinical social work. By completing the dissertation, each fellow demonstrates the capacity to contribute to the development and dissemination of knowledge for the profession. The dissertation is the hallmark of all doctoral-level study and represents the achievement of a high level of professional performance as a practitioner/researcher.