SOCW 640: Diversity and Social Justice in Rural and Urban Communities
Summer 2017-Online Course

Course Description
This course provides students with theoretical and practice knowledge to address issues of diversity and social justice. Students learn to recognize and develop skills to address forms and mechanisms of discrimination. Additionally, students will study the main characteristics and needs of multicultural groups including African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Americans. Discussions will focus on the achievement of social justice.

Required Textbook

Course Objectives
SOCW 640 addresses the following MSW foundation educational objectives:

Objective 1. Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.

Objective 2. Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients’ age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. It discusses social work issues with respect to African Americans, Latinos, American Indians, Asian Americans, and other marginalized or discriminated groups.

Objective 3. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.

Objective 4. Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.

This course relates to and advances the program objectives by developing knowledge and competence in working with diverse populations. Students completing this course will have developed a critical understanding of social justice, discrimination, and oppression, and will be prepared to apply this understanding in their practice.

Course Assessments
2 papers
2 exams
Class participation