Social Work 641
Clinical Practice with Service Members and Veterans

3 Units

Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Finney
E-Mail: Kfinney@usc.edu
Telephone: 321-271-0743
Office: CIR 14th Floor
Office Hours: 11:00-12:00, 4:00-5:00

Course Day: Tuesday
Course Time: 1:00-3:50 pm
Course Location: City Center, A

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES
SOWK 505 and SOWK 535, SOWK 642

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the needs of servicemembers and veterans at different developmental phases of the military life cycles, both holistically and within the context of their families and communities. In addition, theoretical and practical approaches to treatment of chronic stress, acute stress and trauma-related stress disorders are examined with the goal of advancing students’ knowledge of best practices and current evidence-based models.

Course Description

Military social work students (per CSWE-2010 guidelines) will be prepared to facilitate client’s ways of coping with a range of physical health, mental health and psychosocial issues. Students learn to identify these concerns along with the risk and protective factors associated with navigating deployments and combat stressors. Those servicemembers who are bolstered by their resilience and protective factors often return from deployment with a healthy transition, while others exposed to high intensity combat exposure and repeated deployments may develop injuries to their physical health, mental health and psychosocial coping.

While the course specifically highlights mental health and psychosocial needs as a result of combat, deployments, workplace and community stressors. It also highlights and addresses treatment needs related to the impact of wars/conflicts on servicemembers and veterans, i.e.
Operational Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Somalia Conflicts, etc.

Students will also learn to apply evidence-based clinical approaches to the mental health issues of service members and veterans and to manage transference and counter transference concerns. Managing transference/countertransference phenomena and attending to secondary trauma are central. Attention will be paid to issues of diversity (gender, race, sexual orientation and culture) including specific issues relevant in work with culturally diverse client groups. Addressing stigma and barriers to service will help students establish alliances with their clients effectively. Finally, students will learn to use the range of practice models in a phase-oriented approach that values the therapeutic relationship, cultural responsiveness and theoretical grounding.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Clinical Practice for Servicemembers and Veterans course (SOWK 641) will:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective #</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Explain the socio-historical context for psychological responses and treatment methods for servicemembers, veterans, and their families throughout the deployment cycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Promote understanding of the role of diversity and demonstrate cultural responsiveness in practice with servicemembers and veterans.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Facilitate identification of risk and protective factors in coping with deployment stressors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Explain complex bio-psycho-social spiritual factors germane to assessment and treatment planning with servicemembers and veterans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Promote students’ ability to reflect on their own affect, thoughts, world views, and biases that influence practice and teach the use of “professional self” in clinical practice contexts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Modes of instruction will consist of a combination of didactic lecture, in-class discussion, student clinical case presentations, experiential exercise, analysis of videotapes, role-plays and on-line teaching and learning environments.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student learning for this course relates to one or more of the following ten social work core competencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Work Core Competencies</th>
<th>SOWK 641</th>
<th>Course Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Professional Identity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Ethical Practice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Critical Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Diversity in Practice</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Competencies/ Knowledge, Values, Skills</td>
<td>Student Learning Outcomes (What Advanced Practitioners in Military Social Work Do)</td>
<td>Method of Assessment</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Research Based Practice**—Engage in research-informed practice and practice informed research. Social workers use practice experience to inform research; employ evidence-based interventions; evaluate their own practice; and use research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery. Social workers comprehend quantitative and qualitative research and understand scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers:  
- Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry.  
- Use research evidence to inform practice. | 1. Locate, evaluate, and analyze current research literature related to military social work.  
2. Evaluate research to practice with service members, veterans, families, and their communities.  
3. Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation within the context of military social work.  
4. Apply different literature and evidence-informed and evidence-based practices in the provision of services across the DoD/VA continuum of care and services. | Class Participation, Discussion with Field Instructor, Assignment 2 (Presentation of Research), and Assignment 1 (Student Journal) |

*Highlighted in this course*

The following table explains the highlighted competencies for this course, the related student learning outcomes, and the method of assessment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Practice Contexts</strong>—Respond to contexts that shape practice. Social workers are informed, resourceful, and proactive in responding to evolving organizational, community, and societal contexts at all levels of practice. Social workers recognize that the context of practice is dynamic and use knowledge and skill to respond proactively. Social workers:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Assess service systems’ history, trends, and innovations in social work practice with service members, veterans, their families, and/or their communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Apply knowledge of practice within the military context to the development of evaluations, prevention plans, and treatment strategies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Use information technologies and organizational analysis techniques for outreach, planning multiyear projections, for service delivery to service members and the veteran populations as well as to their families and their communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Engage, Assess, Intervene, and Evaluate**—Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Professional practice involves the dynamic and interactive processes of engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation at multiple levels. Social workers have the knowledge and skills to practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Practice knowledge includes identifying, analyzing, and implementing research-informed interventions designed to achieve client goals; using research and technological advances; evaluating program outcomes and practice effectiveness; developing, analyzing, advocating, and providing leadership for policies and services; and promoting social and economic justice.

### Engagement: Social workers:
- Substantively and effectively prepare for engagement with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- Use empathy and other interpersonal skills.
- Involve the client in goal-setting, focus of work, and desired outcomes.

### 8. Engagement:
- Recognize the unique issues and culture presented by the service member, veteran, and/or family member client.
- Establish a culturally responsive therapeutic relationship that addresses the unique issues associated with confidentiality and reporting requirements within a military context.
- Explain the nature, limits, rights, and responsibilities of the client who seeks services.
- Explain the stigma, risks, and benefits of seeking or not seeking services.
- Engage with military leadership, the unit, veteran service organizations, and/or family members.
- Demonstrate a knowledge base related to risk and protective factors associated with deployment, military service, and other aspects of life and role transitions that service members and veterans experience.
- Demonstrate knowledge related to health and mental health illnesses, injuries, and outcomes for service members, veterans, their families, and their communities.

Class Participation, Discussion with Field Instructor, Assignment #2 (presentation of research), and Assignment #1 (Student Journal) and Assignment #3
### Assessment: Social workers
- Collect, organize, and interpret client data.
- Assess client strengths and limitations.
- Develop intervention goals and objectives.
- Select appropriate intervention strategies.

9. Assessment:
- Select and modify appropriate multisystemic intervention strategies based on continuous clinical assessment of military or veteran issues.
- Use differential and multiaxial diagnoses that take into consideration signature injuries as well as other military related illnesses and injuries.
- Use empathy, cultural responsiveness, and other interpersonal skills in completing an assessment; and assess coping strategies to reinforce and improve adaptation to life situations and transitions while also emphasizing ways of coping with readjustment from military to civilian life.

### Intervention: Social workers
- Initiate actions to achieve client and/or organizational goals and resolve problems.
- Implement prevention interventions that enhance client capacities.
- Negotiate, mediate, and advocate for clients.
- Facilitate transitions and endings.

10. Intervention:
- Use a range of appropriate clinical and preventive interventions for various injuries, diagnoses, and psychosocial concerns identified in the assessment, including crisis intervention and advocacy strategies as needed.
- Engage clients in ongoing monitoring and evaluation of practice processes and outcomes.
- Demonstrate the capacity to reflect on one’s own responses (i.e., affect and world views) that influence the progress in and the completion of treatment.
**Evaluation:** Social workers critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions. Advanced practitioners in military social work understand the process of adaptation from evidence-based practice to implementation within a military context. They understand the research that informs all levels of practice as it relates to service members, veterans, their families, and their communities.

11. Evaluation:
- Use clinical and program evaluation of the process and/or outcomes to develop best practice interventions and programs for a range of biopsychosocial-spiritual conditions.
- Evaluate their own practice to determine the effectiveness of the applied intervention on military/veteran issues.

**Class Participation,** Discussion with Field Instructor, Assignment #2 (presentation of research), and Assignment #1 (Student Journal) and Assignment #3

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## V. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Reflection Journal</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Article Review</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Case Presentation</td>
<td>Selected Date</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 4: Final paper</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The criterion for each major assignment is described below.

### Assignment 1

Submit a 4 to 5 page typed paper summarizing your learning from this course that may influence your future practices as a social worker. Although this assignment is labeled as a journal this written assignment requires the use of formal writing and display of graduate level work. This assignment should be doubled spaced with 12 point font, Times New Roman.

It might be helpful to keep a weekly journal in which you can record and comment on your experience as a learner in the course.

The following questions written below are to guide you in completing this assignment. It is worth noting that not every question will apply to your experience.
What are your thoughts regarding your ability to work with servicemembers and veterans as a military social worker?

What were your preconceived thoughts regarding servicemembers and veterans?

What are the implications for you?

What changes might you make? What are your plans for future actions?

What happened in class that enriched your learning? What happened in class that provided you insight?

What are your thoughts, feelings, assumptions, beliefs, values, attitudes about topics discussed in class?

What is your reasoning for selecting military social work as a sub-concentration?

**Grading:** Reflective journal is worth 20% of your total grade points. Instructors are looking for evidence related to the course objectives where you provided an account of a particular learning experience, issue, or topic, demonstrate an awareness of any emotional response the activity engendered and describe the learning outcome of reflecting on the experience.

**Due:** Week 5

*This assignment relates to student learning outcome 5.*

**Assignment 2**

Article Review: Review two scholarly articles on working with military veterans and or servicemembers and submit 4-6 page double-spaced paper of your analysis. Integrate the articles highlighting points of similarity and differences. These articles should be from scholarly sources such as peer reviewed journals. They should not be articles from newspapers or popular magazines or media outlets. **Only one article** can be from the recommended or required readings in the syllabus. The assignment should be doubled spaced with 12 point font, Times new Roman. Provide a copy of the second article to the instructor (electronically or hardcopy)

**Grading:** This assignment is 25% of your total grade points. Instructors are looking for evidence related to the course objectives where you provide an account of learning outcomes 1,3, and 4. Grading will also include the following points written below:

A. Summarize the article: Explain the 2-3 key points the author(s) share about working with servicemembers or veterans.

B. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the articles in terms of its scholarship.

C. Importance of the article to clinical practice with servicemembers and veteran, explain why you think the article is or is not useful to the field of clinical practice with servicemembers and veterans.

D. How does the information shared by the author(s) fit into a bigger context (or not) of clinical practice with servicemembers and veterans?

E. Can the information shared by the author be applied to race, gender or sexual orientation issues in the context of clinical practice with servicemembers?
F. What aspect of the article did you personally find the most interesting or useful in your work with servicemembers or veterans?

Due: Week 10

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 1, 3, and 4.

Assignment 3

This assignment is a class presentation. Students will select option 1 or 2 and a description is provided below along with grading criteria for each. Minimum of 5 references from scholarly sources such as peer reviewed journal. They should not be articles from newspapers or popular magazines or media outlets. Students can present in pairs or as an individual based on professors preference.

Option: 1

Each student will select a presentation date during the second class session. This assignment is a class presentation of a case analysis of an adult service member or veteran client or a military family member. Ideally the cases will come from the student’s field placement. Presentations are not to exceed 20 minutes. This presentation requires a bio-psychosocial-spiritual perspective. Students may use a standardized assessment form. This assessment will be used to guide your selection of an appropriate evidenced-based practice intervention (from those discussed in class and in the clinical literature, i.e. CBT, etc.) to match the needs identified for the client in your paper below. Standardized Assessment Forms will be provided to students.

Option: 2

Each student can select a US war or conflict (from the list below). The student will perform a presentation describing the nature of the war/conflict along with a discussion on the response of society (patriotism, agency support, community support, polices, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>War/Conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1941 – 1945</td>
<td>World War II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950 – 1953</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955 – 1975</td>
<td>Vietnam War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982 – 1983</td>
<td>1982 Lebanon War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Invasion of Grenada</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989 – 1990</td>
<td>Invasion of Panama</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990 – 1991</td>
<td>Persian Gulf War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991 – 1995</td>
<td>Yugoslav Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 – 1999</td>
<td>Kosovo War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991 – Ongoing</td>
<td>Somalia Civil War</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your selection must be approved to avoid duplication of presentations. You will be graded based on the following criteria.

Grading criteria for war/conflict:
• Set of events surrounding war/conflict, list your references (at least 3 references that are not from required or recommended readings).
• Thoughtful discussion of your ideas, findings and feelings regarding the topic-willingness to be self-reflective (i.e., counter-transference).
• Discussion of race, gender, sexual orientation, spirituality, etc considerations as appropriate, in terms of the servicemembers, veterans, and society during and after the war/conflict. Please provide 2 references on these topics that are not from required or recommended readings on these issues).
• Discussion of outcome, impact to society, economics, destruction or development of social programs.

Grading criteria for case:

• Demonstrate working knowledge of the biopsychosocialspiritual model and evidence based interventions: (3 references that are not from required or recommended readings which support this model).
• Thoughtful discussion of your clinical assessment and generation of possible diagnosis and rule out diagnosis to include your willingness to be self-reflective (i.e., countertransference).
• Discussion of race, gender, sexual orientation, spirituality, etc considerations as appropriate (2 references that are not from required or recommended readings on these issues).
• Treatment plan, case management plan to include a multidiscipline approach.

Due: To be arranged by course instructor and students during second class discussion

Assignment 4

This assignment is a written paper of a case analysis of an adult service member or Veteran client or a military family member. The paper requires a full biopsychosocialspiritual assessment. Students will use the standardized assessment form as a guide that may be used to collect appropriate clinical information. This assessment will be used to determine an appropriate evidenced-based practice intervention (from those discussed in class and in the clinical literature) to match the needs identified for the client. The development of a phase-oriented, culturally responsive, research-informed practice plan that involves diverse practice modalities (e.g., individual, group, couple/family therapy and/or clinical case management) will also be included. Issues of diversity, gender, race, ethics and use of professional self (including transference/countertransference phenomena) should be explored. The paper should be approximately 6 pages long (no less than 6 pages, and no more than 8 pages); you may write in the first person narrative; and cite according to APA style, 12 point font, New Times Roman. Minimum of 8 references from scholarly sources such as peer reviewed journal. They should not be articles from newspapers or popular magazines or media outlets.
If you presented on a war/conflict you will research the availability of mental health services (i.e. social work, psychology or psychiatry, the role or establishment of the Veterans Administration, etc.) during the era of the chosen conflict and how mental health services during previous wars differ from current services. Evaluate policy changes, political focus and social support. Minimum of 8 references from scholarly sources such as peer reviewed journal. They should not be articles from newspapers or popular magazines or media outlets.

**Grading criteria for case:** Minimum of 8 citation (2 of the 8 can be from the required readings)

- Appropriate use and discussion of the biopsychosocialspiritual model and evidence based intervention or timeline. **Provide 3 references to support the use of this model.**
- Thoughtful discussion of your ideas and feelings about the readings and your field experience, to include your willingness to be self-reflective (i.e., counter-transference).
- Use APA style (citations and reference page); can be written in the first person narrative. Correct use of grammar, punctuation and proof read. Double spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman.
- Discussion of race, gender, sexual orientation, spirituality, etc considerations as appropriate in the case. **Please provide 2 references on these topics.**
- Treatment plan, case management plan, case outcome, to include a multidiscipline approach.

**Grading criteria for war/conflict:** Please provide at least 8 references with no more than 2 references from the required or recommended readings

- Demonstrate working knowledge of the material and evidenced by discussion of history (timeline, causalities, civilian support, societal impact).
- Thoughtful discussion on the role of mental health services, the role of social workers in the community (government agency services, public attitudes, community organizations).
- Professional discussion, graduate level writing, correct use of grammar, punctuation and proof reading of document.
- Willingness to be self-reflective in the form of counter-transference and or present a comparison analysis of the progress we have made in treatment/interventions or lack of progress in helping servicemembers/veterans.
- Discussion of race, gender, sexual orientation, spirituality, etc considerations in terms of the role of minorities and the social conflicts associated with their roles in the military. For example, African American were fighting in the Vietnam War but when they returned home they faced segregated communities and Jim Crow Laws. **Please provide 2 references on these topics.**
Due: Week 14

This assignment relates to student learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Class participation

This is 10% of class grade. A half (5%) of this grade is based on the student facilitating and co-facilitating an interactive group exercise. The goal of the group exercises is to stimulate discussion and highlight theoretical processes, transference and countertransference phenomena. The remaining portion (5%) of this grade will be based on the student’s ability to demonstrate professional courtesy, support and active participation during discussions and presentations of fellow classmates. Cell phone usage (texting) and recreational computer use are not permitted during class time.

Grades

Grades in the School of Social Work are determined based on the following standards that have been established by the faculty of the School:

Grades of A or A- are reserved for student work which not only demonstrates strong mastery of content but which also shows that the student has undertaken a complex task, has applied critical thinking skills to the assignment, and/or has demonstrated creativity in her or his approach to the assignment. The difference between these two grades would be determined by the degree to which these skills have been demonstrated by the student.

A grade of B+ will be given to work that is judged to be very good and demonstrates a more-than-competent understanding of the material being tested in the assignment.

A grade of B will be given to student work, which meets the basic requirements of the assignment and demonstrates work that meets course expectations at an adequate level.

A grade of B- will indicate that a student’s performance was less than adequate on an assignment and reflects only moderate grasp of content and/or expectations.

A grade of C would reflect a minimal grasp of the assignments, poor organization of ideas and/or several areas requiring improvement.

Grades between C- and F will denote a failure to meet minimum standards, reflecting serious deficiencies in all aspects of a student’s performance on the assignment.

Class grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Grades</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.85 – 4</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.60 – 3.84</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25 – 3.59</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.90 – 3.24</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.60 – 2.87</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class Grades | Final Grade
--- | ---
2.25 – 2.50 | C+
1.90 – 2.24 | C
70 – 72 | C-

VI. REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES

**Required Textbooks**


**Optional Textbooks**

- The Veterans and Active Duty Military Psychotherapy Treatment Planner (Practice Planners) by Bret A. Moore and Arthur E. Jongsma Jr. (Aug 17, 2009)

**Recommended Guidebook for APA Style Formatting**


**Recommended Websites**

National Association of Social Workers
[http://www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)

The Elements of Style–A Rule Book for Writing

USC Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism

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Course Overview
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<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART 1:</strong> Introduction and Overview in Military Social Work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>• Military Life Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>• Ethical Dilemmas and Barriers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PART 2:</strong> Phenomenology and Neurobiology of Combat Trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>• Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Phenomenon of Killing</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>• The effect of Posttraumatic Stress on the Brain and Body</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>• Biopsychosocial Assessment of PTSD and TBI</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>• Substance Abuse and Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>• Planning Treatment and Matching Interventions</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>• Assessment of Individual, Partner and Family Safety</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>• Adjustment to Loss and Stress Management</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Part 3:</strong> Phase-Oriented, Multi-Modality Social Work Practice Planning for Military Servicemembers and Veterans</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>• Impact of Physical Injuries on Psychosocial Factors</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>• Clinical Care Management with Servicemembers</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>• Special Clinical Issues for Female Servicemembers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>• Group Treatment Approaches for Servicemembers and Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>• Brief Stress Treatment Approach for Servicemembers and Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>• Special Clinical Issues for Servicemembers, Veterans, and their Families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Schedule—Detailed Description
Part 1: Introduction and Overview

Unit 1: Military Life and Overview

Topics

- Introduction
- Historical context
  - Treatment of war trauma
  - Combat stress control
- Military culture and deployment cycles
- Who do we treat?
  - Populations served
  - Treatment considerations for the combat veteran
- Guiding principles for effective practice
- Utilizing evidence-based practices

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, and 3.

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


### Unit 2: Ethical Dilemmas and Barriers: Implications for Clinical Practice

**Topics**

- Introduction
- Ethical issues for social workers in the military
- Challenges of maintaining confidentiality
  - Command directed referrals
  - Self-referral for treatment
  - Impact of “don’t ask-don’t tell” policy
  - Role expectations for military vs. civilian social workers
- Implications for research, social policy, and reform

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

**Required Readings**


Recommended Readings


Part 2: Phenomenology and Neurobiology of Combat

**Unit 3:** Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and The Phenomenon of Killing

**Topics**

- Introduction
- Symptoms of combat operational stress
  - First person narratives of combat
- Psychosocial impact of combat operational stress
  - Homelessness
  - Financial strains
  - Employment problems
  - Marital conflicts and divorce
  - Domestic violence
  - Parent-child relationship problems

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, and 3.

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


(Instructor Note: CD/DVD. Nine videos that focus on PTSD and mental health issues of OIF/OEF combat veterans and their family members.)


(Instructor Note: Related film documentary—Restrepo. Viewing of documentary.)


**Unit 4: The effect of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder on the Brain and the Body**

**Topics**
- Introduction
- Impact of trauma on the brain and body
- Connecting trauma symptoms to neurobiology
- Physical and mental health issues resulting from combat operational stress
  - Physical problems (hypertension, etc.)
  - Mental health (PTSD, depression, anxiety, etc.)

This Unit relates to course objectives 3 and 4.
Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Unit 5: Biopsychosocial Assessment of PTSD and TBI

Topics

■ Introduction
■ Applying the biopsychosocial assessment to military clients
  ▼ Differential assessment related to signature injuries
    ➢ Operational combat stress vs. acute stress reaction vs. PTSD vs. anxiety disorder
    ➢ Affective disorders vs. grief reaction vs. depression (unipolar, bipolar or reactive)
    ➢ Traumatic brain injury vs. PTSD/PTS vs. substance abuse vs. polytrauma
  ▼ Addressing ongoing assessment of safety, risks, self-care, suicidal ideation, danger to self and others
  ▼ Using standardized assessment tools
    ➢ Beck depression inventory
    ➢ PCL-17 (post traumatic stress list 17)
    ➢ PDHA/PDHRA (post deployment health assessment)
  ▼ Assessing for psychosocial factors
■ Treatment process considerations
  ▼ Using 4 basic ice breaker questions to engage military clients
  ▼ Establishing rapport, building a therapeutic alliance
  ▼ Considering diversity and cultural responsiveness
  ▼ Positive therapeutic stances for the practitioner (demonstrate hope, empathy, acknowledging service)
  ▼ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for PTSD

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


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**Unit 6: Substance Abuse and Treatment**

**Topics**
- Introduction
- Prevalence of PTSD and substance abuse disorders for military service members
- The relationship between substance use and trauma
- The negative impact of substance use on coping
  - Avoidance and relationship ruptures
- DSM V criteria for substance abuse disorders
- Treating substance use or abuse
- Diagnosing co-occurring DSM V conditions
- Determining treatment priorities for servicemembers with dual diagnoses

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 3, and 4.

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Unit 7: Planning Treatment and Matching Interventions to Identified Needs

Topics
- Introduction
- Review of DSM V diagnosis
  - Considering co-occurring conditions
- Designing a treatment plan
  - Setting goals
  - Choosing intervention strategies
- Interventions and treatment approaches
  - Herman’s “3 Phases of Trauma Therapy” (safety, talking story, reconnection)
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  - Using the CBT Assessment Form (thought record)
  - Promoting post-traumatic growth
  - Teaching resiliency skills
- Phases of treatment
  - Ongoing assessment
  - Reflecting trauma narratives and the mourning process
  - Consolidation of gains
  - Building renewed supports
  - Transformative post traumatic growth

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Required Readings


Recommended Readings

**Unit 8: Assessment of Individual, Partner, and Family Safety, Violence and Risk to Others**

**Topics**
- Introduction
- Risk assessments for service members and families
- Suicidal ideation and behaviors
  - Imminent “danger to self and others”
  - Distress, anxiety, and depression
  - Reactions to trauma
  - Management of anger and rage reactions
  - Level of coping and resilience
- Interventions addressing risks and interpersonal violence
  - Individual approaches
    - Conducting a 5150 assessment
    - Developing a safety plan
  - Group therapy models

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 3, and 4.

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


**Unit 9: Adjustment to Loss and Stress Management**

**Topics**
- Introduction
- Coping with deployment-related losses
- Combat-related grief and survivor guilt
- Interventions addressing mood disorders and grief reactions
  - Evidence-based treatments for mood disorders
  - Interpersonal therapy
  - Cognitive behavioral therapy
  - Cognitive processing therapy
  - Exposure therapies

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 3, and 4.

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Part 3: Phase-Oriented, Multi-Modality Social Work Practice Planning for Military Service Members and Veterans

Unit 10: The Impact of Physical Injuries on Psychosocial Factors

Topics
- Introduction
- Combat-related injuries
  - Amputations
  - Burns
  - Visual/auditory injuries
- Traumatic brain injury
- Somatic illness and conditions
- Interventions addressing combat-related injuries

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 3, and 4.

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Unit 11: Clinical Care Management with Service Members and Veterans

Topics
- Introduction
- Defining the comprehensive care service delivery model
- The role of the primary care manager in military social work
- Services provided by care management
  - Ongoing assessment of risk and safety
  - Care coordination and collaboration between multiple providers
  - Advocacy and brokering with stakeholders
- Care manager services for special populations
  - Homeless veterans
  - Transitioning veterans from military installations to community

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Required Readings


Unit 12: Special Clinical Issues for Female Servicemembers

Topics
- Introduction
- Overview and history of women in combat
- Military sexual trauma
  - Prevalence of MST
  - Sexual assault and harassment
  - Cognitive processing treatment (evidence based practice)

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 3, 3, and 4.

Required Readings

Recommended Readings


(Instructor Note: This is a film.)


Unit 13: Group Treatment Approaches for Service Members and Veterans

Topics
- Introduction
- Overview of group therapies for military social work
- Therapeutic value of group approaches and process
- Stage ONE: Debriefing groups
- Stage TWO: Peer support groups
- Stage THREE: Psycho-educational groups
- Evidence based practices

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 3, and 4.

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Unit 14: Brief Treatment Approach for Servicemembers and Veterans

Topics
- Interventions and approaches addressing stress and adjustment
- Mind and body connections
- Impact of thoughts on behavior

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 3, and 4.

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


**Unit 15: Special Clinical Issues for Servicemembers and Veterans**

**Topics**
- In-class discussion of lessons learned in class and assignments
- Class evaluations

**Recommended Readings**


WRAIR Battlemind Training II Final. (n.d.). Retrieved from [www.battlemind/or](http://www.battlemind/or)
VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend every class and to remain in class for the duration of the unit. Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. Students are expected to notify the instructor by email of any anticipated absence or reason for tardiness.

University of Southern California policy permits students to be excused from class for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers scheduled final examinations which conflict with students’ observance of a holy day. Students must make arrangements in advance to complete class work which will be missed, or to reschedule an examination, due to holy days observance.

Please refer to USC campus and to the USC School of Social Work Student Handbook for additional information on attendance policies.

VIII. STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

Additionally, it should be noted that violations of academic integrity are not only violations of USC principles and policies, but also violations of the values of the social work profession.

IX. STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Students from all academic centers (including the Virtual Academic Center) may contact Ed Roth, Director of the DSP office at 213-740-0776 or ability@usc.edu.
X. EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

Note: The following Emergency Response Information pertains to students on campus, but please note its importance should you be on campus for a temporary or extended period. When not on campus: Call the 911 listing in your local community for any emergency.

To receive information, call the main number (213) 740-2711, press #2. “For recorded announcements, events, emergency communications or critical incident information.”

To leave a message, call (213) 740-8311
For additional university information, please call (213) 740-9233
Or visit university website: [http://emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

If it becomes necessary to evacuate the building, please go to the following locations carefully and using stairwells only. Never use elevators in an emergency evacuation.

Students may also sign up for a USC Trojans Alert account to receive alerts and emergency notifications on their cell phone, pager, PDA, or e-mail account. Register at [https://trojansalert.usc.edu](https://trojansalert.usc.edu).

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Do not re-enter the building until given the “all clear” by emergency personnel.

XI. STATEMENT ABOUT INCOMPLETES

The Grade of Incomplete (IN) can be assigned only if there is work not completed because of a documented illness or some other emergency occurring after the 12th week of the semester. **Students must NOT assume that the instructor will agree to the grade of IN.** Removal of the grade of IN must be instituted by the student and agreed to by the instructor and reported on the official “Incomplete Completion Form.”

XII. POLICY ON LATE OR MAKE-UP WORK

Papers are due on the day and time specified. Extensions will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. If the paper is late without permission, the grade will be affected.
XIII. **Policy on Changes to the Syllabus and/or Course Requirements**

It may be necessary to make some adjustments in the syllabus during the semester in order to respond to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances. Adjustments that are made will be communicated to students both verbally and in writing.

XIV. **Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers**

*Approved by the 1996 NASW Delegate Assembly and revised by the 2008 NASW Delegate Assembly* [http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp]

**Preamble**

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession’s focus on individual wellbeing in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. “Clients” is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals’ needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession’s history, are the foundation of social work’s unique purpose and perspective:

- Service
- Social justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.
XV. COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint or concern about the course or the instructor, please discuss it first with the instructor. If you feel you cannot discuss it with the instructor, contact the chair of the sequence, Anthony Hassan, at hassana@usc.edu. If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact your advisor or Dr. Paul Maiden, Vice Dean and Professor of Academic and Student Affairs, at rmaiden@usc.edu. Or, if you are a student of the VAC, contact June Wiley, Director of the Virtual Academic Center, at (213) 821-0901 or june.wiley@usc.edu for further guidance.