

# HSW 225: FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

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## History

1. Dec 4, 2025 by Sera Bird (sabird)

**Viewing: HSW 225 : Family Social Work**

**Last approved: 2025-12-04T12:59:06Z**

**Last edit: 2025-12-03T16:25:23Z**

**Effective Term**

Winter 2026

**Rationale and proposal summary**

Update master syllabus to include additional assessment data and align outcomes to current material.

## Course Cover

**Full Course Title**

Family Social Work

**Transcript Title**

Family Social Work

**Subject Code**

HSW - Human Services Worker

**Course Number**

225

**Cross-Listed With**

SOC 225 - Family Social Work

**Department**

Behavioral Sciences Department (BEHD)

**Banner Division**

HSS

**Division/College**

Humanities, Social & Behav Sci (HS)

**Org Code**

11210

## Course Description

In this course, students will be introduced to the theories and practice of home-based social work with families. Students will learn how to describe American families as social systems, describe the structure of a family, and how to identify common patterns in family functioning. Common problems and special circumstances in family functioning will be addressed. Students will learn to identify effective ways to engage with families. Basic social work interventions and skills for working with families will be described.

**Has this course been approved for online or online blended?**

No

**Grading method**

Standard Letter, Audit

**CIP Code**

449999 - Public Administration and Social Service Professions, Other.

**Occupational Indicator**

Yes

**ACS Code**

120

**Credit hours, contact hours, repeatability**

**Repeatable for additional credit**

No

**Course credits**

3

**Lecture contact hours**

45

**Total Contact Hours**

45

**Expected Total Contact Hours**

45

**Prerequisites and prerequisite skill levels**

**College-Level Math**

No Level Required

**College-Level Reading and Writing**

College-level Reading and Writing

**Approved Level I Prerequisite:**

Academic Reading and Writing Levels of 6; HSW 100 or SOC 100, minimum grade "C"

**Course Assessment Plan**

**Learning Outcome**

**Outcome**

Explain how any American family can be explained in terms of systems theory: as a small group, with dynamically interacting parts that interacts with and is affected by other groups and institutions in American society.

**Assessment #1**

**Assessment Tool**

Presentation

**Anticipated Next Assessment Year**

2027

**Anticipated Next Assessment Term**

Fall

**Assessment Cycle**

Every Three Years

**Anticipated assessment population**

Other

If not including all students from all sections, please provide an estimation of how many students will be included (percentage and estimated number), and how you're planning to ensure representation for all schedule types, delivery methods, full-time and part-time students, all instructors, etc.

Random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section

**How the assessment will be scored**

Rubric

**Who does the scoring?**

Departmental faculty

**Standard of success**

70% of students will score 100%.

**Assessment #2**

**Learning Outcome**

**Outcome**

Identify the concepts of roles, relationships, patterns of interaction and boundaries in an American family.

**Assessment #1**

**Assessment Tool**

Outcome-related exam questions

**Anticipated Next Assessment Year**

2027

**Anticipated Next Assessment Term**

Fall

**Assessment Cycle**

Every Three Years

**Anticipated assessment population**

All students from all sections

**How the assessment will be scored**

Answer key

**Who does the scoring?**

Departmental faculty

**Standard of success**

70% of students will score 70% or higher.

**Assessment #2**

**Learning Outcome**

**Outcome**

Recognize effective methods of engaging family members.

**Assessment #1**

**Assessment Tool**

Outcome-related exam questions

**Anticipated Next Assessment Year**

2027

**Anticipated Next Assessment Term**

Fall

**Assessment Cycle**

Every Three Years

**Anticipated assessment population**

All students from all sections

**How the assessment will be scored**

Answer key

**Who does the scoring?**

Departmental faculty

**Standard of success**

70% of students will score 70% or higher.

**Assessment #2****Course Objectives**

Objective(s)	
1.	Identify the assumptions underlying systems theory.
2.	Describe how social conditions (e.g., poverty, class inequalities) affect the functioning of the American family.
3.	Recognize how conditions in the wider society contribute to problems commonly found in American families (for example, domestic violence and divorce).
4.	Describe the family functioning in terms of the roles each family member is expected to perform.
5.	Identify the boundaries that exist in an American family.
6.	Construct a genogram.
7.	Recognize strengths and resources in a family.
8.	Identify "special situations" and developmental problems (e.g., the "blended" family) commonly experienced by American families.
9.	Identify effective practices in engaging members of a family.
10.	Identify ineffective practices in a beginning interaction with a family.
11.	Explain what is meant by "detriangulation," helping a family with enmeshment," and "helping a family with disengagement."
12.	Explain how reframing can be helpful to a family.
13.	Recognize bias and how it impacts work with families.

**General Education Area(s)****Area 1: Writing**

No

**Area 2: 2nd Writing or Communication/Speech**

No

**Area 3: Mathematics**

No

**Area 4: Natural Science**

No

**Area 5: Social and Behavioral Science**

No

**Area 6: Arts and Humanities**

No

**MTA General Education**

No

## **Review**

**Is conditional approval requested?**

No

**Is this course currently conditionally approved, and you are now submitting it for full approval?**

No

Key: 6837

## Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

### HSW 225 Family Social Work Effective Term: Fall 2020

#### Course Cover

**Division:** Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Human Services Worker

**Course Number:** 225

**Org Number:** 11210

**Full Course Title:** Family Social Work

**Transcript Title:** Family Social Work

**Is Consultation with other department(s) required:** No

**Publish in the Following:** College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page

**Reason for Submission:** Course Change

**Change Information:**

**Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.**

**Outcomes/Assessment**

**Rationale:** update outcomes as a result of the assessment.

**Proposed Start Semester:** Fall 2020

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the theory and practice of home-based social work with families. Students will learn how to describe American families as social systems, how to describe the structure of a family, and how to identify common patterns in family functioning. Common problems and special circumstances in family functioning will be addressed. Students will learn to identify effective ways to engage families. Basic social work interventions with families will be described.

#### Course Credit Hours

**Variable hours:** No

**Credits:** 3

**Lecture Hours: Instructor:** 45 **Student:** 45

**Lab: Instructor:** 0 **Student:** 0

**Clinical: Instructor:** 0 **Student:** 0

**Total Contact Hours: Instructor:** 45 **Student:** 45

**Repeatable for Credit:** NO

**Grading Methods:** Letter Grades

Audit

**Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?:** NO (same sections)

#### College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

#### College-Level Math

#### Requisites

**Prerequisite**

HSW 100 minimum grade "C"

or

**Prerequisite**

SOC 100 minimum grade "C"

**General Education****Request Course Transfer****Proposed For:**

Eastern Michigan University

University of Michigan

Other : EMU as general credit UofM as general credit Madonna Univ as general credit

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Explain how any American family can be explained in terms of systems theory: as a small group, with dynamically interacting parts, that interacts with and is affected by other groups and institutions in American society.

**Assessment 1**

Assessment Tool: Presentation

Assessment Date: Fall 2022

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: Random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section

How the assessment will be scored: Rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 100%

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

2. Describe the concepts of roles, relationships, patterns of interaction and boundaries in an American family.

**Assessment 1**

Assessment Tool: Presentation

Assessment Date: Fall 2022

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All students

How the assessment will be scored: Rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 100%

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

3. Recognize effective methods of engaging family members.

**Assessment 1**

Assessment Tool: Presentation

Assessment Date: Fall 2022

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: Random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section

How the assessment will be scored: rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 100%

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

**Course Objectives**

1. Identify the assumptions underlying systems theory.
2. Describe how social conditions (e.g., poverty, class inequalities) affect the functioning of the American family.

3. Recognize how conditions in the wider society contribute to problems commonly found in American families (for example, domestic violence and divorce).
4. Describe the family functioning in terms of the roles each family member is expected to perform.
5. Identify the boundaries that exist in an American family.
6. Construct a genogram.
7. Recognize strengths and resources in a family.
8. Identify "special situations" and developmental problems (e.g., the "blended" family) commonly experienced by American families.
9. Identify effective practices in engaging members of a family.
10. Identify ineffective practices in a beginning interaction with a family.
11. Explain what is meant by "detriangulation," helping a family with enmeshment," and "helping a family with disengagement."
12. Explain how reframing can be helpful to a family.

## **New Resources for Course**

### **Course Textbooks/Resources**

#### Textbooks

Collins, D., Jordan, C., Coleman, H.. *An Introduction to Family Social Work*, 3 ed. unknown, 0

#### Manuals

#### Periodicals

#### Software

### **Equipment/Facilities**

Level III classroom

<b><u>Reviewer</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
<b>Faculty Preparer:</b>		
<i>Will Teague</i>	<i>Faculty Preparer</i>	<i>Nov 20, 2019</i>
<b>Department Chair/Area Director:</b>		
<i>Starr Burke</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Nov 21, 2019</i>
<b>Dean:</b>		
<i>Scott Britten</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Nov 21, 2019</i>
<b>Curriculum Committee Chair:</b>		
<i>Lisa Veasey</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Feb 19, 2020</i>
<b>Assessment Committee Chair:</b>		
<i>Shawn Deron</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Feb 24, 2020</i>
<b>Vice President for Instruction:</b>		
<i>Kimberly Hurns</i>	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Feb 25, 2020</i>



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**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Human Services Worker

**Course Number:** 225

**Org Number:** 11210

**Full Course Title:** Family Social Work

**Transcript Title:** Family Social Work

**Is Consultation with other department(s) required:** No

**Publish in the Following:** College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page

**Reason for Submission:** Three Year Review / Assessment Report

**Change Information:**

**Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.**

**Course description**

**Outcomes/Assessment**

**Rationale:** updating master in preparation for assessment

**Proposed Start Semester:** Fall 2019

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the theory and practice of home base social work with families. Students will learn how to describe American families as social systems, how to describe the structure of a family, and how to identify common patterns in family functioning. Common problems and special circumstances in family functioning will be addressed. Students will learn to identify effective ways to engage families. Basic social work interventions with families will be described.

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**Variable hours:** No

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Eastern Michigan University

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**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Explain how an American family can be explained in terms of systems theory: as a small group, with dynamically interacting parts, that interacts with and is affected by other groups and institutions in American society.

**Assessment 1**

Assessment Tool: Presentation

Assessment Date: Fall 2019

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: Random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section

How the assessment will be scored: Rubrics developed by HSW faculty

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 100%

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

2. Describe the concepts of roles, relationships, patterns of interaction and boundaries in an American family.

**Assessment 1**

Assessment Tool: Presentation

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Course section(s)/other population: All sections

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How the assessment will be scored: Rubrics developed by HSW faculty

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 100% on the presentation

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

3. Recognize effective methods of engaging family members.

**Assessment 1**

Assessment Tool: Test questions

Assessment Date: Fall 2019

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: Random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section

How the assessment will be scored: Answer key

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score three points or higher

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

#### 4. Identify three basic social work interventions with families.

##### **Assessment 1**

Assessment Tool: Test questions

Assessment Date: Fall 2019

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: Random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section

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##### **Course Objectives**

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<b>Dean:</b>		
<i>Kristin Good</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Dec 14, 2018</i>
<b>Curriculum Committee Chair:</b>		
<i>Lisa Veasey</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Jan 14, 2019</i>

**Assessment Committee Chair:***Shawn Deron**Recommend Approval**Jan 14, 2019***Vice President for Instruction:***Kimberly Hurns**Approve**Jan 23, 2019*