LEHMANN COLLEGE  
OF THE  
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  

CURRICULUM CHANGE  

Hegis # 2104.00  
Program Code 82477  

1. **Type of Change:** New Interdisciplinary Minor  

2. **Program Description:** 12-Credit Interdisciplinary Minor in Aging  

Coordinator: Norma Phillips (Professor and Chair, Social Work)  
Steering Committee: Luisa Borrell (Associate Professor, Health Sciences), Stephen Cavallo (Associate Professor and Chair, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences), Juan DeLaCruz (Assistant Professor, Economics & Business), Sharon Freedberg (Associate Professor, Social Work), Alan Kluger (Professor and Chair, Psychology), Patricia Kolb (Associate Professor, Social Work)  

The Interdisciplinary Minor in Aging will engage students from all Departments across different Schools within the College in a common goal of scholarship in the area of aging; it will also prepare students interested in working professionally in the field of aging. A range of relevant courses representing the College’s broad curricular offerings will be available to students to provide an understanding of aging from various perspectives. The Minor will be of interest to students who are majoring in several departments in the Natural and Social Sciences, including but not limited to Anthropology, Biology, Economics, Health Sciences, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology, as well as to students majoring in such Arts and Sciences disciplines as Art, History, Literature, Music, and Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences.  

**Degree Requirements**  
Students will satisfy the College requirement of a minor field by taking four courses (12 credits) at the 200- and 300-level. At least six credits must be taken in 300-level courses or a higher-level course approved by the Program.  

Students will select in consultation with their advisor from the following menu of relevant 3-credit courses offered in various departments in the Schools of Natural and Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities:  

200-level courses:  
PSY 219 (Psychology of Adulthood and Aging)
SOC 243 (The Aged in Modern Society)  
SWK 241 (Social Work Practice with Older Adults)  
Any relevant 200-level course approved by the Program

300-level courses or a higher-level course approved by the Program:  
ECO 313 (Economics of Aging)  
HEA 310 (Health and Aging)  
HEA 360 (Special Topics in Health)  
SOC 343 (Sociological Theories of Aging)  
SPV 300 (Neurolinguistics of Aging)  
SWK 341 (Social Welfare Policies in an Aging Society)  
Any relevant 300-level or higher course approved by the Program.

3. **Rationale:** Aging is an area of interest that crosses academic and professional disciplines. Demographic studies predict large increases in the number of older adults in the U.S. and globally; consequently aging has been identified as a growth area requiring an increased workforce. This development impacts scholarship in the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities.

4. **Date of Steering Committee Approval:** March 26, 2012  
**Date of Department of Social Work Approval:** March 7, 2012
LEHMAN COLLEGE
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. **Type of change**: New Course

2. **Course Description**: SWK 242: Social Work Practice with Older Adults. 3 hours, 3 credits. Approaches to providing social work services for older adults in varied settings, and to practicing such approaches with their families. Topics include biological, psychological, social, ethical and spiritual functioning in later adulthood.

3. **Rationale**: Demographic studies predict large increases in the number of older adults in the U.S. and an increasing need for social workers who are educated to provide services to older adults. Competence in service provision to older adults is mandated in the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, and the Council on Social Work Education requires that social work students be educated about social work practice with older adults.

4. **Learning Objectives**:
   - Develop an understanding of the importance of differences in the shaping life experiences of older adults
   - Recognize the inherent strengths and resilience of older adults
   - Demonstrate knowledge, skills, and values essential for generalist social-work practice with older adults
   - Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the process of assessment, intervention, and evaluation of older adults
   - Develop self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases such as agism in social work with older people

9. **Date of Department of Social Work Approval**: March 7, 2012
LEHMAN COLLEGE  
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CURRICULUM CHANGE  

1. **Type of change:** New Course  

2. **Course Description:** SWK 342: Social Welfare Policies in an Aging Society. 3 hours, 3 credits. A strengths-based and preventive perspective on policies and programs affecting older adults. Analysis of policy responses to ageism, elder abuse, and changing demographic and health trends. Public policies and programs, including components of the Social Security Act. Particular attention to vulnerable older adult populations.  

3. **Rationale:** The growing number of older adults in the U.S. has challenged the existing policies that determine their life-possibilities. This course will heighten awareness of the importance of social welfare policies for individuals, families, communities, and also the social welfare agencies and organizations that provide services for them.  

4. **Learning Objectives:**  
   - Analyze how societal structures and values present opportunities to maximize potential; to oppress, marginalize, or alienate; and to create or enhance privilege and power.  
   - Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of differences in older adults’ shaping life-experiences.  
   - Identify forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination, involving older adults, as well as countervailing tools and structures of empowerment.  
   - Determine the presence of issues involving human rights and social or economic justice in the rights and care of older adults.  
   - With colleagues and clients, analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies and practices that advance social and economic justice as well as social well-being for older adults.  
   - To provide relevant services, demonstrate knowledge of current state of locales, populations, scientific/technological developments, and societal trends.  

9. **Date of Department of Social Work Approval:** March 7, 2012
LEHM AN COLLEGE
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. Type of change: New Course

2. Course Description: SWK 251: Introduction to Social Work Practice with Substance Abusing Clients. 3 hours, 3 credits. A bio-psycho-social-spiritual focus on substance-abusing clients in an urban environment, including information regarding basic assessment of substance abuse and dependence; properties of the different substances; modalities of substance abuse treatment; and individual, group, and family interventions. Issues of working with tobacco using clients are covered in this course.

3. Rationale:

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) has determined that students who complete the Lehman College Social Work major and the two substance abuse electives (SWK 251 and 351) will have met all educational requirements for the New York State Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). This is an excellent opportunity for students interested in working in the area of alcohol and substance abuse services.

4. Learning Objectives:

- Practice personal reflection and demonstrate positive change that assures continual professional development.

- Recognize and attend to professional roles and boundaries.

- Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.

- Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statements of Principles.

- Be sufficiently self-aware to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
-Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the process of assessment, intervention, and evaluation.

-Substantively and affectively prepare for practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

-Use empathy and other interpersonal skills.

-Collect, organize, and interpret client data.

-Select appropriate intervention strategies.

-Help clients resolve problems.

-Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions.

5. **Date of Approval by Department:** April 18, 2012
LEHMANN COLLEGE
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. Type of change: New Course

2. Course Description: SWK 351: Theories and Social Work Practice Interventions with Substance Abusing Clients, 3 hours, 3 credits. Theoretical models of addiction and assessment tools used in social work practice with substance abusing clients. Included are the continuum of addiction services for adults and for youth; prevention programs; and basic concepts of social, political, and cultural systems and their impact on substance use.

3. Rationale:

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) has determined that students who complete the Lehman College Social Work major and the two substance abuse electives (SWK 251 and 351) will have met all educational requirements for the New York State Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). This is an excellent opportunity for students interested in working in the area of alcohol and substance abuse services.

4. Learning Objectives:

- Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.

- Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statements of Principles.

- Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.

- Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.

- Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.

- Use research evidence to inform practice.
-Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the process of assessment, intervention, and evaluation.

-Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment, with emphasis on the urban context.

-Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing communities, locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.

-Substantively and affectively prepare for practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

-Collect, organize, and interpret client data.

-Select appropriate intervention strategies.

-Initiate actions to achieve client and organizational goals.

-Implement prevention strategies and enhance client capacities.

-Help clients resolve problems.

5. Date of Approval by Department: April 18, 2012