**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK**

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY, YUMA BRANCH CAMPUS**

**BASW 453 U.S. MEXICO BORDER ISSUES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS**

1. **Catalog Description:** An examination of those social problems and issues affecting borderland populations and social workers along the U.S. Mexico border.
2. **Prerequisites:** None
3. **Course Credits:** 3 Semester Credits
4. **Course Description:** This course will examine a number of issues affecting borderland populations and social workers on the U.S. Mexico border. Students will learn the practice skills to assess the context of these issues across micro, mezzo, and macro client systems. This course will enable the student to respond to contexts that shape practice, policy, ethics, diversity, and human rights and social and economic justice.
5. **Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the semester the student will be able to:
6. Recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
7. Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
8. Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences
9. View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.
10. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination
11. Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice
12. Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.
13. **Course Materials:** Reading packets, texts, a camera, and/or access to the Internet may also be required.
14. **Evaluation Tools:** Student learning outcomes will be evaluated by the following methods:
15. **Photo Essay:** Students will select a problem or relevant issue affecting social workers and their client system along the U.S. Mexico border. Examples of issues include: illegal immigration, colonias, maquiladoras, pollution, bi-national families, healthcare, etc. Students will submit a photo essay of this problem and a brief paper which addresses: how the problem selected is a symptom of oppression, marginalization, alienation, or creating or enhancing privilege and power along the U.S. Mexico border, how the project influenced their personal biases and values in working with the borderland population, and the importance of difference in shaping their life ex.
16. **Final Paper:** Students will submit a final paper which addresses how the student will affect planned change in addressing this problem/issue: (1) how did the student engage themselves and the community in their photo essay stage/data collection phase of the project, (2) what is their assessment of the problem/issue based upon their observations and research, (3) what is their intervention plan for addressing the problem/issue, and (4) how will the change be evaluated?
17. **Course Content**
18. International Social Work: What is it? How does it relate to the border?
19. The U.S. Mexico border defined.
20. The Historical Context
21. The Institutional Context
22. The Political Context
23. The Legal Context
24. The Economic Context
25. The Psychological Context
26. The Cultural Context
27. The Social Context
28. Timing and Sequencing of Events for Creating Planned Change