



SUE FAIRBANKS
PSYCHOANALYTIC ACADEMY
STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Post-Graduate Certificate Course Program
in
Psychoanalytic Social Work

Year Two
Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Overview

Course Developed by Beth Kita, PhD
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The University of Texas at Austin
**Texas Institute for
Child & Family Wellbeing**
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

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Certificate Program in Psychoanalytic Social Work Practice

In this yearlong, postgraduate program, clinicians, social workers and community practitioners will learn to deepen their work by using core psychoanalytic ideas to think about themselves, their clients, and the settings in which they practice. This unique program centers on the practice of social work – its values related to social justice and racial equity, commitment to working in agency/community-based settings, and person-in-environment perspective - and emphasizes the ways in which psychoanalytic theory and concepts can help social workers to reflect more critically and meaningfully on their work. Upon completing the first year of didactic coursework and case conferences, students will receive a certificate in psychoanalytic social work practice.

Curriculum Overview

The curriculum is divided into five modules, each with five class meetings, and are taught by one or two instructors. Each module emphasizes salient aspects of psychoanalytic theories that are helpful to social work practice. The five modules are:

Classes	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25
Module	Module I: Critical social work and psychoanalysis – Reckoning with our roots	Module II: The inner worlds of individuals and groups	Module III: Agency and organizational life	Module IV: The sociopolitical realm	Module V: Surviving and thriving in social work
Emphasis	In this module, students will learn about the historical roots of both social work and psychoanalysis, and how both have been used to advance radical ideas related to humanity and justice as well as to provide the tools of resistance to such ideas.	This module will focus on exploring psychoanalytic ideas related to the internal lives of individuals and groups. Holding in mind the historical frameworks of psychoanalysis and social work, students will be introduced to various perspectives from attachment, developmental, and relational theoretical perspectives.	This module will enable students to apply psychoanalytic ideas to organizational life, agency practice, and community settings. Students will learn about the ways in which systems can often reenact they very problems that they purport to resolve, and how social workers can better navigate them.	In this module, the focus will be thinking together about the sociopolitical conditions in the US, and exploring the unique perspective that psychoanalytic theories offer related to the perniciousness of racism, whiteness, economic inequality, and politics.	This module will enable students to explore the core psychoanalytic concepts of transference and countertransference, and grapple with how to “make use” of such dynamics to advance clinical practice, as well as the risks for burnout, compassion fatigue, secondary traumatic stress and vicarious trauma that can result from such inherently relational work.
Key Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Radical roots” of psychoanalysis and social work • Compromises/losses of aligning with medical model/assimilationism • Reckoning with complicity with oppressive systems, and efforts to overturn them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the unconscious • Anxiety and defense • Core concepts from object relations, attachment theory, trauma theory, relational theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency and organizational life • Clinical work within systems – holding environments, impingements, etc. • Traumatic reenactment • Social system anxieties and defenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and normative unconscious • Neoliberalism and racial capitalism • Whiteness from psychoanalytic perspective • Psychoanalysis and social work and reparations, apologies, reckoning • Power and privilege 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transference • Countertransference • Burnout, compassion fatigue • Secondary traumatic stress • Vicarious trauma • Moral injury • Posttraumatic growth • Praxis/radical change

Course Structure

This Fall 2023 program will consist of 25 class meetings (50 hours of learning) over the course of one academic year, beginning in September 2023 and ending in April 2024. The cohort is limited to 12 students to ensure ample time for class discussion, case examples, and group reflection. CEUs will be provided upon completion of each module.

Faculty

The Sue Fairbanks Psychoanalytic Academy works with a range of talented, skilled, and innovative faculty from around the country whose experience has been related to applied psychoanalysis, clinical social work, and using theory to think about broader sociopolitical issues such as those involving race, gender, power, etc. The Certificate Program relies heavily on faculty who are aligned with and enthusiastic about the practice of clinical social work from a psychodynamic perspective, and who are committed to helping clinicians to make use of theoretical concepts to advance their practices on behalf of their clients and patients. See our website for [current and past faculty profiles](#).

Student Profile

We welcome all applicants and encourages anyone who 1) is practicing as a clinician or social worker/case manager in a social work or related field and 2) has an MSW, BSW or related graduate degree to apply. This program is designed for clinicians, clinical case managers, and those working in a range of settings – private practice, community mental health, etc. We believe that as social workers are increasingly called upon to do more with less, it is crucial that we offer opportunities for social workers to think both meaningfully and critically about our work, and that psychoanalytic ideas can help us in all aspects of our work.

Continuing Education Credits

Each course module qualifies for 10 Continuing Education Credits (CEU) hours in Social Work, a total of 50 CEU hours for the entire course. A certificate will be available for each module, a total of 5 CEU certificates. Students must be current on course tuition payments, successfully complete each module and submit the respective post-module evaluation survey to receive each CEU certificate.

The Office of Professional Development at The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work provides continuing education in accordance with the criteria and standards of the Texas Board of Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Psychologists under Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 34. § 781.509. Complaints about this program may be made to TSBSWE, 1801 Congress Ave., Ste. 7. 300 Austin, TX 78701, 512-305-7700, 800-821-3205, bhec.texas.gov/texas-state-board-of-social-worker-examiners/.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2023-2024 certificate course will be \$2,250. Upon acceptance into the program, a non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to secure a spot. The deposit is applied to the total cost of tuition.

Discount for Non-Profit/Public Service Employees

Up to 4 students per course who work full-time for a community/non-profit or public service agency may qualify for a 30% discounted tuition rate of \$1,575. Qualifying applicants must verify employment and will be reviewed for approval by order of application date. Examples of qualifying employment include but are not limited to Child Protective Services, community mental health centers, homeless or veterans' agencies, etc.

Payments

Tuition may be paid in one or two installments. First or full tuition payments are due two weeks prior to the first class, on August 23, 2023. Second installment payments are due on January 15, 2024. Installment payments must be current in order for students proceed through the course modules as scheduled.

Refunds

The \$100 deposit is non-refundable. Tuition is fully refundable (less the deposit) until the first day of class, September 6, 2023. Tuition is 100% non-refundable after the course begins.

Admissions Process

Timeline

For the Fall 2023 cohort, applications will be invited, reviewed and accepted according to the following timeline:

April – May 2023	Program is Advertised
May – July 2023	Applications are Accepted
July – August 2023	Applications are Reviewed, Applicants are Notified
August 2023	Program Details are Finalized
September 2023	Certificate Program Begins

Application Criteria

1. Current practice in social work or social work-related field (may include clinical work and/or casework)
2. Graduation from a Masters or Doctoral program in a related field
3. Ability to be in a diverse working group

Application Selection

We are looking for diverse cohort and will selecting applicants from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and environments. We hope this variety will enrich the learning experience and create an environment in which classmates can learn from one another.

Proposed Class Dates

Classes will take place online on Wednesdays from 6-8pm CST.

	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
Class 1	9/6/23	10/18/23	11/29/23	1/24/24	2/28/24
Class 2	9/13/23	10/25/23	12/6/23	1/31/24	3/6/24
Class 3	9/20/23	11/1/23	1/3/24	2/7/24	3/27/24
Class 4	9/27/23	11/8/23	1/10/24	2/14/24	4/3/24
Class 5	10/4/23	11/15/23	1/17/24	2/21/24	4/17/24

Contact Us

- For general and application inquiries, please contact Program Coordinator Lauren Bledsoe, LMSW at lauren.bledsoe@austin.utexas.edu or SFPA@utexas.edu.
- For faculty and research inquiries, please contact Director Tina Adkins, PhD at tina.adkins@austin.utexas.edu.
- Visit the [SFPA Website](#)

Thank you for your interest! We look forward to hearing from you.