



Announcing School of Social Work Summer Course on Autism Spectrum Disorder

Second Summer Session

Wednesdays, June 28-July 26, 2023 – 1 PM– 4 PM
(on-line course)

SOWO 709 - Autism Spectrum Disorder: Social Cognitive Interventions – 1.5 credits
(proposed new title: Autism and Neurodiversity-Affirming Practice)

This course provides an overview of the core vulnerabilities faced by autistic and neurodivergent individuals. Selected neurodiversity-affirming evidence-based interventions will be reviewed with ASD across contexts. Disability and social justice issues faced by this population will be discussed throughout the course.

Instructor: Sherry C. Mergner, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Associate Professor

Contact at: smergner@email.unc.edu for more information on this course

Topics covered include:

- History/Current Trends in ASD/Neurodiversity
- DSM-5 Criteria of ASD
- Core Vulnerabilities of ASD
- Neurodiversity-Affirming Interventions
- Specific Issues: Families; Co-Occurring Disorders; Trauma; Intersectionality with Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Age, etc.
- Ethical Issues; Ableism, Discrimination, Microaggressions; Disability Justice

This graduate course is an Interprofessional course and is open to undergraduate and graduate students from other disciplines as well as anyone interested in working with this population.



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