

# FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

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## Graduate Programs—NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT NAME: SOCIAL WORK      COLLEGE OF: ARCHITECTURE, URBAN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RECOMMENDED COURSE IDENTIFICATION:  
 PREFIX SOW \_\_\_\_\_ COURSE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ LAB CODE (L or C) Lecture  
 (TO OBTAIN A COURSE NUMBER, GO TO [www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/UUPCinfo/](http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/UUPCinfo/))  
 COMPLETE COURSE TITLE: ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

**EFFECTIVE DATE**  
 (first term course will be offered):  
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CREDITS: 1      TEXTBOOK INFORMATION: FINE, A. (2000). HANDBOOK ON ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE. SAN DIEGO, CA: ACADEMIC PRESS

GRADING (SELECT ONLY ONE GRADING OPTION): REGULAR X      PASS/FAIL \_\_\_\_\_      SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE DESCRIPTION, NO MORE THAN 3 LINES:  
 THIS GRADUATE SEMINAR WILL EXPLORE HUMAN-ANIMAL BONDING. HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AND POTENTIAL FOR INTERVENTION WILL BE EXPLORED WITHIN THERAPEUTIC SETTINGS ACROSS DIVERSE POPULATIONS WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND GROUPS.

PREREQUISITES: COMPLETION OF THE MSW FOUNDATION CURRICULUM      COREQUISITES: NONE      OTHER REGISTRATION CONTROLS (MAJOR, COLLEGE, LEVEL): MSW GRADUATE STUDENTS

*PREREQUISITES, COREQUISITES & REGISTRATION CONTROLS SHOWN ABOVE WILL BE ENFORCED FOR ALL COURSE SECTIONS*

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED TO TEACH THIS COURSE:  
 PH.D OR MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Other departments, colleges that might be affected by the new course must be consulted. List entities that have been consulted and attach written comments from each. None

Dr. Michele Hawkins, [mhawkins@fau.edu](mailto:mhawkins@fau.edu) 561-297-3234  
 Faculty Contact, Email, Complete Phone Number

**SIGNATURES**      **SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

<p><i>Approved by:</i></p> <p>Department Chair: <u>Michele Hawkins</u></p> <p>College Curriculum Chair: <u>Clara A. Turner</u></p> <p>College Dean: <u>Joseph A. Long</u></p> <p>UGPC Chair: _____</p> <p>Dean of the Graduate College: _____</p>	<p><i>Date:</i></p> <p><u>7/8/08</u></p> <p><u>7/8/08</u></p> <p><u>7/8/08</u></p>	<p>Syllabus—must include all details as shown in the UGPC Guidelines.</p> <p>Written Consent—required from all departments affected.</p> <p>Go to:  <a href="http://www.fau.edu/graduate/gpc/index.php">www.fau.edu/graduate/gpc/index.php</a>                  to download this form and guidelines to fill out the form.</p>
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**Florida Atlantic University**  
**School of Social Work**  
**SOW 6932: Animal Assisted Therapy**

Semester: Spring, 2008	Classroom: SO 112
Instructor: Dr. Michele Hawkins	On-Line and All Day: February 22 and March 21
Phone: 561 297 3234 Email: mhawkins@fau.edu	Office Hours: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a second year, one-credit elective. The human-animal bond and potential for intervention will be explored within therapeutic settings across diverse populations with individuals, families and groups.

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

1. To describe and discuss the theoretical approaches to Animal-Assisted Social Work.
2. To define the concepts of Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) and Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA).
3. To endorse a commitment to the ethics and values of the social work profession as they apply to working with the human-animal bond.
4. To demonstrate understanding and skills needed to safely introduce animals into therapeutic settings.
5. To demonstrate the ability to problem solve issues arising in clinical and agency applications of AASW.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of Animal-Assisted approaches to social work practice.
7. Apply Animal-Assisted Therapy to specific populations and individual areas of interest.
8. Conduct accurate ethical Animal-Assisted Therapeutic Intervention within the context of social work practice.

## **TEACHING METHODOLOGIES**

This class will be conducted on-line through blackboard assignments as well as through field trips. The field trips will involve experiential education directly involving students with animals. Students are expected to read assignments and come to class prepared to discuss readings and experiences during class exercises and lunch periods.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

### **Readings**

Recommended: Fine, A. (Ed.) (2000) Handbook on animal-assisted therapy: Theoretical foundations and guidelines for practice. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

### **Expectations**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time.  
Students are expected to stay for the entire class.  
Students are expected to take breaks within the time frame allowed.  
Cell phones and computers are to be turned off during class.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriately scholarly fashion. These expectations include participating meaningfully in class discussion.

### **Grading**

Class participation	50%
Paper	20%
Reaction Paper (2)	30%
Fun	Priceless

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

93 – 100% = A	73 – 76% = C
90 – 92% = A-	70 – 72% = C-
87 – 89% = B+	67 – 69% = D+
83 – 86% = B	63 – 66% = D
80 – 82% = B-	60 – 62% = D-
77 – 79% = C+	0 – 59% = F

### **Students with Special Needs**

It is the policy of the School of Social Work to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Students with Disabilities.

## Incomplete Policy

Incompletes are seldom given except in extreme circumstances. As this is a one credit course, students are expected to attend all classes. The following criteria met:

1. The student must be performing a least "C" level work on all assignments due to date at the time that the "Incomplete" is requested.
2. Circumstances must be beyond the student's control. Documentation of circumstances must be provided.
3. The student and faculty must complete an "Incomplete Contract".
4. It will be the student's responsibility to complete the agreed upon assignments in a timely manner in accordance with the contract stipulations

E. Academic irregularities, academic policies and regulations:

The following shall constitute academic irregularities:

1. The use of materials and devices such as notes, books, and calculators while taking an examination, unless specifically authorized by the instructor or assistance from or to other persons while taking an examination unless specifically authorized by the instructor--acts defined as cheating.
2. The presentation of works or ideas from any other source as ones own--an act defined as plagiarism.
3. Unauthorized obtaining, distributing or receiving material which is purported to be an examination, or part of an examination, without the consent of the instructor.
4. Taking of an examination for another person or having another person take an examination.
5. Other activities that interfere with the academic mission within the classroom.
6. Submission of the same or essentially the same paper, project, assignment or finished project to an instructor which has been submitted to another instructor unless specifically authorized by both instructors.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Class/Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
<p><u>February 14</u></p> <p>Valentine's Day!!!</p>	<p><i>Overview Animals and Unconditional Love</i></p> <p>Animal Assisted Therapy in Historical Perspective</p> <p>Animal Assisted Therapy in Mental Health</p> <p>Animals as Social Support</p> <p>Watch Video</p>	<p>Blackboard Under documents Readings #1,2, 3</p>	<p>The Animal That Made a Difference in My Life. Directions on blackboard under assignment one. Due via e-mail at mhawkins@fau.edu by February 21. Also, bring hard copy to class.</p>
<p><u>February 22</u></p>	<p>Equine Therapy Afternoon Field Visit Tomorrow's Rainbow Speaker: Abby Mosher, Founder, Director</p> <p>Morning Field Visit Healing Hooves Speaker: Terri Jennings, PhD</p> <p><u>Meet in SO 112 at 8:30.</u> Please be on time. We will be car-pooling from the parking lot next to the Nursing Building.</p>	<p>Blackboard under documents Readings 4, 5, 6</p>	<p>Reaction Paper</p> <p>Three Page Reaction Paper to Field Visits Equine Centers</p> <p>Email to me prior to March 20.</p>

	<p><u>Bring your lunch.</u> This is an experiential class so dress casually. I plan to be back by 5 pm.</p>		
<p><u>March 21</u></p>	<p>Dolphin Assisted Therapy</p> <p>Field Visit Island Dolphin Care Key Largo, Florida Speaker: Deena Hoagland, LCSW, CHT, Executive Director, Therapist</p> <p>Meet in parking lot at 7:00 next to Nursing. I have rented vans to take us to Key Largo to visit the Dolphin Care Center. Bring your lunch. I plan to be back by 5 but with traffic I cannot absolutely guarantee.</p>	<p>Blackboard under Documents Readings 7, 8, 9</p>	<p>Reaction Paper to Field Visit to Dolphin Center March 25 via E-mail.</p>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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#### AAT in Mental Health & Psychotherapy

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#### AAT with Children and Adolescents

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#### AAT in Gerontology & Nursing Homes

- Banks, M. R., Banks, W. A. (2002). The effects of animal-assisted therapy on loneliness in an elderly population in long-term care facilities. *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, 57A(7), M428-M432.
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#### AAT with Disabilities

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#### AAT in Medical Settings

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#### AAT in Correctional Facilities

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