In order to give you a little more information as you choose your courses for the fall, we have asked all of the faculty who teach our multi-section foundation classes to provide you with a brief description of their interests and approach to the class. A compilation of their responses is below. Our hope is that this information will help you find a good fit between your interests and learning style and those of your instructors.

**SOWO 500**

**Dr. Fraga Rizo**
My interests center on intimate partner violence, including the mental health consequences of survivors, the impact on children and parenting, and the coping strategies survivors use to manage the violence and stress in their lives. I am particularly interested in the experiences of Latina survivors of intimate partner violence, and developing and evaluating interventions for this particularly vulnerable group of survivors. My social work practice background is in providing services to survivors of intimate partner violence and their children. I also have experience conducting motivational interviewing with adolescents at risk for developing substance abuse problems. My teaching is based on the premise that learning is an interactive and collaborative process. In my teaching, I use a variety of teaching techniques (e.g., lecture, collaborative problem solving, current events, guest speakers, experiential activities) to engage different types of learners, allow for peer-to-peer learning, and promote active participation. In SOWO 500, we will collectively explore child and adolescent development in the social environment.

**Dr. Melissa Lippold**
My research and practice work focuses on the role that parent-child relationships play in the development and prevention of child behavior problems, such as delinquency and substance use, and the promotion of child health. I am also interested in the design of family-based interventions and how interventions are implemented in communities and policy systems. I have direct practice experience working with families in the treatment foster care system as well as facilitating a family-based prevention program. I strive to be an instructor that is both enthusiastic and deeply knowledgeable about the material they are covering in their class. I believe students understand and retain material best when they see it as relevant to their lives and apply it to real-life situations. Therefore, my teaching style combines lectures with reflection activities, discussion, case studies, and group work. Activities are aimed to help students integrate course material and apply course concepts to their personal and professional lives.

**Dr. Kathleen Rounds**
I am very interested in risk and protective factors associated with the health and mental health of women, children and adolescents and how we use our understanding of these factors to design and evaluate social work interventions. My social work practice experience has been both at the direct and macro practice levels primarily in public health and in medical care. As a teacher I strive to foster an environment in which we can learn from one another and discuss issues from varying viewpoints. Throughout the semester I encourage students to be aware of and to examine the lens that they use to describe human development and behavior. In a typical class session I use “lecture/discussion,” small group exercises, analysis of case studies, and multimedia to cover material. For several class sessions we will be joining the other sections of SOWO 500 in the auditorium to hear from guest speakers.
Prof. Ronni Zuckerman
My area of interest is child mental health and families. As a field education faculty member for the past 10 years, I am very familiar with the context and types of interventions that social workers engage in with these populations. My direct practice background is in adolescent pregnancy which touches families in a myriad of ways. My teaching style is very interactive and draws upon student experiences to enhance the course content. We have much to learn from each other as we engage in learning about families, children and adolescents.

SOWO 530

Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey
My research interests focus on social justice, policy and policy practice. I am particularly interested in how policies affect people locally and on a daily basis. I have served on local county social services boards and have chaired the board in Durham County. This has allowed me to see the interplay between policies, local politics, social service delivery, and social work. I also study the lives of elderly rural women and the ways that public policies affect their lives and their coping. This course will examine public policies from a social justice perspective. The course structure encourages discussion and analyses of policies with an examination of societal values, social justice, and systemic interplay.

Dr. Paul Lanier
My research and practice has focused on interventions that promote child well-being and strengthen families, particularly among vulnerable populations. I am interested in improving the quality and availability of evidence-based services provided across child welfare, health, and mental health systems. My goal for this course is to provide an opportunity to build an understanding of current policies that impact the provision of social services and also to develop practical policy analysis skills social workers need to serve clients and realize social change. I also hope to bridge the historical roots of social work in advocating for policy change with the growing emphasis on evidence-based policy.

Prof. Laurie Selz-Campbell
I have been involved with both clinical and community practice focused on adults with severe mental illness. My hope with SOWO 530 is that we will work together (through discussion, group work, and a variety of activities) to understand how social welfare policies are direct expressions of what a society believes and values about people who are vulnerable – and further, to understand how such policies shape our clients’ experiences as they engage with social welfare systems in times of need.

Dr. Lisa Zerden
My areas of interest have focused on policy, particularly around HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, harm reduction, substance abuse, and health equity. For SoWo530, I draw upon historical themes and examples of how our welfare state has developed and changed over time but also connect material to current policies and systems influencing the lives of clients. In general, my teaching style is mixed and although the content is serious, I try to make each class engaging. Because SoWo530 is a very full class that covers the development of the U.S. welfare state from a historical and current perspective, as well as the roots of the social work profession and policy analysis frameworks, the course tends to be lecture heavy. However, each class will also include other methods such as: small group work, debate, multi-media (when appropriate), with an emphasis
on meaningful student participation. Students have a responsibility and opportunity to engage in class discussions and also in writing reflections for those who are less vocal in class. I organize each class by setting an agenda of what will be covered during that session, usually accompanied by an outline or slides so that students can follow along with the lecture. My biggest goal for SoWo530 is for students to understand why and how policy impacts all areas of social work practice.

**SOWO 540**

Dr. Kim Strom-Gottfried  
My direct practice background is in mental health (particularly emergency mental health such as crisis and suicide work). I also have expertise in group work and volunteer as a co-leader of bereavement groups for people who have lost loved ones to suicide and homicide. My research is in ethics and the variety of dilemmas that may occur when we try to apply professional standards to novel situations such as home visits, rural communities, social networking, etc. I take a very applied approach to this practice class, using role plays, cases, videos, exercises and discussions to build on the reading students have done. The assignments are generally the same for all sections, though mine include 2-4 short multiple-choice quizzes on the readings to help prepare students for the social work licensure exam.

Prof. Marty Weems  
My area of interest is direct and clinical practice regarding: substance use disorders in adults, mental illness in adults, co-occurring disorders, crisis intervention. I am also particularly interested in evidence-based practices and have expertise with CBT and Motivational Interviewing. I have an engaged teaching style and encourage a cooperative academic environment that allows students to discuss and explore ideas. I have an informal and engaging teaching style; and I try to provide a lot of diversity in teaching methods. Thus I often use lectures, multimedia, interactive exercises, small group work, and my experiences outside of the classroom as a catalyst for learning. This course provides the students’ first exposure to the fundamentals of direct practice social work. Each class tends to focus on one or two key concepts. These include, but are not limited to: social work values, Code of Ethics, communication skills, building empathy, assessment, group work...etc. Students are expected to use their field experiences as a tool to apply their learning.

**SOWO 570**

Prof. Mat Despard  
My practice and research interests are nonprofit management and leadership and economic empowerment of lower income people and communities. I use a team-based learning approach, wherein students come prepared having done the readings, reviewed the PowerPoint, and answered discussion questions. Students work in small teams to compare their answers and to complete various problem-solving exercises using case examples. I also use role plays, simulations and video clips. I use lecture sparingly to explain key concepts and to offer practice-based illustrations and when doing so, actively engage students by asking questions. I want students to a) learn practical, marketable skills for helping human service organizations' improve their efforts to achieve desired outcomes for the people they serve; b) understand how to tackle community problems; and c) understand the people skills needed to be successful at a) & b).

Dr. Lisa Zerden
I have always focused on macro practice social work, particularly related to policy and the impact of policies on vulnerable communities. My areas of interest include HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, harm reduction, substance abuse, and health equity. My teaching style uses a combination of lecture, discussion, multi-media and other experiential format to engage the class and meet all learning styles. In SOWO 570, I will focus on the reality that skills and knowledge about both direct and macro practice are essential for any social work practice. Community practice is one of the foundations of social work as a profession; although the general public may not know what constitutes community practice, they utilize its services all the time. Discussion/application to real world situations, and writing about experience are part of the course. In this class, I will use lecture to introduce and explain key concepts and to offer practice-based illustrations but also rely on small group break-outs, case discussions and video clips when appropriate. I will encourage students to think critically about content and to participate meaningfully in our class discussions. Course themes include: understanding community problems from multiple perspectives, always focusing on outcomes – quality of life improvements for people, and will utilize a strengths based perspective to think about empowerment and community change.