Courses in English
Course Description

Department	11 Applied Social Sciences
Course title	**Concepts of Critical Social Work with Children and Family**
Course number	767
Hours per week (SWS)	4
Number of ECTS credits	5
Course objective	How Can Critical Reflection Improve Social Work Practice with Children and Families? We will be occupied with the following questions: What is Critical Social Work?What is a critically reflective practitioner? What is the societal context of Neoliberalism? What means “Doing critical social work” in this context? How is theory and practice connected? You will gain an overview of Critical Theory as a framework for Child Welfare Decision-Making, and explore some possibilities for your own future social work practice in form of your own learning journal, in which you work as well on: • analyzing a specific case or situation, • critically reflecting on a broader (macro) issue, and • comparing both in discussion with students from the U.S. (this is the COIL-lecture part with 2 to 3 synchronous lectures with U.S. students for exchange) The goal is to link these three levels and bring them into an international academic dialogue.
Prerequisites	Practical Experiences in Social Work or related fields that can be reflected (Passed Internships etc.)
Recommended reading	**Journal Articles** *Adams, R.* (2009). Being a critical practitioner. In R. Adams, L. Dominelli, & M. Payne (Eds.), Critical practice in social work (2nd ed., pp.233-248). Palgrave Macmillan. *Brockmann, O., & Garrett, P. M.* (2022). 'People are responsible for their own individual actions': Dominant ideologies within the neoliberal institutionalised social work order. European Journal of Social Work, 25(5), 880–893. *Campbell, C., & Baikie, G.* (2012). Beginning at the beginning: An exploration of critical social work. Critical Social Work, 13(1), 67-81. *Charfe, L.* (2025). Who's got the power?: A social pedagogical exploration of power, the important element within relationship-based practice. Social Work Education. Advance online publication. *Cook, J., & Schneider, L.* (2024). The life of children in families affiliated with terrorism: An ecological systems theory approach. Critical Studies on Terrorism, 17(2), 275–303. *Devaney, C., Mac Donald, M., & Holzer, J.* (2024). A social justice perspective on the delivery of family support. Children and Youth Services Review, 159, Article 107494, 1-8. *Frampton, M.* (2026). Critical theory and radical romanticism: Hans Thiersch's lifeworld orientation and German social work theory. Journal of Social Work, 1–19. *Kindler, T.* (2025). Social work and policy engagement: A thematic analysis of Swiss social workers' policy strategies. European Journal of Social Work. Advance online publication. *Lietz, C. A.* (2009). Critical theory as a framework for child welfare decision-making: Some possibilities. Journal of Public Child Welfare, 3(2), 190–206. *Morley, C., Marshall, L., & Leggatt-Cook, C.* (2023). How can critical reflection improve social work practice with children and families? British Journal of Social Work, 00, 1–19. *Schein, C.* (2026). From social work practice to policymaking: Social policy problems and the flow of information within German welfare associations. European Journal of Social Work. Advance online publication. *Seelman, K. L., Beck, E. L., Brady, S. R., Dillard, K., & Lane, W.* (2021). Reconceptualizing the knowledge base of social work: The imperative for critical theories and perspectives in social work education. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 48(4), Article 1. *Timor-Shlevin, S., & Benjamin, O.* (2021). The tension between managerial and critical professional discourses in social work. Journal of Social Work, 21(4), 951–969. *Weiss-Gal, I., Levin, L., & Krumer-Nevo, M*. (2012). Applying critical social work in direct practice with families. Child and Family Social Work,1-10. **Book Chapters**
Teaching methods	Discussion and Collaborative Online International Learning Units
Assessment methods	Learning Journal and Presentation
Language of instruction	English
Name of lecturer	Prof. Dr. Andrea Nagy

Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences

Courses in English
Course Description

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Link	
Course content	Dominant ideologies within the Neoliberal Institutionalised Social Work Order; Doing critical social work in the neoliberal context; Managerial and critical professional discourses in social work; Social work and policy engagement;Transformative Practices for Social Justice; A social pedagogical exploration of power, as an important element within relationship-based practice; A social justice perspective on the delivery of family support; Applying critical social work in direct practice with families;
Remarks	