SWK 210.001  
Introduction to Social Welfare  
Spring 2016

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Office Hours:
Monday: 10a – 12p & 2p-3p  
Wednesday 10a – 12p & 2p – 2:45p  
Or scheduled an appointment as needed

Prerequisite: None  
Corequisite: None

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to social welfare institutions in the United States and the social problems with which these institutions deal. Major emphasis will be placed on the historical and philosophical development of social welfare in the U. S. A second area of emphasis will be an examination of major social problems in the U. S., and those institutions dealing with these problems as well as, current issues related to these problems. Finally, the development of the profession of social work, the functions of social workers in the delivery social welfare services and the various careers in the profession of social work will be discussed.

REQUIRED TEXT:

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

II. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.
2. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.
4. Engage diversity and difference in practice.
5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice.
7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.
8. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
9. Respond to context that shape practice.
10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities

*Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) for the Council on Social Work Education*

III. CIRRICULUM DESCRIPTION

The BSW program at SFASU features generalist social work practice, defined as follows:

Generalist practice serves client systems utilizing an ecological systems approach focusing on persons, families, groups, organizations, and communities. It is not confined by a narrow cadre of theories; rather it is versatile enough to allow problems and situations, as well as strengths, capacities, and resources, to determine the practice approach. Generalist practice employs a problem solving framework and a broad knowledge, value, and skill base which demands ethical practice and on-going self-assessment. Briefly, generalist social work practice:

- Is multi-level to include individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
- Is multi-theory, allowing for the free selection of theories as appropriate
- Utilizes a problem identification and solving focus that follows a problem-solving framework
- Utilizes multiple interventions at multiple levels, as appropriate
- Addresses the complexity of individual, family, group, organizational, and community system interactions
- Requires an integration of awareness, competence, and professional response to issues of values, ethics, diversity, culture, social justice, and populations-at-risk

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: SLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. develop an understanding of the historical development of social work and social welfare.
2. develop an understanding of the differing views for the
functions of social welfare in U. S. society.

3. develop knowledge of major social problems in the United States.

4. develop knowledge of the social welfare institutions, and services which deal with social problems.

5. develop knowledge of the current issues relating to social problems in the U. S.

6. develop knowledge of the profession of social work.

7. develop knowledge of the values and ethics of the social work profession.

8. develop an understanding of the special problems experienced by women, ethnic minorities, and oppressed groups in society.

9. develop an understanding of the many career opportunities in social work.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course will be conducted in a lecture-discussion format. Students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute comments for discussion. Exams will consist of essay, short answers, multiple choice and true-false questions. The exams will evaluate knowledge of content. The assigned papers will measure students' ability to critically evaluate and integrate course content. Exams will test for material from the text, from lecture, and from outside readings. Several class days will be used for a current event day. The specific requirements for each current event assignment will be given in class prior to the due date and assigned topics will vary. Students will be required to bring to class an article and/or any information relevant to the field of Social Work. This information will be presented to the class for discussion and/or turned into the instructor. Points will be awarded for each current event activity.

VI. COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

This course will utilize Desire 2 Learn (myCourses) to support the delivery of course content. For help with D2L go to http://www.D2L.sfasu.edu or the Office of Instructional Technology. The student will need basic skills regarding the use of a word processor and web browser. The student must have access to a computer that meets the minimum requirements (for specific details go to http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu/gettingstarted.html). Computers are available to current students through a number of labs across campus (see www.sfasu.edu or the instructor for details).
VII. COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change at professor’s discretion)  
Readings will be provided on D2L.

Week 1 & 2  
(1-19 to 1-28)  
Review Syllabus and Course Overview

**Part 1 – Understanding Social Work and Social Welfare**

Chapter 1  
Social Welfare, Past and Present

Chapter 2  
Social Work and Other Helping Professions

*Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapters 1 & 2*

**Current Event #1 Due 1-28-16**

*In class*

Week 3 & 4  
(02-02 to 02-11)  
Chapter 3  
The Ecological/Systems Perspective

Chapter 4  
Diversity/ Social Justice

*Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapters 3 & 4*

**Current Event #2 Due 2-09-16**

*In class*

**EXAM #1**  
(Textbook: Part 1: Chapters 1-4)  
2-11-16-In Class

Week 5 & 6  
(02-16 to 02-25)  
**Part 2 – Social Work Practice: Methods of Intervention**

Chapter 5  
Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups

Chapter 6  
Social Work Practice with Agencies and the Community

*Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapters 5 & 6*
Current Event #3 Due 2-25-16
In Class

Week 7 & 8
(03-01 to 03-10)  Part 3 – Fields of Practice and Populations Served by Social Workers
Chapter 7
Poverty, Income Assistance, and Homelessness

Chapter 8
Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Disabilities

Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapters 7 & 8

Mid-Semester Grade Reporting

EXAM #2 Textbook:
Part 2: Chapters 5-6
3-10-16-In Class

SPRING BREAK---MAR 14-18, 2016

Week 9 & 10
(03-22 to 3-31)  Chapter 9
Health
Care

Chapter 10
The Needs of Children, Youth, and Families

Chapter 11
Services to Children, Youth, and Families

Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapters 9, 10, 11
Written Assignment (Paper) Due- 3-22-2016
Week 11 & 12
(04-05 to 04-14)

Chapter 12
Older Adults: Needs and Services

Chapter 13
Criminal Justice

Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapters 12 & 13

Current Event #4 Due 4-14-16 (In class)

Week 13 & 14
(04-19 to 4-28)

Chapter 14
Social Work in Rural Settings

Chapter 15
Social Work in the Workplace

Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapters 14 and 15

Week 15
(5-03 to 05-05))

Chapter 16
The Globalization of Social Work

Readings: Ambrosino Text, Chapter 16

Current Event #5 Due 05-05 (In class)

Course Summary & Evaluation

Week 16
(05-10 to 05-12)  

Final Exam Week

Final Exam – SWK 210.001
Ambrosino Textbook
Part 3: Chapters 7 – 16

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Final Exam Time and Date
May 12, 2016
8am-10am
VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. **Class Attendance and Participation:** It is essential for students to read assigned material before coming to class, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussion. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and assigned in the syllabus, whether or not they have attended class.

**Cell Phones/Pagers/Electronic Devices:** Such devices are disruptive to the classroom environment and students are expected to refrain from using them during class. All such devices are to be placed on silent mode or turned off during class. They will be collected if they are used during class. Repeated interruptions may result in a deduction of points from the final average. No electronic devices or headphones are to be within view during exams.

B. **Readings:** Each week contains required readings from the text. Journal articles may be used to supplement the course content and these articles will be posted on D2L by the instructor. You can utilize these articles for home study, exam preparation, or research. You will be responsible for all assigned readings at test time whether or not they have been reviewed in class. Other readings may also be utilized to facilitate coverage of the many issues to be discussed in this course.

C. **Exams:** Three (3) major application exams will be given during the semester. All material provided on the topics, including all assigned readings, discussions, lectures, discussion questions/responses, and guest presentations are subject to examination. The exams will consist of a combination of matching, multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions.

The student is expected to take all exams at the scheduled time. Permission to miss any exam will be based on the policy for excused absences as stated in the SFASU General Bulletin (available online at www.sfasu.edu/bulletin). Missing an exam without either prior permission or an excused absence will result in a grade of "0" on that exam. The instructor will schedule make-up exams.

D. **Quizzes:** A total of three (3) quizzes will be given during the semester. The quizzes may evaluate general comprehension of the course material (assigned readings and/or previous lecture topics), or they may be based on active participation in a classroom activity or attendance. The quizzes will be unannounced and may occur at any time during the class period.

Missing a quiz due to an unexcused absence will result in a grade of “0” on that quiz. Make-up quizzes will be given for an excused absence as defined by the SFASU General Bulletin and will be scheduled by the instructor.

E. **Assignments:** The student is responsible for completing assignments in accordance with the specific guidelines identified in the assignment description in the syllabus. The assigned research paper about a social issue topic must be typed using a word processor in 12 pt. font with double spacing and standard margins. All assignment
are to be in APA format per the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Failure to meet these guidelines will result in loss of points.

**Late assignments will be reviewed at the end of the semester.**

Late assignments will result in 10% of the total possible points being deducted from the total points earned for each day the assignment is late, with 10% deducted immediately following the class period during which the assignment is due. The only exception is an excused absence as defined by the SFASU General Bulletin.

**GRADING:**

**COURSE GRADES** will be based on the following:

- Competency exams 2 @ 30 points = 60
- Final exam 1@ 60 points = 60
- Three pop quizzes 3@ 10 points = 30
- Five current events 5@ 10 points = 50
- Paper 1@ 80 points = 80
- Attendance and Participation = 20

300 Total

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 300-270
- B = 269-240
- C = 239-210
- D = 209-180
- F = 179 or less

**Academic Integrity (SFASU Policy A-9.1)**

Honesty and representing one’s knowledge and abilities appropriately are important ethical principles of the social work profession. All violations of the Academic Integrity Policy will be addressed in accordance with SFASU Policy A-9.1 (SFASU Policy A-9.1 can be found at the web address below). **All incidents will result in a grade of “0”**. Given the limited number of graded assignments in this course, a “0” could have serious consequences for the student’s academic standing.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.
**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate or inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**IX. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS AND DISABILITIES**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
Introduction to Social Welfare Written Assignment

In this assignment you are to begin to develop critical thinking skills by discussing various perspectives on social welfare. Though you are to discuss your own perspective you are to take into consideration differing perspectives based on acquired knowledge, research and experiences. Choose a social challenge/problem from a global context that has great meaning to you. In the assignment discuss the following:

1.) **Clearly** identify the challenge in society today 10 pts.

2.) What are some different and opposing perspectives/ideologies (liberal vs. conservative) about this challenge 20 pts.

3.) What are past, present and possible solutions 15 pts.

4.) How would you, as a social worker, contribute to these solutions 15 pts.

Critical thinking will be evaluated for up to 10 points.

Please present a typed, edited and well-written final paper in APA format (10 points). It is your responsibility to assure your assignment is in the most current APA format. You must have at least seven references from social work journals or related fields.

TOTAL POINTS: 80 points

**Due Date: Thursday, 3-31-2016**


Careers in social work, pp. 24-43. Allyn & Bacon.

International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) http://www.ifsw.org/


