



Angelo State University
Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work
SWK 2307: Introduction to Social Work

Course Dates, Time, and Location

Spring Semester, 2011: January 10, 2011 to May 6, 2011

Section 010: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 am - 9:50 am

Section 010: Academic Building, Room 115

Section 020: Monday, Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Section 020: Academic Building, Room 115

Instructor Contact Information

Section 010: Ingrid A. Russo, M.S.W., LCSW
Lecturer
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Office Hours: MWF 10:00 am - 11:00 am
MWF 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
MW 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
TR 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Course Description

An overview of the history and development of social work as a profession. The course is designed to foster a philosophical, historical, and critical understanding of the social work profession, social work values and ethics, and fields of practice.

Course Introduction

This course provides students with an introduction to the profession of social work. Social work is a broad and dynamic profession that draws from many scientific disciplines including, but not limited to biology, psychology, and sociology. However, social work is a distinct profession from psychiatry; clinical, counseling, or school psychology; counseling; and is distinct from other academic disciplines such as psychology, sociology, economics, political science, and so forth. Social work has its own ethics, values, mission, practice skills, and body of knowledge, all of which are introduced in this course. Additionally, students are introduced to professional writing in the social work profession.

Additionally, this course is designed to expose students to various career paths and practice venues that the profession of social work offers. Specific client populations and contexts of generalist social work practice are covered such as children and families, the elderly, people with disabilities, social work practice in health care settings, social work practice in mental health settings, social work practice in criminal/juvenile justice settings, and so forth. Regardless of the topic being discussed in this course, there is a heavy focus of critical thinking skills, the evaluation of one's own values in light of the social work profession's values, and the expression of one's own ideas and thoughts in a non prejudicial manner.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies: Social Work Knowledge, Values, & Skills

EP 2.1.1 -- Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.

Students will gain client advocacy skills in a supervised volunteer experience. Students will gain knowledge of professional social work (e.g., history, philosophy, values, etc.) and what it means to be a professional social worker in relationship to social work roles, functions, and professional boundaries. Students will gain knowledge of the professional values of the social work profession and work to recognize their personal values in relationship to the professional values of the social work profession. Students will begin gaining the skills necessary to identify as professional social workers and conduct themselves accordingly in their behavior, appearance, and communication (written and oral). Students will gain skills in utilizing supervision and consultation in an applied experience.

EP 2.1.2 -- Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.

Student will gain knowledge of the *NASW Code of Ethics* and their importance in social work practice. Students will recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows

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professional values to guide practice. Students will begin to learn the skills of applying their professional values to the social work profession's ethical standards of practice.

EP 2.1.3 -- Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.

Students will gain knowledge of what critical thinking is and how it can be applied. Students will learn the value of critical thinking as it relates to scientific inquiry, reasoned discernment, and its importance to competent social work practice. Students will practice their critical thinking skills in written and oral class assignments.

EP 2.1.4 -- Engage diversity and difference in practice.

Students will gain knowledge of how culture, social organization, and personal values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or unjustly create power or privilege for certain groups. Students will recognize their own personal values and biases when working with diverse groups in efforts to respect the dignity and worth of every person and promote social justice in practice. Students will gain skills in recognizing and communicating differences between people. They will begin to gain skills in recognizing clients as informants about various areas of diversity.

EP 2.1.5 -- Advance human rights and social and economic justice.

Students will gain knowledge by understanding the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.

EP 2.1.9 -- Respond to contexts that shape practice.

Students will gain knowledge of the dynamic nature of social work practice including evolving organizational, community, and social context.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

Colby, I, & Dziegielewski, S. F. (2010). *Introduction to social work: The people's profession* (3rd ed.). Chicago, IL: Lyceum. ISBN: 978-1-933478-53-1

Ritter, J. A., Vakalahi, H. F. O., & Kiernan-Stern, M. (2009). *101 careers in social work*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-082615405-7

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5

NOTE: All assignments submitted in this course are to be written in strict accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.).

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Grading Information

Grading Scale:

- 90 – 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- 59 or Below = F

Point Values, Description of Assignments and Examinations, and Associated Practice Behaviors:

Professional Performance 10%

This is relevant to attendance; engaging in class activities, including frequency and quality; professional presentation; and so forth.

- PB2 Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- PB3 Attend to professional roles and boundaries.
- PB4 Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.
- PB7 Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.
- PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.

Social/Human Service Experience 20%

Students will engage in at least 20 hours (more is encouraged) of service in a local social/human service agency of their choice. Approval of the agency selection must be granted by the instructor and an approved list is located in the social work office (Academic 104H). Documentation of successful completion for this experience is required; this is done by your supervisor completing a timesheet (which will be provided to you by the course instructor) documenting your service; additionally, the student will be formally rated on a rating scale as to the quality of their service by their supervisor.

- PB1 Advocate for client access to the services of social work.
- PB2 Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- PB3 Attend to professional roles and boundaries.
- PB4 Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.
- PB6 Use supervision and consultation.
- PB7 Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.

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- PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.
- PB14 Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
- PB15 Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
- PB16 Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.
- PB17 View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.
- PB18 Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.
- PB27 Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.

Resume and Personal Narrative

20%

Each student will write a resume in this course; students are encouraged to seek assistance from the career development center (UC 114) on campus in completing this assignment. Additionally, each student will complete a personal narrative, at least five pages in length (the paper can be longer if necessary) including cover sheet and references (references are expected) covering the following sections conforming to the standards of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* (2010):

1. your understanding of the social work profession (including its historical development, mission, and values) and how the social work profession is similar to and differentiated from sociology, psychology, psychiatry, and counseling;
2. list and define all six core values of the social work profession; discuss the relationship of these core values to the *NASW Code of Ethics*; choose at least two of the core values of the social work profession and discuss their importance to you and the social work profession;
3. discuss why you desire to enter the social work profession; include a discussion of the following: your personal identification with the social work profession; the ecological paradigm (person-in environment perspective, biopsychosocial approach to clients), advocacy for client access to social work services, your conceptualization and appreciation of human diversity, and generalist social work practice;
4. discuss three of your personal strengths and three of your personal weaknesses or challenges covering the following points;
 - a. how your personal strengths will help you become a professional social worker; and

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- b. how you plan to overcome any personal weaknesses or challenges to become a professional social worker; and
5. discuss your future goals as a professional (e.g., graduate work in social work, social work employment, social work career path, career-long learning plan, and so forth).
- PB2 Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- PB5 Engage in [and form a commitment to] career-long learning.
- PB7 Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB14 Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
- PB15 Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
- PB16 Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.
- PB18 Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.
- PB27 Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.

Group Presentations

10%

Each student will read the Ritter, Vakalahi, and Kiernan-Stern (2009) text, in conjunction with the main social work text for the course, as assigned. Students will sign-up to present on a particular practice setting in social work during the semester. The topics include Social Work and Children/Families; Social Work and Health Care; Social Work and Mental Health/Substance Abuse; Social Work and Aging; Social Work and Criminal Justice; and Social Work and Administration/Policy/Community Practice.

The group presentation should cover the following:

1. The nature of the particular area of social work practice.
2. The role and function of social workers in that particular area of social work practice on the micro and macro levels of practice.
3. Related professional organizations; degree level, licensure, and/or certification required for practice in the particular area; and salary.

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Guest speakers are not permitted. Each student group will have 50 minutes to present. PowerPoint slides are required. Students will be awarded a group grade based on the quality of presentation and PowerPoint Slides. Students will be required to be dressed professionally during the presentation and class exam items will be created from the presented material.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's information as though it were your own. If you use the words or ideas of another person; or if you use material from any source--whether a book, journal, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, electronic media, or any other source--you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism on the presentation will result in the student group not receiving credit for the presentation.

- PB2 Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- PB3 Attend to professional roles and boundaries.
- PB4 Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB13 Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with colleagues.
- PB27 Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.

Examinations 40%

There will be four (4) online, open book (Colby & Dziegielewski, 2010), multiple attempt (no more than three attempts), timed, examinations in this course. Each of these examinations is worth 10% of your total course grade. You will take each of these examinations via Blackboard using the Respondus LockDown browser.

- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB14 Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
- PB16 Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.
- PB18 Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.
- PB27 Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.

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Course Policies

- Please do ask questions that are relevant to the course and feel free to utilize my office hours. I am here to help you and I want you to succeed.
- Classroom attendance and participation is necessary and expected. Students are responsible for understanding Angelo State University's Class Attendance Regulations, which is available on the web at: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/2010-2011_Undergraduate_Catalog.pdf
- All students are expected to follow the National Association of Social Workers [*Code of Ethics*](#).
- Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf
- Make-up examinations will be considered on a case by case basis and will only be allowed for university approved absences.
- Late assignments are not accepted for any reason unless the reason is approved by the course instructor.
- Electronic devices, including cell phones, Blackberries, laptops, and so forth, are not to be turned on or used in class. If the use of these devices is detected by the course instructor, the particular student using the device will be asked to leave the class for that day.

Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/disability.html

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Course Schedule

Week/Dates	Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments
Week 1 1/10-1/14	<p>Course Introduction</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 1 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapter 1 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Work and You: What is Social Work and Do You Want to be a Social Worker?</p> <p>Assignment: Sign-up for Group Presentations</p>
Week 2 1/17-1/21	<p>Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 (Colby & Dziegielewski)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Work and Social Welfare: Similarities and Differences</p>
Week 3 1/24-1/28	<p>Reading: Chapter 4 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapters 2 and 3 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Work Education, Licensure, Certifications, Professional Associations, and Salaries</p> <p>Lecture Topic: American Psychological Association (APA) Writing Style</p>
Week 4 1/31-2/4	<p>Reading: Chapters 5 and 6 (Colby & Dziegielewski)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice: Paradigms, Knowledge, Skills, and Values</p> <p>Exam 1: Chapters 1-4, 1/31/2011 to 2/4/2011</p>
Week 5 2/7-2/11	<p>Reading: Chapters 5 and 6 (Colby & Dziegielewski)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice: Paradigms, Knowledge, Skills, and Values (Continued)</p>
Week 6 2/14-2/18	<p>Reading: Chapter 7 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapter 13 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice and Poverty</p>
Week 7 2/21-2/25	<p>Reading: Chapter 8 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapters 4 and 6 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice with Children/Families</p> <p>Presentation: Generalist Social Work Practice and Poverty</p>
	<i>Course Schedule Continued on the Next Page</i>

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<p>Week 8 2/28-3/4</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 9 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapter 7 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice and Health Care</p> <p>Exam 2: Chapters 5-8, 2/28/2011 to 3/4/2011</p>
<p>Week 9 3/7-3/11</p> <p>3/14-3/18 is Spring Break</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 10 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapter 8 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice and Mental Health</p> <p>Presentation: Generalist Social Work Practice with Children/Families</p>
<p>Week 10 3/21-3/25</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 11 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapter 6 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice and Aging</p> <p>Presentation: Generalist Social Work Practice and Health Care</p>
<p>Week 11 3/28-4/1</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 12 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapters 10 and 11 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work Practice and Criminal Justice</p> <p>Presentation: Generalist Social Work Practice and Mental Health</p>
<p>Week 12 4/4-4/8</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 13 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapters 14, 15, and 16 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Generalist Social Work and Administration/Policy/Community Practice</p> <p>Exam 3: Chapters 9-12, 4/4/2011 to 4/8/2011</p>
<p>Week 13 4/11-4/15</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 14 (Colby & Dziegielewski) and Chapter 12 (Ritter, Vakalahi, & Kiernan-Stern)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: International Social Work</p> <p>Presentation: Generalist Social Work Practice and Aging</p> <p>Assignment: Resume and Personal Narrative Due</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Course Schedule Continued on the Next Page</i></p>

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<p>Week 14 4/18-4/22</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 15 (Colby & Dziegielewski)</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Is Social Work for You: What Have You Decided?</p> <p>Presentation: Generalist Social Work Practice and Criminal Justice</p> <p>Assignment: 20 Hours of Nonpaid Social/Human Service Experience Due</p>
<p>Week 15 4/25-4/29</p>	<p>Dead Week</p> <p>Presentation: Generalist Social Work and Administration/Policy/Community Practice</p>
<p>Week 16 5/2-5/6</p>	<p>Exam 4: Chapters 13-15, 4/28/2011 to 5/4/2011</p>