



Angelo State University
Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work
SWK 2317: Social Welfare Policy and Practice I

Course Dates, Time, and Location

Fall Semester, 2011: August 22, 2011 to December 9, 2011
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 10:50 am
Academic Building, Room 105

Instructor Contact Information

Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW
Assistant Professor
Academic Building, Office 104G
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Office Hours: MWF 9:00 am - 10:00 am
MWF 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
TR 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Course Description

Provides knowledge and values of the history and philosophy of social welfare programs and the skills to understand major social welfare policies. The impact of policy on human functioning is also emphasized.

Course Introduction

This course provides students with an introduction to social welfare policy and practice, and sets the foundation for Social Welfare Policy and Practice II. It is imperative that social workers understand how policy affects clients, services, and service delivery. The Council on Social Work Education states that social workers need to be aware of the influence of policy on service delivery and actively engage in policy practice. To this end, this course equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully engage in policy practice. Students will utilize assigned policies to further their knowledge regarding policy and its impacts on generalist social work practice. Additionally, the history of social welfare and various social policies are presented.

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)

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

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

Students will continue to develop their knowledge of professional social work and what it means to be a professional social worker in relationship to social work roles, functions, ethical standards, professional demeanor, the importance of life-long learning, the use of supervision and consultation, self-correction, and professional development. Students will gain knowledge of the professional values of the social work profession and gain skill using social work values and ethics to guide professional activities. Students will build upon their existing skills necessary to identify as professional social workers and conduct themselves accordingly in their behavior, appearance, and communication (written and oral).

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

Student will build upon their existing knowledge of the *NASW Code of Ethics* (and other appropriate social work codes of ethics) and their importance in social work practice. Students will recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice. Students will begin to learn the skills of applying their professional values to generalist social work 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 class assignments and discussion.

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 build knowledge of the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination. Students will apply social work values to advocacy in efforts to promote social and economic justice. Students will learn skills to engage in generalist social work practice that advances social and economic justice.

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EP 2.1.6 -- Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Student will gain knowledge of the social work literature (i.e., research) that can be used to inform generalist social work practice. Students will learn skills to apply practice experience in scientific inquiry. Students will incorporate social work values and ethics in their discussion of research informed practice and practice informed research.

EP 2.1.8 -- Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.

Student will build upon their knowledge of social welfare policy and practice in generalist social work. Students learn skills to advocate for policies that advance the social and economic well-being of all people. Students will learn to use social work values to guide their application of policies to generalist social work practice.

EP 2.1.9 -- Respond to contexts that shape practice.

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

Required Texts:

Barusch, A.S. (2012). *Foundations of social policy: Social justice in human perspective (4th ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole ISBN: 978-0-84003-438-0

Barusch, A.S. (2012). *Practice behavior workbook*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole ISBN: 978-1-11177-196-6

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.).

Grading Information

Grading Scale:

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

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)

Point Values and Description for Assignments and Examinations:

Professional Performance 10%

This is relevant to attendance and engaging in class activities, including frequency and quality.

- 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.
- 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.

Debate 15%

Students will be divided into teams and debate a public policy in front of the class. The groups will consist of one that is “Pro” and one that is “Con” of the selected policy. Groups will be assigned by professor at the start of the semester. Students will be asked to support their position using information from the text books, as well as to locate and use other scholarly resources (e.g., peer reviewed journal article, books, creditable internet sources, and so forth). An outline will be provided to the professor (including references).

- 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.
- PB19 Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice.
- PB20 Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.
- PB25 Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being.
- PB26 Collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action.
- PB27 Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.
- PB28 Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services.

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Policy Paper

15%

Students will select one of the following policies over which to write a short paper: Social Security, Immigration Reform, Medicare, Medicaid, Education, TANF, WIC, Health Care Reform, or Affirmative Action. The paper needs to follow the template provided. Papers will conform to the standards of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* (2010). The length of the papers may vary, but should be no less than 4 pages, including the cover sheet and reference pages.

- I. What social concern(s) does this policy address
- II. Related social work ethics and values of policy
- III. Values addressed by policy in society at large and locally
- IV. How have social welfare institutions responded to the needs of those utilizing the policy and implemented services

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 term paper will result in the student not receiving credit for her/his term paper.

- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB12 Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.
- PB13 Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues.
- 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.
- PB19 Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice.
- PB20 Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.
- PB21 Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry.
- PB22 Use research evidence to inform practice.
- PB25 Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being.
- PB26 Collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action.

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Examinations

40%

There will be four (4) online, open book, 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.

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Practice Behaviors Workbook Assignments

20%

Each student will complete assigned chapters from the Practice Behavior Workbook. These assignments are designed to help students apply the knowledge learned in class, and also act as a measure of certain practice behaviors.

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- PB2 Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- PB3 Attend to professional roles and boundaries.

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- 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.
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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.

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- 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

Course Schedule

Week/Dates	Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments
Week 1 8/22-8/26	<p>Course Orientation</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 1</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Social Justice and Social Workers</p> <p>Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 1 Exercises</p>
Week 2 8/29-9/2	<p>Reading: Chapter 2</p> <p>Lecture Topic: The Government's Role</p> <p>Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 2 Exercises</p>
Week 3 9/5-9/9 9/5 is Labor Day	<p>Reading: Chapter 3</p> <p>Lecture Topic: Policy Analysis and Policy Practice</p> <p>Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 3 Exercises</p>
Week 4 9/12-9/16	<p>Reading: Chapter 4</p> <p>Lecture Topic: The Social Security Act</p> <p>Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 4 Exercises</p> <p>Exam 1: Chapters 1-4, 9/16/2011 to 9/21/2011</p>
	<i>Course Schedule Continued on the Next Page</i>

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Week 5 9/19-9/23	Reading: Chapter 5 Lecture Topic: Poverty Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 5 Exercises
Week 6 9/26-9/30	Reading: Chapter 6 Lecture Topic: Physical Illness Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 6 Exercises
Week 7 10/3-10/7	Reading: Chapter 7 Lecture Topic: Mental Illness Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 7 Exercises
Week 8 10/10-10/14	Reading: Chapter 8 Lecture Topic: Disability Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 8 Exercises Exam 2: Chapters 5-8, 10/14/2011 to 10/19/2011
Week 9 10/17-10/21	Reading: Chapter 9 Lecture Topic: People of Color Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 9 Exercises
Week 10 10/24-10/28	Reading: Chapter 10 Lecture Topic: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Individuals Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 10 Exercises
Week 11 10/31-11/4	Reading: Chapter 11 Lecture Topic: Children Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 11 Exercises Assignment: Policy Paper Due, 11/4/2011
	<i>Course Schedule Continued on the Next Page</i>

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Week 12 11/7-11/11	Reading: Chapter 12 Lecture Topic: Women Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 12 Exercises Exam 3: Chapters 9-12, 11/11/2011 to 11/16/2011
Week 13 11/14-11/18	Reading: Chapter 13 Lecture Topic: The Elderly Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 13 Exercises
Week 14 11/21-11/25 11/24-11/25 is Thanksgiving	Reading Chapter 14 Lecture Topic: Working Americans Assignment: Practice Behaviors Workbook Chapter 14 Exercises
Week 15 11/28-12/2	Debates
Week 16 12/5-12/9	Exam 4: Chapter 13-14, 12/2/2011 to 12/5/2011