

Dept. of Social Work and Sociology

SWK 6323 – Policy Practice and Advocacy

Spring Semester 2022



Instructor: Jason Alemán, Ph.D.

Email: jaleman8@angelo.edu

Phone: Email is best

Office: Virtual

Office Hours: By appointment only

Collaborate sessions will take place on Tuesday @ 7 p.m. (every other week). Attendance is not mandatory but highly encouraged. The sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend and I highly encourage viewing.

*** Please note that emails received after 5:00 p.m. will not be answered until the next day. Exceptions will be made for emergency situations at the discretion of the instructor.**

Course Information

Course Description

This course examines and discusses the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to apply social welfare policy and practice. Initially, the history and philosophy of social welfare policy and practice are explored. From this point, the student engages with and learns about policy practice and advocacy from a social work perspective. Students will utilize the strategies discussed within course texts to advance the values and principles of the social work profession through effective policy practice. Skills addressed and developed within this course include analyzing and evaluating policy, advocating for policy development and change, building coalitions, and understanding the process of engaging the political influences on policy decisions. 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 prepares students with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully engage in policy practice.

Course Credits

3 credit hours

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

SWK 6321

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of the Department of Social Work

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program of study for the MSW, the graduate will be prepared to:

Student Learning Outcomes

| Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to: | Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement: | Mapping to Program Outcomes |
|---|---|---|
| make ethical decisions by applying the standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, relevant laws and regulations, models for ethical decision-making, ethical conduct of research, and additional codes of ethics as appropriate to context | Journal Assignments Policy Advocacy Challenges Policy Analysis Presentation | Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior |
| Apply understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels; and engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice | Journal Assignments Policy Advocacy Challenges Policy Analysis Presentation | Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice |
| Identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services; assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services; apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance | Policy Analysis Presentation | Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice |

| Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to: | Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement: | Mapping to Program Outcomes |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice | | |

Course Delivery

This is an online course offering. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#)

Required Texts and Materials

Popple, P. & Leighninger, L. (2019). *The policy-based profession: An introduction to social welfare policy analysis for social workers* (7th ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-13-479429-7

Recommended Texts and Materials

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA. **ISBN:978-1-433-83216-1**

NOTE: All assignments submitted in this course are to be written in strict accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.) Publication.

Technology Requirements

Testing via Respondus™ Monitor

Access to Exams will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor [See Other Required Materials for a list of needed equipment]. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

There is one practice quiz: a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. This tool will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through the practice quiz in advance of taking a graded quiz. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

To participate in one of ASU's distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements:
[Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

Topic Outline

Part One: Social Welfare Policy and the Social Work Profession – Chapters 1 and 2 discuss social work as a policy-based profession and defines social welfare policy in the context of the course.

Part Two: Social Welfare Policy Analysis – Chapters 3, 4, and 5 examine the various meanings of policy analysis; the scientific, artistic, and political aspects of policy analysis; and the methods by which policy analysis is conducted; the historical perspective of policy analysis; and social and economic analyses of policy.

Part Three: The Framework Applied – Chapters 6 through 11 detail the ways in which policy analysis is applied to 7 core areas of social work: poverty, aging, mental health and mental health, healthcare, child welfare, and immigration.

Part Four: Taking Action – Chapters 12, 13, and 14 conclude the course by looking at politics and policy analysis and integrating policy into social work practice.

Communication

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

- *Please note that emails received after 5 p.m. will be answered the following morning.*

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc.

Grading

Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

| Assessment | Percent/Points of Total Grade |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Journals | 20 |
| Policy Advocacy Challenges | 40 |
| Policy Analysis Presentation | 40 |
| Total | 100% |

Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 90.00-100 points

B = 80.00-89.99 points

C = 70.00-79.99 points

D = 60.00-69.99 points

F = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

***Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.**

Journal Submissions

20%

Students will submit 5 journal entries throughout the semester. All submissions are required to be in-depth and thorough in relation to the course materials. Each journal entry must be supported with at least 1 peer-reviewed journal article.

Policy Advocacy Challenges

40%

Students will be given 4 advocacy challenges to complete throughout the semester. Responses to the questions and writing prompts for each of the challenges should be constructed using well-developed paragraphs with support from credible sources (when needed). Each of the challenge papers should be between 3 and 4 pages of text in addition to title page and references. Each paper should be submitted through Blackboard. Late submissions and emailed

submissions will NOT be accepted. Each challenge paper (Coalition, Globalization, Grant, and Collaboration) will be worth 10% of the total 40%.

Policy Analysis Presentations

40%

Students will be assigned a social service policy to analyze. Students will create a policy analysis presentation using information from policy sources, as well as to locate and use scholarly resources (i.e., peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, think-tank research, and similar academic, scientific, and/or vetted sources). An outline will be provided to the instructor (including references and any ancillary materials that accompany the presentation, such as handouts or PowerPoint slides). Students are expected to engage in research without being biased by personal beliefs about the topic. The following outline provides the structure which presentations should follow.

- I. Introduction to the Issue or Policy Topic/Target
- II. Characteristics of Persons Affected by the Issue or Policy Topic/Target
 - A. Number of Persons Affected
 - B. Demographic Characteristics Common to Those Persons Affected
 1. Number or Size of Population
 2. Racial/Ethnic Characteristics
 3. Geographic Residency
 4. Socioeconomic Status
 5. Et cetera
- III. History of the Issue or Policy Topic/Target
 - A. Origins of the Issue or Policy Topic/Target, Past Events Contributing to the Policy Topic/Target, and Other Related Areas
 - B. Current Government Response
 1. Federal Government
 2. State Government (i.e., Texas)
 3. Local Government (i.e., counties, cities, or municipalities)
- IV. Attitudes Expressed by Key Authorities
- V. Recommendations or Proposals to Address the Issue (Beyond What Policies Already Exist)
 - A. Identify and Present the Proposed Policy Brief
 - B. Defend the Proposed Policy Belief with Logical Reasoning Based in Existing Evidence (Including Anticipated Arguments for Criticism, Constructive or Otherwise)
- VI. Conclusion
 - A. Propose Future Directions for Policy Advocacy
 - B. Conclude the Paper in a Cohesive Summation

Assignment Submission

All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at jaleman8@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. **Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue.** This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

Late Work Policy

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Late assignments are not accepted. Accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis, but only for University-approved circumstances or prior approval of faculty. Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook¹](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog²](#)

Student Responsibility and Attendance

Online: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

Note: This course utilizes Collaborate to engage in role plays, case study, and interaction. A day and time will be offered for students. To have some flexibility, the sessions will be recorded for students to view at a time convenient to them. **Attendance is not mandatory.**

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).³

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).⁴ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)⁵ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁶ in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).⁷

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)⁸ for more information.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Course Schedule

| Week/Date | Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE |
|---|---|
| Week 1 Jan. 18-23 | Reading: Chapter 1 of the textbook Syllabus review, assignment to small groups, questions about the course |
| Week 2 Jan. 24-30 | Reading: Chapter 2: Journal 1 due 1/28 |
| Week 3 Jan. 31-Feb. 6 | Reading: Chapter 3 Advocacy Challenge 1 due 2/4 |
| Week 4 Feb. 7-13 | Reading: Chapter 4 Small Groups Breakouts |
| Week 5 Feb. 14-20 | Reading: Chapter 5 Journal 2 due 2/18 |
| Week 6 Feb. 21-27 | Reading: Chapter 6 Advocacy Challenge 2 due 2/25 |
| Week 7 Feb. 28-Mar. 6 | Reading: Chapter 7 |
| Week 8 Mar. 7-13 <i>*** Spring Break: March 14-20</i> | Reading: Chapter 8 Journal 3 due 3/11 |
| Week 9 Mar. 21-27 | Reading: Chapter 9 Advocacy Challenge 3 due 3/25 |
| Week 10 Mar. 28- Apr. 3 | Reading: Chapter 10 |
| Week 11 Apr. 4-10 | Reading: Chapter 11 Journal 4 due 4/8 |
| Week 12 Apr. 11-17 | Reading: Chapter 13 Advocacy Challenge 4 due 4/15 |

| Week/Date | Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE |
|--|---|
| Week 13 Apr. 18-24 | Reading: Chapter 13 |
| Week 14 Apr. 25-May 1 | Reading: Chapter 14 Policy Presentations due 4/29 |
| Week 15 May 2-8 | Peer Policy Presentations Journal 5 due 5/6 |
| Week 16 May 9-13 | Final exam week |

Grading Rubrics

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences. Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

End of Syllabus

¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

⁵ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁶ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁷ https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

⁸ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>