



University of Central Florida
School of Social Work

SOW 3203 0002– Social Work and Community Resources

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Term: Fall 2009
Class Day: Monday
Meeting Time: 6:30 – 9:20 pm
Class Location: BA 0220
Credit Hours: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description: Study of social welfare policies, programs, and services, including socio-cultural, political, economic and historical forces affecting changes in societal responses to human needs. This course is oriented to Non-majors.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the term, students should be able to:

1. Discuss social welfare as a social institution.
2. Describe a conceptual framework for the study of social welfare.
3. Explain the relationship of philosophic, historic, socio-political, economic, and psychological forces to social welfare responses and social needs.
4. Discuss the relationship between "public issues" and "personal troubles."
5. Argue against stereotypical myths concerning social welfare.
6. Describe in general terms particular social welfare policies, practices and programs established to meet specific social needs.
7. Trace the development of social work as a profession.
8. Compare social work with other human service professions.
9. Identify career opportunities and personal goals in social welfare.
10. Assess the current impact of particular social welfare responses to social need in terms of individual and social benefits and needed changes.

THE UCF CREED

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

POLICIES

In addition to the information below, the student should become familiar with School of Social Work Student Handbook and The Golden Rule Handbook for UCF Students. All policies included in these handbooks apply to this class.

Modification of Syllabus

This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be discussed with students in class and/or via email. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the student's email address is current in eCommunity.

Cell phones, pagers and recorders

- Students are asked to turn off cell phones and beepers during class sessions.
- Permission to audiotape a class meeting(s) must be obtained from the instructor in advance.
- While the use of laptops is convenient for students to take class notes, it is expected that students WILL NOT engage in other laptop activities during class time that may include internet activities, reading and responding to email, balancing a checkbook, etc. If this should occur, the instructor reserves the right to request that the student not use a laptop during class.

Classroom Decorum

- Side conversations are discouraged because they distract the class.
- The instructor expects students to respect the culture, values, beliefs and rights of their classmates. During class sessions, alternate points of view are encouraged and should be received by others with respect. Students should feel free to express their opinions and to refer to relevant personal situations without fear of disapproval or disrespect; however, the classroom is not the place where students should indulge in personal venting or support seeking.

Attendance and Participation

Student attendance and participation are integral parts of this course. Students are expected to attend each class, arrive on time, and remain for the duration of the class. Students are also expected to assume responsibility for their own learning and to actively involve themselves in class discussions and exercises. Students must be prepared for class (i.e., complete readings and other assignments *prior* to class). Furthermore, make-up exams will be given **ONLY** in extreme circumstances. These circumstances include exceptional health EMERGENCIES (that require

that the student bring in medical documentation), and the make up exam will be an essay exam. Out-of-town vacations, trips, mild illness (such as a cold), and other similar circumstances do not qualify as extreme.

Students who miss three (3) or more absences regardless of the reason will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade. The only exception to this is if the student has a **documented** extraordinary circumstance (e.g., student hospitalization; severe illness; death in the family; car accident) preventing the student from coming to class. In that case, the student must present written documentation to the instructor.

Attendance during Finals Week: It is university policy that all classes MUST meet for either a final exam or a class session.

Written Assignments

Effective written communication skills are essential to professional social work practice. Thus, students are expected to present their ideas clearly and properly and to adhere to accepted standards of writing. *Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are to be correct in all written materials submitted and will be considered in grading written assignments.*

All written assignments must be typed in a 12-font print, and all margins must be one inch. The cover page of a paper is not considered a page of text. Work not conforming to these standards or demonstrating serious deficiencies in common English usage may be returned ungraded. When required, references should be included in the APA documentation style.

Students are encouraged to use the University Writing Center (UWC) for assistance in preparing written assignments. The UWC is located in MOD 608 (near the Communications Building). UWC staff may be reached at (407) 823-2197 or <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu/>.

Late Assignments

All assignments must be turned in to the instructor at the beginning of the class period or delivered to the instructor's mailbox *before class starts on the due date. It is the student's responsibility to see to it that her or his assignment is stamped with the date by the social work staff member who then places the assignment in the instructor's mailbox.* No assignments will be accepted by fax or email unless the instructor has given explicit prior approval. *See instruction sheets for specifics regarding the penalty for late submission.* No assignment will be accepted after the last day of class. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor regarding late assignments.

Incomplete Grades

In exceptional circumstances, an incomplete grade may be given per School and University policies. Individual arrangements must be made with the instructor for the completion of the course requirements, but in no case will the date set extend beyond the end of the following semester. Students who experience chronic medical or personal problems that prevent them

from attending class regularly are encouraged to review policies relating to securing a leave of absence from their university studies.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Social workers must demonstrate high standards of integrity. Every student is expected to do his or her own work and all of the work produced will be expected to be completed in its entirety by the student who turns it in. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any acts of plagiarism, *including not acknowledging sources of information appropriately and in accordance with APA guidelines*, may result in a failing grade in the course. School and University policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Students found to have cheated or plagiarized will receive no credit for the exam or assignment, receive a failing grade for the course and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. (See the UCF Golden Rule for further information.). Students who observe others violate this policy are expected to report this to the instructor.

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result in an "F" for that assignment, the student may also receive an "F" for the entire course and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. (See the UCF Golden Rule for further information.) It is assumed for this course that students will adhere to the academic creed of the University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. The instructor also adheres to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask for your grade to be changed without just cause or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Turnitin.com

The instructor reserves the option to use turnitin.com; an online system which can determine if work has been copied from another source. The instructor will provide information on submitting assignments through this system at the beginning of the semester. For a more detailed look at this process, please visit <http://www.turnitin.com>

Disability Access Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

LEARNING METHODS

This class will consist of lecture, review of media materials, and class interaction. Students should attend every class and are expected to participate.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Zastrow, C. (2008). *Introduction to social work and social welfare: Empowering people* (8th ed.).

Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Students will be expected to utilize UCF library resources to search library databases for assignments. The following web sites which can help students find information, navigate through databases and learn how to use the library:

1. Library Instruction sessions - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Instruction>
2. Library Research Tutorials - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Instruction/LIToursTutorials.asp>
3. Streaming videos - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Videos/Default.asp>
4. Research Guides - <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Guides/>
5. Ask a Librarian service - <http://library.ucf.edu/Ask/>
6. Consult with the librarian familiar with Social Work—Mr. Hal Mendolsohn

The UCF Libraries has a full array of paper and electronic resources available for students and their research needs.

In addition to paper copies of books and journals, UCF students have the ability to access a vast selection of journals and books in electronic format while on or off campus. The web address to the library's catalog is <http://library.ucf.edu/>. The Ask A Librarian service provides students the ability to contact a library professional either by phone, on-line chat or email, and ask for assistance on "how to" locate, research, and obtain library materials. The web address for Ask A Librarian is <http://library.ucf.edu/Ask/>. A series of streaming videos, showing students how to search for a book or journal article, has been developed and are available at <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Videos/Default.asp>. Research Guides for different majors, that list books, journals, databases, and web sites have been developed and are available in electronic format at <http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/Guides/>. Another service to help students conduct library research is called Research Consultation. After a student has conducted his/her research and is in need of additional information, s/he can work with a librarian to locate material with the help of his/her expert searching capabilities. To set-up a Research Consultation, students can either come into the library and sign-up at the Reference Desk or call the library Reference Office at 407-823-5880. Finally, students are always encouraged to visit the library and ask a Reference Librarian how best to conduct one's research. If a student has a simple question on how to locate either a book or journal title, the UCF Reference Libraries are happy to provide this type of service too.

ASSIGNMENTS AND POINTS

Exams (3 exams at 15 points each) 45 Points

Oct 12th, Nov 9th, Dec 7th

The exams will focus on materials from course lectures, student presentations, and assigned readings.

Group Presentation

25 Points

Various dates will be given in class

Students will break up into groups and prepare a presentation based on issues related to policy and marginalized populations. Through group consensus, you will choose a marginalized group and present how policy is impacting that group. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, Adoption by Gays and Lesbians, Undocumented persons and policy decisions at the state and federal levels, women and the right to choose, low income families and health care, privatization of Medicaid, and Land rights as related to Native Americans and Chicanos. Students are encouraged to think of their group topics and be creative with their choices. It is important to focus on a marginalized groups and how policy in impacting them.

Policy and Communities Paper 30 Points

Various dates will be given in class

At the end of the semester, students will complete a final paper that will outline social welfare and communities. The paper will include materials from the class readings and lecture. The goal of the paper is to help the student begin to formulate critical thinking skills in the areas of policy formulation and analysis. A more detailed outline will be given in the class.

GRADING SCALE

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|----|---------|----|------------|
| A | 95 - 100 | B- | 80 - 83 | D+ | 67 - 69 |
| A- | 90 - 94 | C+ | 77 - 79 | D | 64 - 66 |
| B+ | 87 - 89 | C | 74 - 76 | D- | 60 - 63 |
| B | 84 - 86 | C- | 70 - 73 | F | 59 or less |

COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE

Session 1 August 24

Introduction to Social Work

Students will be introduced to the course and all assignments and expectations will be discussed.

Session 2 August 31 Social Work: History, Profession, and Practice

Students will be introduced to the history, profession and practice of social work.

- History of social welfare from poor law to today.
- The social work profession in the micro, mezzo, and macro levels
- Social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and society

Required Readings: Zastrow, Ch. 1, 2, and 3.

Session 3 September 7 NO CLASS – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Session 4 September 14 Populations: Race and Ethnicity

Students will be introduced to the concepts of race and ethnicity.

- Definitions and consequences of prejudice, discrimination, racism.
- Strategies for combating racism.
- Ethic-sensitive social work practice.

Required Readings: Zastrow, Ch. 12.

Session 5 September 21 Populations: Sexual Orientation

Students will be introduced to the concept of sexual orientation.

- Definitions and consequences of homophobia.
- Strategies for combating homophobia.
- Social work practice with gay and lesbian populations.

Required Readings: Zastrow, Ch. 7.

Session 6 September 28 Populations: Gender

Students will be introduced to the concepts of gender and sexism.

- Definitions and consequences of sexism.
- Strategies for combating sexism.
- Feminist social work practice.

Required Readings: Zastrow, Ch. 13.

Session 7 October 5 Populations: Aging

Students will be introduced to the concept of aging and ageism.

- Definitions of aging and ageism.
- Issues in old age.
- Social work practice with the aging.

Required Reading: Zastrow, Ch. 14.

Session 8 October 12 Exam 1

Session 9 October 19 Issues: Poverty

Students will be introduced to the social problem of poverty.

- Definitions and causes of poverty.
- Anti-poverty programs.
- Social work practice regarding poverty.

Required Reading: Zastrow, Ch. 4.

Session 10 October 26 Issues: Mental Health

Students will be introduced to the social problem of mental illness.

- Definitions and causes of mental illness.
- Rights of people with mental illness.
- Social work practice regarding mental health.

Required Reading: Zastrow, Ch. 5.

Session 11 November 2 Issues: Substance Abuse

Students will be introduced to the social problem of substance abuse.

- Definitions and characteristics of substance abuse.
- Programs for substance abuse prevention and treatment.
- Social work practice regarding substance abuse.

Required Reading: Zastrow, Ch. 8.

Session 12 November 9 Exam 2

Session 13 November 16 Issues: Crime and Justice

Students will be introduced to the social problem of crime.

- Definitions and characteristics of crime.
- Programs for preventing crime.
- Social work practice regarding crime and justice.

Required Reading: Zastrow, Ch. 9.

Session 14 November 23 Issues: Health

Students will be introduced to the social issue of health.

- Major illnesses and diseases.
- Problems of health care access and delivery.
- Medical social work practice.

Required Reading: Zastrow, Ch. 15.

Session 15 November 30 Issues: Disability

Students will be introduced to the social issue of disability.

- Definitions of disabilities.
- Programs for people with disabilities.
- Social work practice regarding disabilities.

Required Reading: Zastrow, Ch. 16.

Session 16 December 7 Exam 3

If necessary, make-up presentations will be conducted on this date.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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York: Columbia University.
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policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago.