COURSE SYLLABUS

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 focus. Major emphasis is on the historical and philosophical development of social welfare services in the U.S., the institutions that deal with these problems, current issues related to these problems, and the functions of social work in delivering social welfare services.

II. COURSE OVERVIEW

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 focus. Major emphasis is on the historical and philosophical development of social welfare services in the U.S., the institutions that deal with these problems, current issues related to these problems, and the functions of social work in delivering social welfare services.
III. COURSE CONTACT OURS AND STUDY HOURS

SOCW 2362 is 3-credit hour face-to-face course in the fall term which consist of 3 hours of classroom time/direct instruction and at least 6 hours of out-of-class work per week. Outside class work activities include conducting research for written assignments, preparing presentations, engaging in discussion questions, and other group assignments.

IV. TEXT AND MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXT:

RECOMMENDED TEXT:
V. CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

The BSW program at SFA features the generalist practice in a Rural Context. Both are defined below.

**Generalist practice** is grounded in the liberal arts and the person-in-environment framework. To promote human and social well-being, generalist practitioners use a range of prevention and intervention methods in their practice with diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities based on scientific inquiry and best practices. The generalist practitioner identifies with the social work profession and applies ethical principles and critical thinking in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Generalist practitioners engage diversity in their practice and advocate for human rights and social and economic justice. They recognize, support, and build on the strengths and resiliency of all human beings. They engage in research-informed practice and are proactive in responding to the impact of context on professional practice.

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

VI. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO)

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior.
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice.
5. Engage in Policy Practice.
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.
7. Assess, Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities.

*Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS, 2015) from the Council on Social Work
Education

VII. OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (CSWE BEHAVIORS)

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

1. To develop an understanding of the historical development of social work and social welfare (competency 1).

2. To develop an understanding of the differing views for the functions of social welfare in U. S. society (competency 1).

3. To develop knowledge of major social problems in the United States (competency 1).

4. To develop knowledge of the social welfare institutions, and services which deal with social problems (competency 1).

5. To develop knowledge of the current issues relating to social problems in the U. S. (competency 1).

6. To develop knowledge of the profession of social work (competency 1).

7. To develop knowledge of the values and ethics of the social work profession (competency 3).

8. To develop an understanding of the special problems experienced by women, ethnic minorities, and oppressed groups in society (competency 3).

9. To develop an understanding of the many career opportunities in social work (competency 4).

10. Understand the concepts of social policy and its relationship to social work practice (competency 5).

11. Incorporate knowledge that social workers engage diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities (competency 6).
Becoming a Scholarly Practitioner:

This course will help you establish your identities as scholarly practitioners and leaders. The Scholarly Practitioner is defined as one who blends practical wisdom with professional skills and knowledge to identify, assess, and solve problems of practice, uses practical research and applied theories as tools for change; addresses problems of practice by collaborating with key stakeholders, including the university, educational institutions, communities, individuals, families, and organizations.
VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course will be conducted in a lecture-discussion format. In addition to the traditional face to face lecture format, some live stream classes will occur. 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.

XI. COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

This course will utilize Brightspace/D2L to support the delivery of course content (for help with Brightspace/D2L go to https://www.sfactl.com/student-support). You will need basic skills regarding the use of a word processor and web browser. Computers are available to you through a number of labs across campus (see www.sfasu.edu or the instructor for details).

X. COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 & 2  
Review Syllabus and Course Overview  
Chapter 1  
Social Welfare, Past and Present  
Chapter 2  
Social Work and Other Helping Professions  
Readings: Ambrosiano  
Assignment: Current Event # 1  
Due: 09/07/23

Week 3 & 4  
Chapter 3  
The Ecological/Systems Perspective  
Chapter 4  
Diversity and Social Justice  
Readings: Ambrosiano Text, Chapters 3 & 4  
Assignment: Discussion Question # 1  
Due: 9/14/23
Week 5 & 6 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: Ambrosiano Text, Chapters 5 & 6*

*Assignment: Current Event # 2*

*Due: 10/05/23*

**Week 7 & 8**

Part 3 – Fields of Practice and Populations Served by Social Workers
Introduction to Social Welfare Written Assignment Due: Chapter 7

Poverty, Income Assistance, and Homelessness Chapter 8
Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Disabilities

*Readings: Ambrosiano Text, Chapters 7 & 8*

**EXAM II -10/17/23**

*Mid-Semester Grade Reporting*

**Week 9 & 10**

Chapter 9

Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Disability

*Readings: Ambrosiano Text, Chapter 9*

*Assignment: Paper Assignment*

*Due: 11/02/23*

**Week 11 & 12**

Chapter 10 & 11
The Needs of Children, Youth, and Families Services to Children, Youth, and Families

*Readings: Ambrosiano*

Chapter 12
Older Adults: Needs and Services Chapter 13
Criminal Justice

*Readings: Ambrosiano Text, Chapters 12 & 13*

*Assignment: Discussion Question # 2*

*Due: 11/16/23*

**Week 13 & 14**

Chapter 14
Class Assignment; Lecture on Chapter 14: Social Work in Rural Settings

Chapter 15
Social Work in the Workplace

Readings: Ambrosiano Text, Chapters 14 & 15

Week 15 & 16

Chapter 16
The Globalization of Social Work
Course Summary & Evaluation
Review for Final
Assignment: Current Event # 3
Due: 12/07/23

Final Exam: 12/14/2023
8:00am-10:00am
XI. 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.

B. **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. 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.

C. **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 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.

D. **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.

E. 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.

F. **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.

G. **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 assignments
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 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.

XII. GRADING POLICY:

**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

XIII. GRADING SCALE:

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

XIV. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Per Class Attendance Policy SFA 6.7 students are expected to attend all classes, laboratories, and other class-related activities on a regular and punctual basis. Attendance policies will be stated in the course syllabus. For those classes where attendance is a factor in the course grade, an accurate record of attendance will be maintained. Absences At the discretion of the instructor, students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. When possible, students should notify their instructors in advance about absences. Students are responsible for providing documentation in a timely manner to the instructor for each absence. The instructor determines whether such documentation is satisfactory. Students missing classes, other than for university-sponsored trips, should contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) and request that an absence notification be sent to the instructor(s). The notification is not an excuse, and is not evaluated by OSRR. The notification is only provided as a courtesy to the student and the student's instructor(s). If
participating in university-sponsored events, announcements in mySFA may constitute official notification. Faculty members sponsoring activities that require their students to be absent from other classes must submit to the provost and vice president for academic affairs an explanation of the absence, including the date, time, and an alphabetical listing of all attending students. If approved by the provost and vice president for academic affairs, this information will be posted on mySFA. Whether absences are excused or unexcused by the instructor, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences equaling no more than 15% of the scheduled course meeting time for the term, depending on the nature of the missed work. The timeline for completing make-up work will be determined by the instructor. https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/6.7.pdf

XV. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (SFA Policy 4.1)

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure
another student academically or financially.

**Note:** The following is specific to School of Social Work.

Social work students are required to uphold the School of Social Work Academic and Professional Integrity Code they agreed to when they first enrolled in the program. The BSW/MSW/DSW Student Handbook and Academic and Professional Integrity Code outline 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. 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, visits to agencies, 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.

**XVI. WITHHELD GRADES SEMESTER GRADES POLICY (SFA Policy 5.5)**

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**XVII. 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
XVIII. STUDENT WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
[www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents](http://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents)
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

[www.sfasu.edu/thehub](http://www.sfasu.edu/thehub)
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
Introduction to Social Welfare Written Assignment:  Due Date: 11/02/2023

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  
20 pts.

2.) What are some different and opposing perspectives/ideologies  
(liberals vs. conservatives) 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
SOCW 2362.001
Introduction to Social Welfare
Fall 2023
Scott, S. -Clinical Instructor
Socw office: Socw building # 105
Office phone number: 936 468-4109
Email:scottsm4@sfasu.edu

Office hours:  Monday: 8:30am-9:30am and 1:00pm -3:00pm
               Wednesday: 8:30am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-2:30pm
               Tuesday/Thursday: 8:30am-9:30am
               Schedule by appointment also

Midterm Exam Information:

The Midterm Exam will be over Chapters 5 and 6 from your Social work and social welfare:
An introduction (8th ed.) textbook. Your Midterm Exam will be on October 17, 2023 from 9:30am-10:45am. This Exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank and essay questions. No scantron needed.

Final Exam Information:

The Final Exam will be over Chapters 7-16 your Social work and social welfare:
An introduction (8th ed.) textbook. Your Final Exam will be on December 14, 2023 from 8:00am-10:00am. This Exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank and essay questions. No scantron needed.
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


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


