

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus:

SOWK 3823 Social Policy Analysis and Advocacy

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory: None

Prerequisite: Admission to BSW, POLS 2753 American National Government, and junior standing, or departmental permission.

Effective Catalog: 2015-2016

I. Course Information:

A. Catalog Description

Examines the rationale, implementation and effectiveness of current social welfare policies and programs. Content includes strengths, limitations, and alternatives to governmental intervention in social welfare. Emphasis on concepts and frameworks for analyzing social welfare policies and programs, with special attention to their differential impact on at-risk and oppressed populations.

B. Additional Information- None

II. Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. (Competency 2.1.2)
2. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services. (Competency 2.1.8)
3. Respond to contexts that shape practice. (Competency 2.1.9)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the Workers Code of Ethics
<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/CODE/Default.asp>.
5. Demonstrate Generalist Practice and core competencies. (Competency 2.2)

**The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires 10 Core Competencies, a Code of Ethics, and Generalist Practice requirements.*

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Technological Skills

Students will use the library and internet resources to research literature to complete research papers, written assignments, and to prepare for class discussions. The use of a variety of technological resources will be a graded component of these written and verbal activities.

Communication Skills

Students will demonstrate appropriate written and verbal communication skills through papers and oral presentations concerning course focus and in accordance with instructions.

Ethics

Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of social work (nationally and internationally) as a discipline, and as a profession. Standard ethical conduct reflected by the CSWE and related international Social Work associations will be addressed.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will be introduced to global and cultural perspectives with respect to the social work profession and in accordance with the CSWE core competency requirements. Written and verbal activities will require that students demonstrate an understanding of these global and cultural perspectives.

III. Major Course Topics:

- A. National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
- B. Advocacy for at-risk and oppressed populations
- C. Social Policy Analysis
- D. Analysis of social welfare policies
- E. Topics relevant to Americans with Disabilities Act