LOCATOR INFORMATION
Instructor:
Course Number and Name: SWRK 510 Social Welfare Policy and Services
Semester Hours of Credit: 3
Day/Time Class Meets:
Room/Bldg. Where Class Meets:
Email Address:
Office Telephone Number: Fax:
Office Location:
Office Hours:

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the historical development of social welfare by examining social policy, social service provisions, social justice, and inequality. Students develop knowledge and skills in assessing the differential needs of diverse populations, plan and implement evidence-based interventions and evaluate one’s practice. Analytic frameworks with regard to social welfare policies and services are introduced. Students develop skills in problem definition and documentation, policy design, policy analysis, political advocacy and policy evaluation. In addition, students learn how to organize and mobilize stakeholders, and empower individuals, groups and organizations.

DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203
CELL PHONE POLICY

All cell phones will be turned off. Please consult with the instructor prior to the start of class if there are extenuating circumstances.

WRITING POLICY

Writing is a major part of the social work profession. The APA style is required for all academic research papers in social work courses. The student must use the APA style as demonstrated in the APA Manual. Failure to use the APA style will result in points being deducted from any papers written in social work courses.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


(Additional readings will be required).

SELECTED INTERNET RESOURCES

FSU Blackboard: https://blackboard.uncfsu.edu/

National Association of Social Workers: http://www.naswdc.org/

Other selected websites are located on Blackboard.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Articulate understanding of the historical development of the social work profession the professional values and ethics and its role in creating, responding to, and implementation of social policy.

2. Critically evaluate how social welfare policies impact individuals, families, community systems, groups, workers, and organizations.

3. Discuss major events and social issues leading to the current status of the social welfare system, and the contributions of individuals associated with the development.

4. Examine patterns, strengths and limitations of social welfare service provisions and policies as related to child welfare, family services, adult services, mental health, income maintenance, substance abuse, corrections, and health care.

5. Understand and apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice.

6. Examine the social work profession’s impact on the development and implementation of social welfare policy.

7. Describe the influence of social work values and ethics on the formation of social welfare policy.

8. Analyze social issues pertaining to discrimination and oppression as they relate to social and economic injustice, racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, and ageism, and the strategies and skills of change needed to advance social and economic justice.

9. Use research to critically evaluate the formulation and implementation of policies and apply findings to practice.

10. Conduct evaluations of one’s own practice interventions.

11. Understand and utilize leadership skills in managing community groups, agencies and organizations as well as demonstrate cultural competency, and utilization of interpersonal communication skills differentially with client systems of all sizes.

12. Conduct community assessments and become involved in developing community resources.

13. Discuss and use structured frameworks for policy analysis through the utilization of research and technology.

14. Evaluate how policy analysis can contribute to the advancement of knowledge regarding social problems in rural, urban, and military areas, policy formulation and implementation.

15. Describe the roles of the policy practitioner and the social work profession in promoting change and achieving social and economic justice.

16. Review the historical context of social work practice with military families and dependents.
TEACHING STRATEGIES

Teaching strategies will include a combination of lectures, multi-media presentations, computer applications, classroom discussions, group work, classroom exercises, Blackboard, and student presentations.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

1. The University College Learning Center is open for computer use. They are located at the Helen T. Chick Building.
2. There is also assistance for Supplementary Instruction in writing. This department is also located in the Helen T. Chick Building. Please contact them at 910 672-1864 to make an appointment or inquire about their services.
3. Smarthinking: www.smarthinking.com/static/colleges On-line tutorial and on-line writing lab. 4. Turnitin.com On line plagiarism review Turnitin.com Other services are listed and described on the FSU Office of Student Affairs website.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class attendance and participation means students will come to class having read the assigned materials and be prepared to discuss them with their peers. Regular and punctual class attendance is essential to the enhancement of student performance. If students are absent for any reason, it is their responsibility to find out from other students what they have missed.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students are responsible for all material assigned and discussed in the course. Students are expected to submit their assignments in a timely manner. Late submission of assignments will receive a letter grade reduction per day, (day count includes weekends). Students are expected to complete assigned readings and review web sites prior to class to promote participation in classroom discussions. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions, and group exercises. All students are required to have an e-mail address. Cellular phones, and beepers should be set on vibrate or not be turned on during class time. Bluetooth and similar devices are not to be displayed or worn during class. ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY POLICY, VISITORS AND CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and EVALUATION CRITERIA

Students will learn individually, and as a part of group process. Assignments will require interaction with decision-makers, lobbyists, and activists, i.e. in the political process. The assignments require thoughtful application of information from the readings, lectures, class presentations, Blackboard Discussions, and in-class exercises. Because discussion of the course material will consume a large part of every class, students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to class. All written assignments MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA BLACKBOARD or EMAIL.
GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Paper 1 - Policy Analysis (20%)
Paper 2 - Social Work and Social Welfare Policy (20%)
Paper 3 - Social Welfare Development (20%)
Project – Group Presentations (20%)
Blackboard Discussions (10%)
Attendance & Classroom Participation (10%)

GRADING SCALE
A 90-100 Exceptionally high
B 89-80 Good
C 79-70 Satisfactory
Below 70 Academic Failure

GRADING CRITERIA

A: Exceeded expectations on individual and group oriented projects, consistent performance above what is ordinarily required for this course. Superior quality on all assignments.

B: Meets all expectations as specified in the course syllabus in a laudatory, commendable, and professional manner.

C: Meets minimum course requirements.

D: Did not meet minimum course requirements, but demonstrates evidence of being able to complete the same. F: Did not meet minimum course requirements.

INDICATORS OF EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE

With regard to written assignments, an A paper is usually distinguished from B range work because the student adequately comprehends his/her task, its implications from the outset, and represents that understanding to the reader throughout. An A paper typically formulates a new set of provocative and even poignant questions and answers principally out of the source texts. An A paper will provide a sustained moment of serious reflection on the implications or consequences of the position the student has assumed. An A paper, in other words, will imagine that there is a social work oriented “action or intervention horizon” beyond the paper where the ideas worked out in the paper might have significance or influence. An A paper is logical, particularly strong in content and organization, brimming with critical thought, fluid, clear, and illustrative of an admirable ability to convincingly use textual support in developing, extending, or challenging certain positions. The thesis is clear, insightful, sophisticated, and original. Lastly, an A paper is free from sentence level errors.
ASSIGNMENTS

Paper 1 - Policy Analysis  (20%)

Write a 10 page reflection paper based on the selection and examination of a current policy area specifically related to the practice of social work or to the dimensions of social welfare especially relating to military families and dependents where applicable. In addition to your textbooks, in-class lectures, and small group exercises, support your conclusions with four supplemental sources: two professional journal articles, one book, and one internet source. Ideas for this assignment may include:

1. Develop and deliver a testimony before a committee on a bill that impacts clients in your area of concentration. Provide documentation and/or correspondence to and from committee members.

2. Organize individuals, groups, community members, leaders, organizations, etc. to prepare testimony to give before legislators regarding a bill or policy that affects them.

3. Work with an organizational lobbyist, who is lobbying for a state legislative agenda regarding policies or bills that impact clients. Provide any documentation to and from members of the organizations and legislators. Document the current status of bill or policy, and plans how it will be supported or opposed.

4. Join a coalition or advocacy group and assist in setting and implementing their legislative agenda. Include and correspondence and documentation to coalition members, committee members, and legislators.

5. Prepare and submit a well-researched article on a policy or bill with implications for social work, community and client population to a popular press.

6. Serve as a volunteer for an individual who is running for office by conducting research on specific policies, issues and bills that impact clients in your area of concentration. Discuss finding that you provide to candidate running for office.

7. Conduct an interview with patrons or sponsors of a proposed policy or bill that impacts clients within your area of concentration. Follow up your meeting with a letter, summarizing the discussion and thanking them for their time. In addition, summarize steps that either one of you agreed to take.

8. Arrange meetings with clients and their elected local, state, or federal officials to discuss policies, regulations and personal views. Summarize the meeting and document results from the meeting. Follow up meetings with a thank you letter to elected officials.

Include the following in your paper:
   a) Introduction
   b) Description of policy
   c) Reason for choosing project option, policy and how it relates to your area of concentration
   d) A discussion of what occurred during implementation of project
e) Strengths and limitations in executing project
f) Self analysis during the implementation of project
g) Project outcomes
h) Conclusions
i) Include any documents and correspondence in an appendix
j) Annotated bibliography

Questions to consider (when applicable):
1. Introduction to the issue being advocated.
2. What are your desired outcomes (what is your agenda)?
3. What are your justifications?
4. What are your priorities?
5. What are your fallback positions?
6. Who are your likely or identified allies and opponents? Why?
7. Who are your targets? How do they see the situation?
8. How are you tailoring your information to fit your different targets?
9. What evidence are you going to use or where are you going to get the evidence to support your positions?
10. What are the likely arguments that you will have to counter?

This assignment MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA BLACKBOARD

Paper 2 - Social Work and Social Welfare Policy (20%)

Select a social policy, i.e. social welfare, health, child welfare, mental health. Policy must focus on a specific law or court decision, i.e. Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996. The following components below should be addressed in your paper:
1. Historical Background of Policy
2. Description of problem that necessitated the policy
3. Description of policy
4. Policy analysis
5. Impact on rural and urban areas

In addition, include in your discussion intended and unintended consequences of policy implementation. Address appropriate constituencies, theorists, service providers, clients/consumers, activists, lobbyist, and decision makers; and social and cultural factors influencing policy development. The paper should not exceed 15 pages. This assignment MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA BLACKBOARD

Paper 3 – Historical Development Social Welfare in the U.S. (20%)

Students will prepare a well researched and well written 20 page paper analyzing the contextual and historical development of social welfare in the U.S. Additional information on this assignment will be posted on Blackboard. This assignment MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA BLACKBOARD
Project - Group Presentation (20%)  

Students will be divided into five groups. Each group will develop a presentation pertaining to their assigned chapter(s) and readings. As a part of presenting, the groups will identify important concepts and highlight issues addressed in the chapter(s). The groups will at a minimum develop a consolidated PowerPoint presentation. Additionally, handouts, video clips, guest speaker, etc. are encouraged to enhance learning and the group’s presentation. The presentations will be a minimum of 50 minutes but not more that 75 minutes in duration with equal representation of effort by all members of the group should not be longer than one hour.

The following will be addressed in the presentation:
   a) Introduction
   b) Define the problem
   c) What caused the problem?
   d) Identify and define sub issues underlying problems
   e) Analysis
   f) Recommendation for solutions
   g) Presentation should be no more than 75 minutes

Deliverables for this assignment MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA BLACKBOARD