



## SWK 2362: Social Welfare

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Tammy Sung, MSSW, LMSW  
Office Location: Henderson 310  
Office Hours: Scheduled with the professor via email  
University Email Address: tammy.sung@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**  
Communication Response Time: 2 business days

office times can be scheduled in person or via Zoom, as requested. Please email to schedule those times.

This course will be synchronous and attendance **will be required online weekly** via Zoom. On Tuesdays from 11:15-1:15 pm and Thursdays will have an online assignment.

### COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### Textbook(s) Required

H.J. Karger & D. Stoesz (2023). "American social welfare policy: a Pluralist approach". (9<sup>th</sup>ed) Pearson. Hoboken, NJ

Software Required: **NONE**

Optional Texts and/or Materials: **NONE**

## **Course Description**

This course offers a historical and contemporary examination of legislation and resulting programs, policies and services in the context of the social welfare system in the United States. Special attention is given to the political, economic, environmental and social conditions that prompted the development of legislation to meet the needs of the vulnerable populations. Societal responses to legislation are also considered. Through examination of the programs, policies and services in the context of the welfare system in the United States, this course examines the theoretical basis for understanding groups, organizations, and communities. Emphasis is placed on providing students with theoretical knowledge, which can then be applied to assessing and intervening with mezzo and macro client systems. Systems theory is utilized as a framework for understanding interactions between and among social units.

### **Relationship to Other Courses:**

This pre-requisite course prepares students for continued study in Social Welfare Policy and Social Issues and serves as an essential foundation for all areas of Generalist Social Work Practice.

### **PROGRAM GOALS:**

1. Prepare students for competent and effective generalist social work practice with diverse client systems.
2. Provide students with a foundation of knowledge for professional development, graduate education and lifelong learning
3. Develop student capability to improve human service delivery systems and promote social justice
4. Socialize student to the profession of social work

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires a competency-based approach to identify and assess what students demonstrate in practice. In social work, this approach involves assessing students' ability to demonstrate the competencies identified in the educational policy. Listed below are the competencies and associated knowledge, skills, values and/or cognitive and affective processes that comprise the expected outcomes for this course.

	<b>Activity/Assessment</b>	<b>Dimension</b>
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<b>Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice</b>		
Students will apply their understanding of social, economic, and environmental justice to advocate for human rights at the individual and system levels	Exams covering course content  Policy Letter	Knowledge and skills
Students will engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice	Policy Letter	Knowledge and skills
<b>Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice</b>		
Students will identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that affects well-being, service delivery, and access to social services	Exam 2  Policy Letter	Knowledge and skills
Students will assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services	Exam 2 and 3	Knowledge and skills
Students will apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice	Exams 1,2, 3  Policy letter  Documentary Essay	Knowledge and skills

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

In this class you will utilize the Learning Management Systems (LMS) D2L for instructional and learning opportunities, submitting your assignments, participating in online synchronous and asynchronous discussions, accessing resources, and

completing quizzes/tests. Additionally, knowledge and skills in using Microsoft Word PowerPoint and Outlook Email, If you have any issues with using the various systems or software, it is your responsibility to contact support services and to notify the instructor of the problem.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be delivered via synchronous and asynchronous sessions via D2L and will consist of live class sessions, pre-recorded lectures, group engagement activities, various assignments with some including experiential learning and practical application of the content areas. In addition, small lectures, discussion activities and workshops may be utilized to provide instruction during this course.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

As a student in this course, you are responsible to engage in active learning and reaching out to the instructor if there are problems or challenges that is interfering in optimal learning. Communication is key when engaged in a fully online, virtual environment.

Expectations for success include:

1. Always demonstrate professional behavior, including demonstrating respect for instructor and peers; being open to feedback and guidance throughout this class and in the program.
2. Adhered to the School of Social Work and University student code of conduct, along with NASW Code of Ethics.
3. Begin reading the assigned text and supplemental readings as soon as possible, with a focus on completing all readings prior to engagement with instructor or peers.
4. Prepare to engage in live class sessions, discussions, and other activities so you can be a contributor as well as receiver of knowledge and skills.
5. Actively participate in engagement activities which will include live virtual class sessions, online discussions, and interactive learning opportunities -as this is vital for learning and success in both this course and the program.
6. Work ahead when possible, completing assignments ahead of due date so you are prepared to submit on the due date.

7. Sign into the D2L course multiple times during the week to access updated announcements or posted resources.
8. Check your university email daily. This is the official method of communication by the university, department, and instructor.
9. Be open and focused on the “process” and not the “product” as earning this degree requires time, effort, work and ultimately growth in knowledge, skills, abilities along with personal and professional attributes.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% of total points

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

**Evaluation for course grades are according to the following formula:**

<b>ASSIGNMENT:</b>	<b>Points:</b>
3 exams	300
Social Welfare Policy Letter	50
Documentary Reflection Paper	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>

## **Assessments**

### **DUE DATES:**

**All Assignments are due in D2L by the due date. I will not be able to accept late work.**

As social work students, you will have many deadlines in practice that you will be expected to meet. Many times not meeting deadlines can result in having an adverse effect on your clients' lives. It can also result in termination in employment. The School of Social Work feel it is good to help you get into the habit of meeting those expectations now vs. later. Our goal for each of you is to be successful not only in this course, but also in the practice setting.

Thank you for understanding and your willingness to take the first step toward your own success.

## **ASSIGNMENT I :**

**Exams (300 points total- 100 points each)**

**You are expected to read each chapter in this book. There will be (3) Exams throughout the semester. Social Welfare is something that ALL social workers need to be familiar with and know before they go out into the field. It must be taken seriously.** You will use what you learn in this class throughout your whole career.

## **Assignment II:**

### **SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY LETTER – (50 points)**

Choose a social welfare issue discussed in class. Prepare a letter to an elected official regarding your chosen social welfare issue. You are not required to actually send the letter; however, it must demonstrate the appropriate format and content.

Additional information is located in Appendix A of the syllabus. Example papers are located in D2L.

## **Assignment III:**

### **Documentary Reflection Paper- (100)**

Analyze the social welfare policy issues presented in a current documentary that presents the impact of social welfare policies and programs on people's day-to-day lives. Additional information is located in Appendix B of the syllabus. Documentary options are located in D2L.

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## ECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor via email. Instructor will respond to email queries within two business days.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor via email. Instructor will respond to email queries within two business days.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

# **School of Social Work and Council on Social Work Education Specific Policies**

## **Course Engagement**

### **Final Evaluation and Grade Depends on both Classroom attendance and Participation**

Inadequate participation or lack of required time commitment in each class significantly affects students' grades. No matter the course venue, students must engage in a comparable amount of time. Expectations of both Face-to-Face classes and those with Online components include time spent reading and studying course material. To earn a level of competency within a specific course, students must demonstrate both mastery of content and active engagement.

Mastery of content areas is evidenced by successful completion of course assignments such as written papers, group project deliverables, tests/quizzes and other tangible products designed by instructors to evaluate knowledge and skills.

Additionally, the Social Work Profession is built upon human interactions and building human relationships – which is defined as engagement. Engagement is defined as meaningful involvement in interactions with instructor, peers, outside stakeholders as appropriate (such as contacting a social worker to interview for a required assignment). Within the classroom setting, whether virtual or F2F, students must actively participate in 80% of engagement activities as outlined by individual instructors. These activities may include, but are not limited to participation in live, synchronous virtual classes, attending a Face-to-Face course when appropriate, interacting with peers in posted discussions and collaborating in group interactive projects.

Students must meet standards for content mastery on tangible assignments and meet the threshold of active engagement of the time set during a semester by the instructor.

Instructors are experts in each course content area and set the standards for students to meet for successful completion of the course.

## **Student Conduct**

Students preparing to become professional social workers must adhere to the *University Code of Conduct*, *Department Code of Conduct* and *National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Code of Ethics*.

## **Department Code of Conduct**

*"Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/lab/internship practicum or to block access to online courses and may refer offenses to the [Academic and Professional Issues Committee (API)] or to the Department Head. More serious offenses may be referred to the University Police Department and/or the Judicial Affairs Office for disciplinary action" (Student Guidebook p 35)*

Social Work students conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Closely linked with professional recognition is the social worker's compliance with the profession's ethical standards. It is imperative for professional social workers to be competent and ethical in practice if the profession is to maintain the public trust. It is essential that each social work student gain a thorough understanding of the ethical principles that guide practice and actively demonstrate in behavior, both in and out of the classroom. Student conduct is to reflect the tenets of *NASW Code of Ethics* (located at <https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp> ) on the NASW website: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

**University Code of Conduct** located in the *Student Guidebook* at <http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf> (pp 34- 66). On the University Website under Campus Life Documents

To become aware of university policies related to student academic and behavioral expectations for students refer to the Guidebook

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<b>Week 1</b> <b>6/2</b>	<b>Introduction- Course Overview</b> <b>What is social welfare? Why study social welfare policy? Values and beliefs as the cornerstone of social welfare policy in America</b>	<b>Syllabus Review</b>
<b>6/5</b>	<b>Read Chapter 1</b>	
<b>6/10</b>	<b>Chapter 1 Review</b> <b>Role Play Colors</b> <b>“Social Welfare Policy and the Welfare State”</b>	
<b>6/12</b>		<b>Online quiz due Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm</b>
<b>6/17</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b> <b>“The Origins of Social Welfare”</b>	
<b>6/19</b>	<b>Finish Chapter 2</b>	<b>Read Chapter 2</b>
<b>6/24</b>	<b>Review Chapter 4</b> <b>“Discrimination in Society”</b> <b>Review for Exam 1</b>	
<b>7/1/7/3</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Due Friday Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 pm</b>
<b>7/8</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b> <b>“Poverty In America”</b>	
<b>7/10</b>		<b>Read Chapter 5</b>
<b>7/15</b>	<b>Review Chapter 6</b> <b>“The Voluntary Sector”</b> <b>Review Instructions and Rubric for Social Welfare Policy Letter</b>	

<b>7/17</b>	Complete Policy Letter to turn in on July 20 by 11:59pm	<b>Policy Letter Due 7/20 by 11:59 pm</b>
<b>7/22</b>	<b>Review Chapter 7</b> <b>“Privatization and Human Services Corporations”</b>	<b>Read Chapter 7</b>
<b>7/24</b>	<b>Finish Chapter 7</b>	<b>Documentary Assignment Due</b>
<b>7/29</b>	<b>Review Chapter 8</b> <b>“Making of the Government”</b>	<b>Read Chapter 8</b>
<b>7/31</b>	<b>Finish Chapter 8</b> <b>Complete EXAM 2</b>	<b>Exam 2 Due 8/1 11:59 pm</b>
<b>8/5</b>	<b>Chapter 9</b> <b>“Tax Policy and Income Distribution”</b> <b>Chapter 10</b> <b>“Social Insurance Programs”</b>	
<b>8/7</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	

## Appendix A: Rubric and Instructions for Social Welfare Policy Letter

### **Social Welfare Policy Letter**

Choose a social welfare issue discussed in class. Prepare a letter to an elected official regarding your chosen social welfare issue. You are not required to actually send the letter; however, it must demonstrate the appropriate format and content. Please remember that you don't have

to present yourself as an expert. One of the purposes of advocacy letters is to ask questions, raise problems, and discuss issues. **If you raise an issue, you must be willing to implement a possible solution. Examples are included in the course content.**

- 1-2 Pages Double Spaced, 12pt font, Times New Roman, 1" margins

**Guidelines for writing advocacy letters:**

1. Select a social welfare policy issue to address in a letter to your elected official
2. You must address the letter to the elected official in your voting district
3. In the letter, you should identify yourself as a constituent and state where you are from, i.e., the city, state, and region that accompanies where the legislator is from.
4. State clearly what you would like your reader to do, ie vote for or against a particular bill, begin a program ect. If you are suggesting a program then you must provide realistic ideas for implementation and funding.
5. Explain *briefly* why you think he/she should do this. Help your reader understand the need for action on his/her part.
6. If the action you are requesting would require the reader to contact you, provide your telephone number, fax number, and/or e-mail address.

**Social Welfare Policy Letter Rubric**

Area of Focus	Specifics for Grading	Points Available	Points Earned
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<b>Introduction</b>	Introduce yourself, introduce the issue, and introduce who is impacted by this issue (identified population). <b>DO NOT identify</b> yourself as a student affiliated with any university.	5	
<b>Body of the Letter</b>	<b>A.</b> Give an overview of the policy; provide enough information for the reader to have a clear picture of the policy at hand. Give details, and cite your references.	10	
	<b>B.</b> Provide two specific examples of how this policy impacts the identified population.	15	
	<b>C.</b> Provide a possible solution to the identified issue	10	
<b>Conclusion</b>	Follow-up- the last paragraph should tell your elected official that you look forward to meeting with them to discuss the identified issue and that you will call their local office to schedule a meeting. As a closing, invite the legislator to contact you for further information.	5	
<b>Grammar and Clarity</b>	Grammar, spelling, use of academic tone vs. conversational tone (do not write how we speak), cite your references. (APA)	5	

**\*\*Three example letters are located in D2L\*\***

## **Appendix B: Documentary Reflection Paper Rubric & Instructions**

Analyze the social welfare policy issues presented in a current documentary that presents the impact of social welfare policies and programs on people's day-to-day lives.

### **Documentary Reflection Paper Instructions:**

Develop a 2-3 pages paper that addresses:

- What social problems are identified in the documentary? –
- What are the major social welfare policy issues related to the content of the documentary?
- What social values are critical?
- What are the implications for future social welfare policy and social work practice?
- *Do not use the first person in this written assignment.*
- *Documentary options are provided in D2L*

<b><u>Documentary Reflection Paper Rubric</u></b>			
<b>Area of Focus</b>	<b><u>Specifics for Grading</u></b>	<b>Points Available</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
Introduction (Heading)	The purpose of the paper is presented fully, professionally and clearly. Include purpose statement and thesis.	10	
Social Problem (Heading)	Identify and explain the social problems identified in the documentary	20	
Policy Issues (Heading)	Discuss the major social welfare policy issues related to the content of the chosen documentary	20	
Social Values (Heading)	Discuss why social values are critical	20	

Conclusion (Heading)	Summation of paper and discuss implications for future social welfare policy and future social work practice.	20	
Grammar	No 1 <sup>st</sup> person, grammar, spelling, use of academic tone vs. conversational tone (do not write how we speak), cite your references. (APA)	10	