

**SYLLABUS  
SOCIAL WELFARE 241  
FALL 2009**

**Dr. Deborah Sturtevant**

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00pm-4:00pm

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history and philosophy of social welfare and the contribution of social work to social welfare institutions. This course is designed to be an introductory course for students who are considering social work as a career. It is particularly designed for potential social work majors but students entering other helping professions will benefit from understanding the social welfare system and the role that social workers perform in social services in a global world.

The generalist social work practice model will be a guiding assumption of the course. Social work occurs within a political context that will be considered throughout the course. An examination of social work's knowledge base, practice skills, and values will be pervasive themes.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

Lecture, discussion, movies, guest speakers, and a field trip will be teaching methods utilized by the instructor.



**REQUIRED READINGS**

Suppes, M. & Wells, C. The Social Work Experience. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Peason/AB, 2009.

## **EVALUATION**

3 exams	25% each
Service-Learning/Journal	25%

You are expected to attend all classes. Assignments must be completed and tests taken on the date designated. Please refer to the college catalog for the policy on plagiarism. This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

## **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Any student whose disability falls within ADA guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. Students must register documentation with the Office of Disability Services and/or Academic Support Center.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The competencies for social work practice are listed below. Some of these objectives are related to this course content as described by the professor on the first day of class.

- 1) Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
- 2) Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles, and practice accordingly.
- 3) Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skills related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 4) Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice in a global world.
- 5) Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.
- 6) Apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes.
- 7) Use theoretical frameworks supported by empirical evidence to understand individual development and behavior across the life span and the interactions among individuals and between individuals and families, groups, organizations, and communities.
- 8) Analyze, formulate, and influence social policies.

9) Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions.

10) Use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities.

11) Use supervision and consultation appropriate to social work practice

12) Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and seek necessary organizational change

13) Integrate Christian perspectives with the knowledge, skills and values of the social work profession.

### **LIBERAL ARTS FOUNDATION**

Sophomores taking this course are at the point of determining if they wish to choose social work as a major. You will use this course to assist you in this decision while at the same time taking core curriculum courses. Courses in the core curriculum will assist you in understanding client systems and the services available to them. Your study of written and spoken language will help you express your understanding. Your study of religion and philosophy will guide you in considering values and ethics that influence practice.

### **HUMAN DIVERSITY AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS**

Your study of modern languages, the arts, and other cultures will help you understand the diversity of client systems. We will consider issues of gender, race, and class influence in social conditions such as poverty.

### **SOCIAL WORK VALUES AND ETHICS AND CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE**

You will have an opportunity to explore your own personal values and to compare and contrast them with social work values. You will come to understand social work as a profession based on a Code of Ethics that guides professional practice. You will have an opportunity to explore the historic and contemporary interaction between Christianity and the social work profession.

### **PROMOTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

Through the study of political, economic, and sociological theoretical perspectives in this course you will gain an understanding of the role of the social worker in the promotion of social and economic justice in a global world. This course will introduce you to the role of the generalist practice social worker as agent of change. An increased understanding of political theory and process will prepare

you to advocate for change.



## **COURSE OUTLINE**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>
<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>Course Introduction</b>
<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>Social Work Profession</b> Generalist Practice Environmental Perspective Social Work Roles Education and Career Employment Professional Organizations *Chapter 1
<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>Theoretical Perspectives</b> Systems Theory Ecosystems Generalist Values, Ethics, Diversity At-risk populations Political Perspectives *Chapter 2

- Sept. 8**                    **Social Justice and Social Policy**  
Social Justice and poverty  
Populations at-risk  
Discrimination  
History of Policy - Global  
Poor Relief US  
20<sup>th</sup> Century US  
21<sup>st</sup> Century US  
International Perspective  
Human Rights  
\*Chapter 3
- Sept. 10**                    **Family and Children Services**  
African-American Families  
Child Welfare Services  
Providers  
Populations at-risk  
Diversity  
Ethics and Spirituality  
Family and Child Welfare Policy – US and International  
Current Issues and Current Trends  
\*Chapter 4
- Sept. 15**                    **Exam 1**
- Sept. 17**                    **Mental Health**  
Knowledge, Values, and Skills  
Generalist Practice  
Case Management  
Disaster Relief  
Practice with diverse populations  
Historic perspectives  
Current and Future Issues  
\*Chapter 5
- Sept. 22**                    **Health Care**  
Generalist Practice  
History  
Programs and Services  
Global Perspectives  
Role of Social Worker  
Managed Care  
Health Systems and policies

<b>Sept. 24</b>	<p>*Chapter 6</p> <p><b>Schools</b></p> <p>Latino Population</p> <p>History</p> <p>Social Work Roles</p> <p>Diversity</p> <p>Special Education</p> <p>Values</p> <p>International Perspective</p> <p>*Chapter 7</p>
<b>Sept. 29</b>	<p><b>Substance Abuse</b></p> <p>History</p> <p>Social Work Roles</p> <p>Prevention and Treatment</p> <p>Research</p> <p>At-risk populations</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <p>Cross-cultural perspective</p> <p>Policies</p> <p>*Chapter 8</p>
<b>Oct. 1</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>Oct. 3</b>	<p><b>Aging</b></p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>History</p> <p>Programs and Services</p> <p>Diversity</p> <p>Policies-Legislation</p> <p>End of Life Issues</p> <p>Role of Social Worker</p> <p>International Perspective</p> <p>*Chapter 9</p>
<b>Oct. 8</b>	<p><b>Criminal Justice</b></p> <p>History</p> <p>Systems</p> <p>Values</p> <p>Social Work Role</p> <p>Social Justice</p> <p>Policies</p> <p>Global Perspectives</p>

\*Chapter 10

**Oct. 10**                    **Developmental Disability**  
History  
Statistics  
Diversity  
Policies  
Globalization  
Programs and Services  
Role of Social Worker  
\*Chapter 11

**Oct. 15**                    **Exam 3**  
**Service-Learning Journal Due**

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **1. SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT JOURNALS –**



You are required to volunteer to serve as a mentor/tutor for an at-risk child at CASA, Upward Bound, LEAP, Boys and Girls Club, Urban Youth Ministries, or another approved placement. You must work at least one hour per week for up to 20 or more hours over the course of the semester or whatever the hour requirement is for the particular placement. Keep a journal of the experience and include the following:

Reflect on the service-learning experience, connect material learned in class, compare/contrast your own childhood with at-risk child and comment on how this experience informs your career choice. What have you learned about yourself as a helping professional?

#### **2. Personal Statements – non-graded**

All majors must apply by the end of their sophomore year. Please write a three page personal statement about your selected major/s. It should be autobiographical in style. You must include information about your commitment to your chosen major/profession. Please also include relevant volunteer service. For a social work major you must include two completed reference forms and a major declaration form.

## **SWK. 241 - BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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