

**Potomac State College
West Virginia University**

**Introduction to Social Work SOWK-151
Fall 2011**

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Instructor Contact information
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Office Hours
On-line

Course Description

Introduction to Social Work: 3 Hr. PR: Consent. (Must be completed before applying to the major.)
Overview of the social welfare field and social work profession. Emphasizes social work values and ethics.

Textbook

Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare: Empowering People/10th Edition (8/2009),
Publisher: Cengage Learning, ISBN: 0495809527 or ISBN: 13:9780495809524

Method of Instruction
On-line

Attendance

Regular on-line attendance is critical to student success.

Learning Objectives

SOWK 151 (Introduction to Social Work)--students can begin forming an identity with the program early in their education and can begin recognizing the basic knowledge, values, and skills expected of them.

As such, Students will:

- I. be able to demonstrate an understanding of the social work world and principles of scholarly inquiry regarding socialization, social interaction, social structure, and social change.
- II. be able to demonstrate an understanding of methods of critical thought and principles of scholarly inquiry concerning issues that have shaped the development of social work in the United States including but not limited to the issues of age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, and social class.

- III. be able to demonstrate an understanding of methods of critical thought and principles of scholarly inquiry concerning contemporary United States' culture and society as seen from the humanistic or scientific perspective.
- IV. be able to evaluate and discuss the individual's role in making, maintaining, and affecting social work in U.S. culture.
- V. evaluate and discuss the connection between the individual and social work and the U.S. culture.
- VI. evaluate and discuss the role that the individual social worker plays in empowering U.S. society.
- VII. evaluate and discuss the important topics that social workers encounter in their research.
- VIII. increase their proficiency in written communications.
- IX. have gained experience in communication through active participation in class discussion.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- I. Understand the conditions that create the definition of social work.
- II. Identify the patterns and consequences of individual behavior that create the need for social work.
- III. Recognize the affect of social welfare institutions.
- IV. Be able to display the skills necessary to investigate the need for and outcomes of social work.
- V. Recognize the need for social work and its role in social policy formation
- VI. Understand how social work policies overlap and are interrelated.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University, regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, see Student Conduct Code. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonest, please see me *before* the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

ADA Statement

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, Potomac State College programs and courses will be accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and may require accommodations for this course or your academic program, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services at 788-6936.

Social Justice Statement

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual

orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangement with the Office of Disability Services (788-6936)

Days of Special Concern

WVU recognizes the diversity of its students and the needs of those who wish to be absent from class to participate in Days of Special Concern, which are listed in the Schedule of Courses. Students should notify their instructors by the end of the second week of classes or prior to the first Day of Special Concern, whichever is earlier, regarding Day of Special Concern observances that will affect their attendance. Further, students must abide by the attendance policy of their instructor's as stated on their syllabus. Faculty will make reasonable accommodations for tests or field trips that a student misses as a result of observing a Day of Special concern.

Inclement Weather

Weather-related college closings are announced by a recording on the campus switchboard (788-6800), on the college web site, by VMM on the campus phone system, and on regional radio and TV stations. Student who drive to class are encouraged to consider safety first in making attendance decisions, and to notify the instructor if they judge conditions to be unsafe to drive when class have not b been cancelled.

Requirements

Students are required to read each chapter in the text, Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare: Empowering People/10th Edition (8/2009), Publisher: Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning, ISBN: 0495809527 or ISBN: 13:9780495809524. There will be quizzes, assignments and discussions questions covering each chapter. **DUE DATES for quizzes/exams/Discussion Questions will be listed on the Calendar Tool.**

- Acceptable style/format of assignments: **MSWORD or RTF ONLY**
- **Do not include attachments when submitting assignments.**
- Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and syntax are an essential component of this course—points will be deducted for errors.
- Policy on missed deadlines: For each day after due date, 10 Percent will be deducted from graded score.
- Exams must be completed on scheduled dates and times. Exceptions may be made if requests are made before the scheduled date and time.
- Grades are based on the below grading scale and assignments. **All assignment, discussion, quiz and examination grade points have equal weight and value:** Scores on all quizzes and assignments will be converted to percentages. All class work is equally weighted. Thus, if there are 50 points on an exam and you receive 40 of them, your score will be expressed as a percentage: $40/50=80\%$.

Grading Scale

100–90 A
89-80 B
79-70 C
69-60 D
59-0 F

| <u>Chapter</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Assignment & Quiz (Due Dates)</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orientation | N/A | Assign., Discussion Q. & Quiz (8/26) |
| Chapter 1 | Social Welfare: Its Business, History and Future | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (9/2) |
| Chapter 2 | Social Work as a Profession/Career | Discuss. Q's/Assigns/Mod 1 Quiz (9/9) |
| Chapter 3 | Generalist: Social Work Practice | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (9/16) |
| Chapter 4 | Poverty and Public Welfare | Discuss. Q's/Assigns/Mod 2 Quiz (9/23) |
| Chapter 5 | Emotional/Behavioral Problems /Counseling | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (9/30) |
| Chapter 6 | Family Problems and Services to Families | Discuss. Q's/Assigns/Mod 3 Quiz (10/7) |
| Chapter 7 | Sexual Orientation and Services to GLBT Individuals | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (10/14) |
| Chapter 8 | Drug Abuse and Drug Treatment Programs | Discus Q's/Assigns/Mod 4 Quiz (10/21) |
| Chapter 9 | Crime, Juvenile Delinquency/Correctional Svs. | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (10/28) |
| Chapter 10 | Problems in Education & School Social Work | Discuss. Q's/Assigns/Mod 5 Quiz (11/4) |
| Chapter 11 | Work-Related Problems/Social Work at Work | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (11/11) |
| Chapter 12 | Racism, Ethnocentrism & Social/Econ Justice | Discus Q's/Assigns/Mod 6 Quiz (11/18) |
| Chapter 13 | Sexism and Efforts for Achieving Equality | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (12/2) |
| Chapter 14 | Aging and Gerontological Services | Discussion Q's. & Assignments (12/9) Mod 7 Quiz/Final Examination (12/12) |

Top 10 ways to do poorly in class:

1. DO NOT read the textbook or syllabus!
2. DO NOT study for quizzes and examinations!
3. DO party while completing assignments, taking quizzes, and examinations!
4. DO wait until the last possible opportunity to turn-in assignments so as to give yourself the chance of missing the deadline and opportunity to earn a grade for the assignment, and complete only some portions of assignment requirement instructions to guarantee a poor grade!
5. DO NOT spell/grammar check all submitted work, including emails!
6. DO NOT compare your Discussion Question submissions with what other students have submitted to assure you understand the assignment instructions!
7. DO NOT comment, critique or reply *‘‘thoughtfully’’ to at least one other student’s Discussion Question submission for each of the assigned Discussion Questions! *(Thoughtful comments/critiques/replies: add to, expound on, or challenges the logic/facts of another student’s original submission!) **IMPORTANT: Students may earn up to 4 points for their original Discussion Question submission AND up to 1 point for a satisfactory comment/critique/reply for a total of 5 points for each of the Discussion Questions!**
8. DO NOT take quizzes/examinations until the last possible date/time available, giving yourself the opportunity to miss taking the quiz/examination and receive a 0 (zero).
9. DO NOT contact the instructor prior to missing an assignment deadline or quiz/examination, so that arrangements can be made to make up the work or quiz/examination.
10. DO NOT stay in close contact with the instructor if you have difficulty with assignment instructions, experience a personal problem that prevents you from completing class work, or taking a quiz or examination!

NOTE: Failure to comply with the above may result in a passing, possibly good, or outstanding final grade!

NOTICE: There may be minor changes to the syllabus at the discretion of the instructor, and notification of these changes will be made to students in a timely manner.