

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**SOWK 3823 Social Policy Analysis and Advocacy**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite: Admission to the BSW program, or consent of instructor.

Prerequisite or corequisite: POLS 2753 American National Government

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**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.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to engage with clients and constituencies.
2. Apply and communicate understanding of the importance of diversity and difference in shaping life experiences in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
3. Engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.
4. Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.
5. Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/CODE/Default.asp>.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

### **Analytical Skills**

#### **Critical Thinking**

Students will assess the effectiveness and efficiency of social policies using empirical data, also considering historical and social factors shaping American social and institutional policies.

#### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will use professionally appropriate written and verbal communication skills through papers and oral presentations, writing proficiently to inform policy makers.

#### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will identify and process ethical dilemmas in policies across practice levels, appraising ethical conduct with institution norms and contrasted by the NASW Code of Ethics.

#### **Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will analyze and incorporate cultural diversity into policy practice, seek input from all stakeholders, prioritizing solutions that maximize inclusion and promote empowerment at the lowest level.

## **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