

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

SCWK 38263 Social Policy Analysis and Advocacy

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: NA

Prerequisite(s): Admission to the BSW program or consent of instructor

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): PLSC 27533 American National Government

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

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 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. Utilize the NASW Code of Ethics to guide ethical decision-making.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics
- B. Advocacy for at-risk populations
- C. Social Policy Analysis
- D. Analysis of social welfare policies
- E. Topics relevant to Americans with Disabilities Act