

COURSE OUTLINE **Introduction to Social Work**

Course Description

SW 102. Introduction to Social Work. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student explore social work as a helping profession. The student will be able to examine the development of social work as a profession as well as the knowledge and skills used by social workers.

Course Relevance

Social workers deliver programs and services in response to human need. Social workers and the programs they contribute to improve the quality of life for people and the well-being of society as a whole. The concepts learned in this course also give the student skills that will enhance her/his ability to think analytically and critically.

Required Materials

Morales, A.T. and Sheafor, B.W., (2010) *Social work, a profession of many faces*. (12th ed.). Pearson Education

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Describe the profession of social work.
2. Develop critical thinking skills regarding human behavior.

Learning PACT Skills that will be developed and documented in this course

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

Analytical Thinking Skills

1. Critical thinking
 - Through written assignments and other activities conducted in class students will develop critical thinking and analytical skills.

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcome(s) and the Learning PACT skill(s) will be demonstrated by:

1. Completion of a research assignment measuring critical thinking in the practice of social work.

Course Content

- I. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Writing
 - B. Reading
 - C. Computer literacy
 - D. Analytical thinking

- E. Ability to compare and contrast
- F. Memorization of terms
- G. Application of concepts
- II. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Commitment to betterment of society
 - B. An appreciation of human diversity
- III. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. International cultural differences
 - B. Demographic diversity of students
 - C. Diversity within psychological theory
- IV. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Importance of historical figures in Psychology
 - B. Different perspectives and explanation of Psychological concepts
 - C. Requires a certain degree of self-evaluation and introspection
 - D. Terminology of the course

Learning Units

- I. Introduction: What is social work?
 - A. The history and development of social work as a profession.
 - B. The profession of social work
 - C. The goals and knowledge requirements for social workers
 - D. Historical figures important to the study of Psychology
 - E. Research methods
- II. Social work as a career
 - A. Theories
 - B. Options in employment
 - C. Standards and regulations within the social work practice
 - D. The differences between agency- based practice and private practice
- III. The practice of social work
 - A. Values and ethics
 - B. The global approach
 - C. Reactive versus the preventative emphasis
- IV. Social work practice with special populations
 - A. Women and children
 - B. Gay and lesbian groups
 - C. The elderly
 - D. People with disabilities
 - E. Race and ethnic diversity
 - F. Religious diversity

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be assigned to assist the student to achieve the intended learning outcome(s) through lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, and student presentations. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on completion of assessment tasks, research papers, tests, daily work, class participation, out-of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.