

SOCIAL WELFARE & SOCIAL CHANGE, SWK 6201
Fall 2024
WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Instructor Name

Email

Phone

Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces basic concepts related to social welfare with a particular focus on economic inequality, poverty, and systematic oppression through a human rights perspective. Students learn to identify and assess social problems and connect these problems to social work practice and policy. Students will connect the content infused throughout the curriculum related to social justice and equality for oppressed and vulnerable populations.

ōMīKlcng'ē 'Hpi gt 'ēpf 'iqwej ' {qw. {qw'y qp)v'gxp 'hp qy ' {qw)xg'ūggp 'wrr gf 0'

If I take two fingers, you will know that something touched you.

But if I bring all of vj qug'hpi gt u'qi gj gt 'lp 'ē 'Hw. 'Kēcp 'i kxg' {qw'ē 'vgt t kdg' dīqy ō'F qt qvj { 'J gli j v

The power of the relationship between an individual social worker and a client can be life-changing to a client. But the power of many social workers working together to address social problems can make a lasting positive impact on society. This is why organizing to support social welfare is at the heart of the development of the social work profession.

2021). But, unlike other professions with a related mission, fundamental to social work is our Ethical Principle that implores us to look beyond the needs of individual clients, and to challenge social injustice,

Code of Ethics, 2021).

to the broader society through section 6 of the NASW Code of Ethics.

processes relevant to shaping and influencing the institution of social welfare. Throughout the course, the unique and important role and function of the social work profession is stressed.

This course is generally taken in the first semester of study, because it relates to, and builds upon, the content covered in courses such as Cultural Diversity, Human Behavior and the Social Environment, and Generalist Social Work Practice. This course is important to help connect students with content infused throughout the curriculum related to social justice, and equality for oppressed and vulnerable populations. This course is a pre-requisite to Advanced Policy Advocacy, SWK 6210, taken during the advanced year of the MSW program.

COURSE COMPETENCY OUTCOMES

This course will help students achieve the following competencies:

Competency 2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

Social workers understand that every person regardless of position in society has fundamental human rights. Social workers are knowledgeable about the global intersecting and ongoing injustices throughout history that result in oppression and racism, inclu

critically evaluate the distribution of power and privilege in society in order to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice by reducing inequities and ensuring dignity and respect for all.

Social workers advocate for and engage in strategies to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social resources, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Social workers:

- advocate for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels; and engage in practices that advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

- engage in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.

Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice

Social workers identify social policy at the local, state, federal, and global level that affects well-being, human rights and justice, service delivery, and access to social services. Social workers recognize the historical, social, racial, cultural, economic, organizational, environmental, and global influences that affect social policy. Social workers understand and critique the history and current structures of social policies and services and the role of policy in service delivery through rights-based, anti-oppressive, and anti-racist lenses. Social workers influence policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation within their practice settings with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers actively engage in and advocate for anti-racist and anti-

Common Assignment: **Social Change Project, Part 3 & 5**

Coursework Indicator	Not Competent (1)	Developing Competency (2)	Competent (3)	Advanced Competency (4)
2A Advocate for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels.	Fails to advocate for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels.	Shows evidence of advocating for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels.	Advocates for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels.	Consistently advocates for human rights at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community system levels.
2B Engage in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.	Fails to engage in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.	Shows evidence of engaging in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.	Engages in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.	Consistently engages in practices that advance human rights to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.
5A Use social justice, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lenses to assess how social welfare policies affect the delivery of and access to social services.	Does not use social justice, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lenses to assess how social welfare policies affect the delivery of and access to social services.	Identifies the issues, but fails to use social justice, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lenses to assess how social welfare policies affect the delivery of and access to social services.	Uses social justice, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lenses to assess how social welfare policies affect the delivery of and access to social services in a clear, coherent, and	

The CSWE rubrics scores will NOT apply to your class grade. Individual scores are NOT made public; however, you can view your individual score at the following address:
<https://yeshiva.tk20.com/campustoolshighered/start.do>

In addition, the aggregated results of the assessments are listed on the Wurzweiler website at the address below: <https://www.yu.edu/wurzweiler/msw/assessment>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Examine personal values, and how they align with the values of the social work profession
2. Define social welfare and related terms
3. Discuss the ways in which social work values and ethics connect with social welfare policy and organizational policy
4. Recognize the impact of racial, ethnic, religious, economic, and social class discrimination on the development of social welfare
5. Understand the development of U.S. social welfare and the profession of social work in the context of the influence of specific historical events and figures.
6. Examine ethical issues, professional vs. personal values, and assumptions about oppression and

REQUIRED TEXTS (for both SWK 6201 and SWK 6210)

Lane, S.R., Palley, E. & Shdaimah, C. (2019). *Social welfare policy in a changing world*. Sage Publishing. ISBN: 9781544316185. Hard copy: \$151.00; eBook: \$56.00 (90 day rental). Used copies available.

National Association of Social Workers. (2021). *Social work speaks: National Association of Social Workers policy statements 2021-2023 (12th Ed.)*. NASW Press. ISBN: 978-0-87101-564-8. Hard copy: \$52.99; eBook: \$49.99. **Your instructor will notify you if a new edition of Social Work Speaks becomes available.**

The Social Work Speaks book is BEST purchased DIRECTLY from NASW Press (\$50 for an eBook, and \$53 for the volume in paperback. <https://www.naswpress.org/publications/Profession/social-work-speaks-1.html>

National Association of Social Workers. (2021). *Code of Ethics*.
<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English> Note: You do not need to

Note: Other required readings are available on-line through electronic reserve (E-RES) or found in the course Canvas shell. See instructions below for e-reserve.

OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author. ISBN: 1433832178. Paperback: \$31.99, Spiral-bound: \$44.99, Hardcover: \$54.99; eBook: \$26.99 through VitalSource.

COURSE POLICIES:

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) collaborates with students, faculty and staff to provide reasonable accommodations and services to students with disabilities.

<http://www.yu.edu/Student-Life/Resources-and-Services/Disability-Services/>

The purpose of reasonable academic accommodations is to assure that there is equal access to and the himself/herself to the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) and to provide documentation of a disability.

Student Responsibilities

Register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS).

Provide current, written documentation from a qualified practitioner that describes the nature of the disability, functional limitations associated with the disability, severity of the disability, and how the disability affects academic performance. **W* nBT/F10 9.96 Title nBT aq0.0t**

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Introduction to Key Concepts in Social Work and Social Welfare Policy (2 weeks)

Learning Objectives:

- Identify course objectives and requirements
- Introduce online library searching, and writing formats expected in the MSW program
- Examine personal values, and how they align with the values of the social work profession
- Define social welfare and related terms
- Discuss the ways in which social work values and ethics connect with social welfare policy and organizational policy
- Identify and describe theories that explain the evolution of the social welfare system.
- Recognize the impact of racial, ethnic, religious, economic, and social class discrimination on the development of social welfare

Required Readings:

Lane, S.R., Palley, E. & Shdaimah, C. (2019). *Social policy in a changing world*. Sage Publishing.

Chapter 1: Social Work: A Value-Based Profession in Historical Context, pp. 1-5.

Chapter 3: Practical Theories for Understanding and Analyzing Policy

Segal, E. (2011). Social empathy: A model built on empathy, contextual understanding, and social responsibility that promotes social justice. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 37(3), 266-277.

National Association of Social Workers. (2021). *Code of Ethics*. NASW Press.

National Association of Social Workers. (2007). *Standards for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice*. NASW Press.

Video introduction to library and YUFind:

Unit 2: Social Welfare History

Learning Objectives:

Identify the origins and roots of social welfare in the United States

Examine populations marginalized by race, ethnicity, age, and other sources of bias.

Required Readings:

Lane, S.R., Palley, E. & Shdaimah, C. (2019).

Unit 4: Human Rights and Social Change

Learning Objectives:

Identify basic human rights and civil liberties.

Explore groups vulnerable to oppression of their basic human rights and civil liberties

Examine the role of social justice in securing equal rights

Describe the role and responsibility of social work towards justice

Required Readings:

National Association of Social Workers., Wehrmann, K. C., & McClain, A. (2021). *Social work speaks: National Association of Social Workers policy statements*. NASW Press.

Affirmative Action

Civil liberties and justice

Peace and social justice

Racism

programs for older adults

Describe the role and responsibilities of social work in providing for the welfare of older adults

Required Readings:

Lane, S.R., Palley, E.S., & Shdaimah, C.S. (2019). *Social welfare policy in a changing world*. Sage Publishing.

Lane, S.R., Palley, E.S., & Shdaimah, C.S. (2019). *Social welfare policy in a changing world*. Sage Publishing.

Chapter 16: Environmental Policy

Assignments:

- 1) Class participation
- 2) Social Change Project Part 6: Communicating Your Findings

Unit 12: Current Policy Environment and Social Change

Learning Objectives:

Identify and analyze current policy issues for in-depth analysis and class discussion utilizing historical analysis and the role of social work in context

Required Readings:

[Five domains of wellbeing in a policy context: Frequently asked questions.](#) (2015). The Full Frame Initiative.

Binder, N., & Weiss-Gal, I. (2022). [Social workers as local politicians in Israel.](#) *The British Journal of Social Work*, 52(5), 2797-2813.

Miller, C.C., & Bui, Q. (2016, February 28). Rise in marriages of equals helps fuel divisions by class. *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/23/upshot/rise-in-marriages-of-equals-and-in-division-by-class.html>

Naughton, J. (2016, March 22). Dilley, Tex. *New York Times*. <http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/03/22/dilley-texas-home-to-the-nations-largest-immigration-detention-center/>