

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: October 3, 2011

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 26, 2012

Effective: Fall 2012

1. **Course Number:** HUS229
Course Title: Introduction to Social Welfare

2. **Course Description:** This course includes an analysis of the conceptions of social work, social welfare and social service delivery systems from both historical and contemporary perspectives. This course includes critical examination of the social justice mandate as well as issues of cultural diversity that effect and inform the practice of social work. Social work is presented as a profession that integrates science, clinical awareness and human understanding in practice intervention, policy development and research. Contemporary issues and problems in various fields of social work practice are explored with particular emphasis on the role of the generalist social work practitioner.

3. **Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives: intellectual skills):**
 - Knowledge Base of Social Welfare**

Students who successfully complete the course will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in social welfare. The students will be able to compare and contrast different approaches to the understanding of social welfare.
 - Research Methods in Social Welfare**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to evaluate research methods used in social welfare by articulating strengths and limitations of various research designs. Students will be able to dissect important topics in social welfare and understand that each topic can be analyzed using a variety of approaches.
 - Critical Thinking Skills in Social Welfare**

Students who successfully complete the course will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to social welfare. The student will show the ability to use critical thinking effectively by making linkages and connections between diverse facts, theories, and observations.
 - Application of Social Welfare**

Students who successfully complete the course will understand and apply concepts, theories, and research findings in social welfare as they apply to everyday life.
 - Values in Social Welfare**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of social welfare as a discipline. The student will recognize and respect human diversity and understand that principles of social welfare may vary across populations and contexts. The student will recognize the necessity for ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of social welfare.
 - Technology**

Students will use information and technology ethically and responsibly. They will quote, paraphrase, and cite correctly from a variety of media sources. Define and avoid plagiarism. Avoid distorting statistical results. Honor commercial and intellectual copyrights. They will demonstrate the following computer skills:
Use basic word processing, database, email, spreadsheet, and data analysis programs.
Search the World Wide Web for high quality information.
Use proper etiquette and security safeguards when communicating through email.

4. **Credits:** 3 credits

5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No

6. **Prerequisite:** PSY101 or SOC106

7. **Semesters Offered:** Varies

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests and class discussion. The final grade will consist of written papers, class participation, and examinations.

9. General Topical Outline:

In accordance with the National Association of Social Work standards, this course may only be taught by an instructor who holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW).

- Mission of social work profession
- Relationship of social work to social welfare
- History of social welfare and social work, and the quest for justice over the years
- Overview of the social systems and ecological frameworks of social work practice
- Exploration of common values of the social work professions
- Examination of the values context of social work including client systems, presenting problems, and social workers themselves.
- Social justice and the principles of human rights, civil rights and liberties, and citizens' right to social welfare.
- Social injustice in terms of racism, elitism, sexism, ageism, and handicapism.
- Understanding diversity and its implication for social work practice.
- Principles of ethnically sensitive, non-sexist social work practice.
- Social work with at-risk populations in the public domain with special emphasis given to the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, and criminal offenders.
- Social work's role in providing services for persons with physical disabilities and related issues of social functioning.
- Defining developmental disabilities as well as salient issue for social work's response such as normalization and least restrictive alternatives.
- Examination of the general implications of health care for social work and the specific applications of social work in health systems, and social work with AIDS.
- Examination of health care issues of the elderly in adult foster care, nursing home, assisted living, and hospitals.
- Presentation, discussion, and analysis of Community Agency Volunteer experiences.
- Social work's role with respect to the contemporary family with emphasis given to its forms, roles, life cycle and family-centered services.
- Overview of domestic violence, its incidence, dynamics, and effects as well as social service responses.
- The role of social work with life span issues relating to adulthood. Description and organization of the myriad of child welfare and associated responses of child protection and primary prevention.