Course Title and Number: SW 630: Social Work History and Social Welfare Policy

Instructors/Classroom:

Contact Information:

Office Hours:

Credits: 3

Course Description:

SW 630 explores the historical development of the social work profession and current policies governing the social service delivery system within the United States. Social policy is presented as a social construction influenced by a range of ideologies and interests. Special attention is paid to social welfare policy and programs relevant to the practice of social work, including poverty, child and family well-being, mental and physical disability, health, and racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities. The course includes a focus on the role of policy in creating, maintaining or eradicating social inequities.

Linkages with Other Courses:

SW 630 establishes the foundational understanding of the social work profession through history and the history of the welfare states. Through this course, students will acquire knowledge about social welfare policies that will be integral to their field practicums (SW 680 and SW 681). SW 630 complements the focus on structural oppression covered in SW 610 and establishes a core understanding of policy that will be used in SW 623: Social Work Methods with Communities, Organizations, and Legislatures.

Relevant Competencies and Associated Practice Behaviors:

Given the culminating and integrative nature of the generalist field practicum, students are expected to demonstrate the practice behaviors of all 10 competencies that comprise the Foundation year. See Appendix A for the list of Foundation practice behaviors and competencies.

Relevant Competencies and Associated Foundation Practice Behaviors:

Given the culminating nature of the IP, all ten advanced practice competencies and associated concentration level practice behaviors are relevant to this course.

2.1.1 Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.
   - F1 Advocate for client access to the services of social work.

2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
   - F8 Make ethical decisions by applying standards of NASW Code of Ethics and, as applicable, principles of the International Federation of Social Workers and the Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in SW.
2.1.3 Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.
   - F11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
   - F13 Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues.

2.1.4 Engage diversity and difference in practice.
   - F14 Recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.

2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice.
   - F18 Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination.

2.1.6 Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.
   - F22 Use research evidence to inform practice.

2.1.7 Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.
   - F24 Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment.

2.1.8 Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.
   - F25 Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being.
   - F26 Collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action.

2.1.9 Respond to contexts that shape practice.
   - F27 Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.

2.1.10 Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
   - F29 Substantively and effectively prepare for action with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
Course Objectives/Educational Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

630.1 Articulate the historical development of the social work profession (F1).

630.2 Identify the ideological positions and underlying values inherent to conservative, liberal, and radical political ideologies (F25).

630.3 Analyze the fit between ideological positions, policy solutions and social work values (F8, F25).

630.4 Critically examine the differential effects of social welfare policies on diverse groups (F1, F14, F18, F25).

630.5 Use electronic data sources to examine social problems (F11, F22, F25, F27).

630.6 Articulate the central provisions of major social welfare policies and how these policies influence practice (F25).

630.7 Use written communication to effectively describe and explain social welfare programs and policies (F13, F26).

630.8 Analyze the role of social policy in eradicating, establishing or maintaining inequality and oppression (F18, F25).

630.9 Identify and describe pivotal policies shaping social services and the profession (F25, F29).

630.10 Identify the steps involved in the legislative process (F25).

630.11 Distinguish between the roles all three branches of government play in policy.

630.12 Analyze the effects of economic structures on social service needs and provisions (F14, F24, F25).

630.13 Distinguish between public, non-profit and for-profit organizations.

630.14 Analyze the effects of current trends and policy choices on social service provision and clients (F25, F27).

Instructional Methods:

This course will implement a variety of collaborative learning techniques, including lecture, class discussion, small group activities, and videos.
Standard Course Policies:

- **Disabilities:** Students who have documented disabilities that may affect their learning or performance in this class should contact the UNR Disability Services Office (Thompson Student Services Building, Suite 100; (775) 784-6000; mzabel@unr.edu). The instructor will make those accommodations that are requested in writing by the aforementioned office.

- **Academic Success Services:** Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-4433) or www.unr.edu/mathcenter/, Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring/), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or www.unr.edu/writing_center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

- **UNR Counseling Services:** Helps students make the most of their university experience, both personally and academically. It is the primary facility on campus for addressing personal, psychological and mental health and substance abuse treatment needs of both undergraduate and graduate students. The goal in counseling is to help students overcome difficulties they may encounter during their educational experience. For more information, visit: http://www.unr.edu/stsv/cs/ or call (775) 784-4648.

- **Academic Dishonesty:** “Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses” constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student’s enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course, or giving an F for the assignment. For more details, see the UNR General Catalog.

- **Audio or Video Recordings:** Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents’ policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

Additional Course Policies:

- As much of the learning in this class is dependent upon class member contributions, you will be expected to come prepared and ready to actively participate in every class meeting. Active participation will include involvement in class activities and discussions, timeliness to class, and collegial conduct.

- Students who miss 2 class sessions will lose 10 points. Students who miss 3 class sessions will lose 15 points. Those students who miss 4 or more class sessions are at risk of receiving a grade of “F” for the course.
Course Texts:

You will be expected to have completed all assigned readings prior to the class session. Assigned readings can be found in the proposed schedule of classes.


*Other readings may be on electronic reserve

Assignments:

- **Midterm and Final Exams (25 points each)**
  - There will be two exams given during the semester. These exams will consist of short answer, matching, and essay questions. Questions will be designed to elicit your understanding of social welfare policy and its effects on societal well-being.
  - The dates for these exams are noted in the proposed schedule of classes. Each exam is worth 25 points. Make-up exams will only be given to students who experience an unexpected emergency. Students requesting make-up exams must present documentation supporting their need to miss the original exam date.

- **Policy Paper (30 points)**
  - Students will pick a policy issue that is important to them and develop a policy paper using the outline provided below. This paper should be a scholarly, researched, and referenced presentation in APA format. The majority of your references should be from the professional literature rather than from websites. You are expected to have a minimum of 7 references. The paper should be between 5 and 7 pages in length.
    - **Overview of the Social Issue and Policy (5 points)**
      - Identify a social issue of concern or interest to you.
      - Describe this issue. Who is affected by it? How is this population affected? How many people (statistics) are affected? Are some groups more affected than others?
    - **Policy Solutions (15 points)**
      - Identify 2 to 3 major policies enacted to address this issue. You can look at the evolution of policies across history that have attempted to address the issue or you can examine the “web of policies” that is currently in place to address the issue in today’s society.
• Describe each of these policies individually.
  ▪ On what level is it enacted?
  ▪ What are the manifest and latent goals of the policy?
  ▪ How is the policy implemented?
  ▪ What are the economic costs associated with the policy?
  ▪ How do the policies you identified influence one another?

- Analysis/Conclusion (5 points)

• In combination or over-time, how well have the policies addressed your identified social issue?
• Do the benefits of these policies warrant the expenditures?
• What still needs to be done to adequately address this issue?

- Clarity of your writing, correct grammar/spelling/punctuation, use of citations, and correct APA format (5 points)
**Important Policies Chart**

- For this assignment, you will complete a practitioner’s guide to important and critical policies within the State of Nevada. The following charts detail the specific policies as well as the relevant questions. The central purpose of this assignment is to provide you a tool to be used in practice. I am providing a suggested format for reporting the required information. However, you may use alternative formats as long as you cover all of the policies and questions below. This assignment is worth 15 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>How is the policy funded?</th>
<th>At what governmental level is the program managed?</th>
<th>What services or benefits are provided?</th>
<th>How do clients access these services (include a contact number or web address)?</th>
<th>Identify any timeframes or limitations associated with these services.</th>
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<td>Medicaid (specific to NV)</td>
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<td>Medicare (Parts A, B, C, D), SSI</td>
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<td>Unemployment (specific to NV)</td>
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<td>Welfare Reform PRWORA 1996</td>
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<td>TANF, SNAP (specific to NV)</td>
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<td>Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1996 (ASFA)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Identify the NRS and NAC that correspond to this policy.</th>
<th>Provide a brief summary of the policy, including who is affected by it, the requirements set forth by it, and its purpose.</th>
<th>How is the policy enforced?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nevada State Social Work Licensure</td>
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<td>Nevada State Involuntary Holds</td>
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<td>Nevada State Mandated Reporting Law</td>
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**Articles on Policy Issues (5 points)**

- Please bring one article (newspaper, Internet, summary of TV or radio show, etc.) which depicts a current social welfare policy in Nevada, the US, or the world to class each week.
Grading:

- Grades will be awarded based upon your performance on the aforementioned course requirements, as follows:
  - ✓ Social Policy Paper 30 points
  - ✓ Midterm Exam 25 points
  - ✓ Final Exam 25 points
  - ✓ Program/Policy Chart 15 points
  - ✓ Articles on Policy 5 points

- The following scale will be used to determine letter grades:

  95-100   A
  90-94    A-
  87-89    B+
  83-86    B
  80-82    B-
  77-79    C+
  73-76    C
  70-72    C-
  67-69    D+
  63-66    D
  60-62    D-
  0-60     F
### SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

**Weekly Assignment Reminder:** Please bring one article (newspaper, Internet, summary of TV or radio show, etc.) which is relevant to a current social welfare policy in Nevada, the US, or the world to class each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Introductions Course Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Policy and Social Work Ethics</td>
<td>Read NASW Code of Ethics and International Code of Ethics Barusch – Chapters 1 and 2 Trattner – Chapter 1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>History – Colonial Period to Late 1800s</td>
<td>Trattner – Chapters 2, 3 and 4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>History – The Progressive Era</td>
<td>Trattner – Chapters 5 and 8</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>History – The Great Society and the War on Poverty</td>
<td>Trattner – Chapters 14, 15, and 16</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>October 17</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>Taxes, Regulations and the Welfare State</td>
<td>Barusch – Chapters 4 and 5 Download Application for Assistance (from Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services), fill out, and bring to class.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>International Considerations</td>
<td>To be determined – assignment will be given in class.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>Health, Mental Health and Disabilities</td>
<td>Trattner – Chapters 7 and 9 Barusch – Chapters 6, 7 and 8</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Vulnerable Populations: Discrimination and Oppression</td>
<td>Barusch – Chapters 9 and 10 Policy Paper Due</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>Children and Families, Women</td>
<td>Barusch – Chapters 11 and 12</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>November 28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving – No Class</td>
<td>Trattner – Chapter 6</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Aging and Working Americans</td>
<td>Barusch – Chapters 13 and 14</td>
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<td>Professionalism</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>Final Exam TBD</td>
<td>Important Policies Chart Due</td>
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