Accessible Syllabus

Course ID/Course Name

SOWK 2430 Policies, Issues, Programs in Social Welfare

Instructor Contact

Name: Cecilia Thomas
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: Cecilia.Thomas@unt.edu
Communication Expectations: Students should primarily communicate through email, either through Canvas messaging or through UNT e-mail. I will not be on campus due to Covid -19 and social distancing. I will be able to answer telephone messages and to meet with students by appointment.

Course Description

This course examines how policies are developed; current an historical social welfare policies, and legislative efforts that influence societal problems. It explores the relationships between basic societal ideological values and social welfare policy. Policy implications from multiple areas such as poverty, welfare, education, and health will be investigated. The experiences of diverse and vulnerable populations most impacted by these initiatives and how policies impact social and economic justice will also be explored. This course encourages students to think critically about the role of politics and policy in the delivery network. Students will be provided with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to analyze policy, propose policy solutions, and advocate for the needs of diverse populations. Students will understand the importance of social welfare policy in the social work profession and its impact on all levels of practice.

Course Structure

This course is structured for remote delivery. All content materials, class discussion, and assignments will be done on line. A variety of written and video materials will be used.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites.

Course Objectives

These objectives are established by the Council on Social Work Education approved Educational Policy Accreditation Standards (EPAS) for accredited programs. 2015

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ethic and professional behavior. Students will use reflection and self-regulation to manage personal values and maintain professionalism in practice. This will be evaluated through the assignments given throughout the semester.
2. Engage in policy practice. Students will identify social policy at the local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being, service delivery, and access to social services. Students will assess how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services. This will be assessed through the assignments, particularly the article reviews and the policy brief.

Materials

Required text: DiNitto, D.M. & Johnson, D.H. (2016) *Social welfare: Politics and Public policy* (8th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Other materials may be posted in Canvas throughout the semester.

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements
Provide a list of the minimum technology requirements for students, such as:

- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy
Provide a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such as:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software

Rules of Engagement
Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips

Success in an Online Course
While the online classroom shares many similarities with the face-to-face classroom, success in online education requires certain skills and expectations that students may not be aware of. Consider providing tips for success based on your own online teaching and learning experiences. You can also include a link to or adapt tips from this webpage for students, ["How to Succeed as an Online Student"](https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online) (https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online).

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130
Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm
Telephone Availability:
- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm
Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Student Support Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

- Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab) (https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)

Course Requirements

Assignments	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Activities (Exercises, Discussion, Tests)	390 points	39%
Article Reviews	135 points	13%
Policy Practice Assignment	175 points	18%
Policy Brief	300 points	30%
Total Points Possible	1000	100%

Major Assignments

Policy Practice Assignment:

Students often feel that policy is far removed from actual social work practice. This assignment will give students some beginning insight into how these entities are connected. These activities will enhance the students' understanding of more active processes such as civic engagement, social action, advocacy, and social justice. It is recommended that the student start these activities early in the semester. It can also be turned in early. The student will write a reflection paper about their experiences.

Article Review:

The student will review **3 Journal Articles** related to their legislation or policy of interest. This brief review provides a summary of essential information that may be utilized along with other information for their Policy Brief.

Policy Brief :

The student will write a policy brief related to the piece of legislation or policy area that they have selected to focus on. The student will conduct research of the available literature and provide a balanced discussion of this issue. A Policy Brief will be submitted within the range of 1700-2000 words, and include a list of references. APA format for writing and citation must be used.

Grading

Include the grading scale (A-F) along with the point totals/percentages you will use to calculate the final grade. For example:

A = 900-1000
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F = 500-599

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

Assignments will be listed in the modules and in the Assignment and Quiz sections of Canvas. Due date will be listed with all assignments. Late assignments will <u>not</u> be accepted!

Currently there are no projected extra credit opportunities. If something becomes available an announcement will be made to the class.

Examination Policy

All quizzes are open book. They will, however be timed, so it is prudent to read the material before taking the quiz.

Class Participation

Our classes are richer when more people participate. Please contribute to the discussions and other assignments throughout this course!

Syllabus Change Policy

Changes to the syllabus will be made in the announcement section on Canvas.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.

2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.

3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

   Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

COURSE OUTLINE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule, as class needs dictate. Record all due dates in your personal calendar!

Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Due Dates
Week 1	Start Here Module Review basics, Expectations, General Information Review of syllabus Course policies	N/A
Module 1: Policy Making Process *(read text, module & complete assignments)*		
Week 1 January 11	Review NASW Code of Ethics Required readings: DiNitto: Introduction- Politics, Rationalism & Policy	Module 1 Assignments
Week 2 January 17	Chapter 1 - Politics and the Policymaking Process Policy process Ideology, grassroots Welfare state & Federal budget	Module 1 Assignments – Journal Entry - Ideology & Federal Budget Due: January 24
Module 2: Analyzing & Politics *(read text, module & complete assignments)*		
Week 3 January 25 January 28 3:30 – 4:50 PM	Analyzing and Evaluating Social Welfare policy. Required reading: DiNitto: Chapter 2 (pp. 39-62) Social Work Program Advisor – Cassidy Baker *Information will be presented regarding the social work major and applying to the program. This will be a live Zoom session*	Policy in the News #1 Due: January 31
Week 4 January 31	Politics and the History of Social Welfare Policy. Required reading: DiNitto: Chapter 3	Presidential Legacy & Chapter Quizzes Due: Feb. 7

Module 3: Poverty *(read text, module & complete assignments)*		
Week 5 February 7	Ending Poverty: Is It an Issue Anymore. Required readings: DiNitto: Chapter 4	Module 3 Assignments - Reflection on Poverty & Article #1 Due: Feb. 14
Week 6 Feb 14	Preventing Poverty: Social Insurance and Personal Responsibility. Required reading: DiNitto: Chapter 5	Module 3 Assignments - Social Security Discussion & Due: Feb. 21
Week 7 Feb. 21	Preventing Poverty: Education & Employment Policy. Required readings: DiNitto: Chapter 9	Module 3 Assignments Policy in the News #2 & Chapter Quizzes Due: Feb. 28
Module 4: Populations at Risk *(read text, module & complete assignments)*		
Week 8 Feb. 28	Chp 11 (Gender and Sexual Orientation)	Module 4 Assignments Reflection on Profession & Article #2 Due: March 7
Week 9 Mar. 7	Chapter 12 (Race, Ethnicity & Immigration)	Module 4 Assignments Discussion - Populations & Chapter Quizzes Due: March 14

Module 5: Policies for Programs & Services *(read text, module & complete assignments)*		
Week 10 March 14	Disability Policy: From Public Assistance to Civil Rights. Required readings: DiNitto: Chapter 6	Module 5 Assignments Article # 3 Due: March 21
Week 11 March 21	Helping Needy Families: An End to Welfare as We Knew It. Required readings: DiNitto: Chapter 7	Policy in the News #3 Due: March 28
Week 12 March 28	Financing Healthcare: Can All Americans Be Insured? Required readings: DiNitto: Chapter 8	
Week 12 April 4	Providing Social Services. Required readings: DiNitto: Chapter 10	Module 5 Assignments Service Exercise & Chapter Reviews Due: April 11
Week 13 April 11		Policy Practice Assignment & Policy Brief Due: April 22

OVERVIEW OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments	Weight & Points	Due Dates
Weekly Assignments: Students will complete assignments as required throughout the semester such as exercises, discussion group postings, Chapter Quizzes etc. Students must review these requirements as presented in the online modules, syllabus, or announcements. Chapter Quizzes will be open book to help reinforce policy concepts and processes but students may not consult with one another. Assignments are due as specified and late assignments are <u>not</u> accepted.	39% 390 Pts	(See Modules) Submit assignments in Blackboard by due dates & times
Major Policy Assignments		
Article Reviews: You will review **3 Journal Articles** related to their legislation of interest. This brief review provides a summary of essential information that may be utilized along with any additional research for their Policy Brief and their portion of the panel presentation *(refer to the Article Review Guidelines on Blackboard for more details)*	13% 135 Pts see Article Reviews Article Rubric	Submit by all due dates noted: Feb. 14 March 7 March 21
Policy Practice Assignment Students often feel policy is far removed from actual social work practice. This assignment will give students some beginning insight into how these entities are connected. These activities will enhance students' understanding of more active processes such as civic engagement, social action, advocacy, and social justice. It is recommended that you start these activities early in the semester; it can also be turned in early. You will write a reflection paper about your experiences (should be 525 words). Carefully review the guidelines.	18% 175 Pts Policy Practice Assignment	Complete activities throughout semester Reflection Paper Due: April 22
Policy Brief You will write a policy brief related to the piece of legislation that you selected to focus on for your portion of the Expert Panel assignment. Students will conduct a research of the available literature and provide a balanced discussion of this issue. A Policy Brief will be submitted and must range from 1700-2000 words, not including list of references *(refer to the Policy Brief Guidelines for more details)*	30% 300 Pts Policy Brief Guidelines Policy Brief Rubric	Submit by April 22
Total Points Possible: *Failure to complete all assignments may result in failing this course*	100% **1000**	

CRITERIA FOR STUDENT EVALUATION

This is a pre-social work course that will focus on students' progress in developing professional level skills. Students' progress will be evaluated utilizing the following criteria for all assignments:

1. Adheres to specified format, outline, and page/word requirements – follows instructions!
2. Professional writing - Clarity of concepts and ideas, concise writing. Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure (few mechanical errors)
3. Quality presentation and organization (topics should be organized clearly). Use subtitles to organize and present your assignments in a professional manner

Important, Supplementary News / Media

1. Local Newspapers (Dallas Morning Newspaper, Fort Worth Star Telegram, Denton Record-Chronicle)

2. Evening Network News - (CBS, ABC, NBC).

3. The best way to keep current on policy issues is to regularly read a major newspaper, such as the New York Times (www.nytimes.com) or The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com). The Wall Street Journal, although focused on business issues, often has very good feature articles on domestic policy. As with all newspapers, one should be careful to distinguish between the news reports and the editorial commentary.

4. News reports and feature shows (such as on MSNBC, CNN or ABC Nightline) are another source of information about current policy issues. The PBS News Hour on Public Television is an excellent source of more in-depth discussion of ongoing and emerging policy issues on segments such as "All Things Considered" and/or "Morning Edition."