



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

APPLIED SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY - SOWK 4430

TERM: SPRING 2026
INSTRUCTOR: Mallory Williams, LMSW LSSW
DAY/TIME: Tuesday @ 5:30pm – 8:20pm
LOCATION: LANG 310

OFFICE LOCATION: Student Athlete Academic Center
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment Only
OFFICE PHONE: N/A
EMAIL: Mallory.Williams@unt.edu

Communication Expectations:

The best way to communicate with me is through email. All my communication with students will be done through your official UNT assigned student email address or Canvas messaging. I typically respond quickly to emails so if I don't respond in 24 hours (minus the weekend) please feel free to follow up with me.

Course Description

This is the second course of the two-semester Social Welfare Policy sequence. The course offers students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in social welfare policy and policy practice. Prerequisite courses have addressed important content related to the social welfare system in the United States, social problems, human diversity, government, and social work practice. This course will apply the knowledge from those areas to a detailed study of the social welfare policy and policy practice. It will cover important areas of social welfare policy in the United States and will analyze selected major social policy issues of current concern.

To appreciate the complexities, contradictions, strengths, and weakness of social welfare in the United States, a number of contributing factors will be analyzed including history, economics, politics, ideologies and values. Attention will be given to factors that have perpetuated the deprivation of individuals including poverty and unequal access to services. This course will also address the skills and tasks necessary in developing, implementing, and assessing policy at various levels of sponsorship and implementation.

Course Structure

This class is a 3-credit hour course that will use multiple methods of teaching to reinforce learning. This may include such technique as lectures, media/film, learning activities, large and small group discussion, and peer critiques. This class is a blended format. Therefore, we will meet part of the time in person each week and continue online using Canvas Learning platform. You must follow the modules and assignments as required. This course will use active learning exercises. While lectures will always have an important role in our courses, many students tend to learn material better when they are actively involved in using it. Participation in class and online discussions will be a large part of this process. It is expected that you have read the assigned chapters prior to class and engage as directed with the other material on Canvas.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

Prerequisite for the course is SOWK 2430.



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Course Objectives

The objectives for this course are based on the Council on Social Work Education approved competencies through the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) for accredited programs.

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

Competency	Course Objectives	Assessment
EP #3 Human Rights	9. Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) In Practice	Policy Analysis paper Food Insecurity Challenge/Experiential Learning Assignments
EP #5 Policy Practice	14. Identify social welfare policy at the local level, state, and federal level that impact well-being, service delivery, and access to social services	Class Participation Food Insecurity Challenge/Experiential Learning Assignment Letter to the Editor Policy Analysis Paper
EP # 5 Policy Practice	15. Assess how social welfare policy and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services	Class Participation Food insecurity Challenge/Experiential Learning Assignment Policy Analysis Paper
EP # 5 Policy Practice	16. Apply critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice	Class Participation Food Insecurity Challenge/ Experiential Learning Assignment Policy Analysis Paper

Materials

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & READINGS

Popple, P. R. & Leighninger, L. (2019). (7th Ed.). *The Policy-Based Profession: An Introduction to Social Welfare Policy Analysis for Social Workers*. NY: Pearson

Other readings will be posted on the course canvas site, provided by the instructor, or placed on reserve in the library. Readings may be modified with notice throughout the semester. Students are required to read the assigned textbook and Canvas readings prior to each week's class per the course schedule.

Class Policies:

1) Attendance is vital to meeting course objectives. Anything beyond one unexcused absences will lead to a five-point deduction from the overall grade per absence. To qualify for excused absence, you need to show documentation and obtain prior permission.

2) Please arrive on time and stay for the duration of class. A 15-minute late arrival or early departure will lead to one class marked as an unexcused absence.

3) Please refrain from using cellphones and other electronics during class.

4) Students will consult the syllabus for the official due dates for each assignment, assignment instructions, and where the assignments are supposed to be submitted. In some cases, the instructor will make Canvas announcements to clarify submission instructions. Canvas assignments are due by 11:59pm the Monday after class.



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5) Quizzes for this course are open-book, open notes unless noted otherwise. Exams are NOT open-book. Should a student lose Internet connection during an exam, you are advised to contact the Student Helpdesk and document the remedy ticket number before contacting me for a make-up exam.

6) I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours upon receipt. The best way to contact me is by emailing me at my email address above. *I do not usually respond to Canvas Notifications* since I have access to over 400 student athletes' canvas and get all of their notifications as well. They will get lost.

7) Assignments will be graded as swiftly as I am able. Grades will be posted in the grade book on canvas.

8) UNT instructors have the prerogative to accept or not to accept late work. In the case of this class, that will be done on a case-by-case basis, depending on prior arrangements made with the instructor. Please reach out EARLY or ASAP if you need to make something up. I am flexible but I need you to communicate!

Course Requirements

Here is a table listing all the graded activities in this class: The final grade will be based on the average you make after every activity is counted.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS POSSIBLE	PERCENTAGE OF GRADE
Assignment 1 – Policy Fact Sheet	100	25%
Assignment 2 – Food Insecurity Challenge	100	25%
Assignment 3 – Compare and Contrast Policies	100	25%
Weekly Assignments (14 Total)	140	15%
Final Exam	100	10%
Total	640	100%

**** I will take 5 points off your final grade per unexcused absence after one absence. ****

Grading

Below is the grading scale that will be used (A-F) along with the point totals/percentages to calculate the final grade.

A = 576 – 640 (90% - 100%)

D = 384 – 447 (60% - 69%)

B = 512 – 575 (80% - 89%)

F = 0 – 383 (below 60%)

C = 448 – 511 (70% - 79%)

General Notes for All Written Assignments

Assignments 1-4 are to be typed and double-spaced and must include a cover page (including running head, title, name of course, name of student, name of professor and date). References and citations must be in APA 7th edition (American Psychological Association) format (see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association,



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Washington, DC.) You will lose credit on your paper if you do not use the APA format. An abbreviated handout is posted on the canvas site. The Purdue OWL website is also a great resource. Please be mindful of your APA format.

Writing quality (grammar, punctuation, spelling, organization, etc.) is considered as part of your grade for each paper so I would suggest that if you have problems in these areas that you have someone proofread and/or edit your paper for you. This is a critical part of undergraduate level achievement.

Always keep a copy, for yourself, of any written assignment you submit.

Assignments are to be submitted no later than the date and time noted on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exception will be made if there has been prior arrangement with the instructor.

Professional references include social work journals, books or articles published by reputable disciplines and these should be used for your assignments for this course. Popular magazines and newspapers are not appropriate for the papers. On-line journal articles and Government publications *are exceptions to this rule* however proprietary homepages are not. Be very cautious when using Internet sources in your papers. A paper could include some appropriate Internet citations, but it is highly advisable that you use a solid combination of journal articles, social work publications, reading assignments and other references as well. Ask me if you have a question about the appropriateness of a source.

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. You will be notified on the date and time that SPOT evaluations become available.

Class Participation

Classroom participation is required in this class and will be measured by both your participation during the in-person half of the class and your thoughtful, relevant, and consistent postings on the discussion board and other weekly required homework.

Syllabus Change Policy

It is expected that you will complete all readings prior to class. The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule or make changes to this syllabus as class needs dictate. The instructor will make every effort to post these changes in a timely manner on CANVAS or to announce them in class. Record all due dates in your personal calendar.

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. For any paper written in this class, Turnitin will be used to check for plagiarism. A zero will be given to any student whose paper has a similarity higher than 25%. Please keep in mind that self-plagiarism is punishable with the same measure.

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



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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/) (<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.

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) (<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) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

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.

Firearm Policy

In accordance with state law and UNT policy, students who are licensed may carry a concealed handgun on campus premises except in locations and at any function, event, and program prohibited by law or by this policy. Students may learn more about UNT's concealed handgun policy at <https://campuscarry.unt.edu>.

COVID Specific:

As of Jan. 1, 2022, all students reporting their own positive COVID-19 status to UNT's Contact Tracing team at COVID@UNT.edu will need to upload positive test results, unless they tested on campus, in order to have an excused



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absence from class (on-campus testing results are automatically shared with UNT). This is consistent with our prior policy on absences. The Dean of Students office will provide information to faculty about student absences as they have in the past.

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

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) (<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) (<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) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)



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- 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://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- UNT Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- MathLab (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)



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COURSE OUTLINE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Modules in Canvas will open **Tuesday AFTER class and close the following **Monday at 11:59pm**. All Assignments and Quizzes are due the Monday AFTER they open unless it is a short week which is noted below **

DATES	TOPIC	TEXTBOOK READINGS	ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 1/13 - 1/19	Introduction Expectations, Review of the Syllabus Course policies The Policy Based Profession	CHAPTER 1	Syllabus Quiz (verifies attendance) Week 1 Assignment (1/19)
WEEK 2 1/20 - 1/26	Defining Social Welfare Policy	CHAPTER 2	Week 2 Assignment (1/26)
WEEK 3 1/27 - 2/2	Social Welfare Policy Analysis	CHAPTER 3	Week 3 Assignment (2/2)
WEEK 4 2/3 - 2/9	Historical Perspective Policy Analysis	CHAPTER 4	Week 4 Assignment (2/9) Major Assignment 1 Due (2/9)
WEEK 5 2/10 - 2/16	Politics and Social Welfare Policy	CHAPTER 12	Week 5 Assignment (2/16)
WEEK 6 2/17 - 2/23	Social & Economic Analysis	CHAPTER 5	Week 6 Assignment (2/23)
WEEK 7 2/24 - 3/2	Fighting Poverty: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	CHAPTER 6	Week 7 Assignment (3/2)
WEEK 8 3/3 - 3/8	Aging: Social Security as an Entitlement	CHAPTER 7	Week 8 Assignment (3/8) Major Assignment 2 Due (3/8)
WEEK 9 3/9-3/16	SPRING BREAK		
WEEK 10 3/17 - 3/23	Mental Health and Substance Abuse policy analysis	CHAPTER 8	Week 10 Assignment (3/23)
WEEK 11 3/24 - 3/30	Health Care Policy	CHAPTER 9	Week 11 Assignment (3/30)
WEEK 12 3/31 - 4/6	Child Welfare: Family Preservation Policy	CHAPTER 10	Week 12 Assignment (4/6)
WEEK 13 4/7 - 4/13	Immigration Policy	CHAPTER 11	Week 13 Assignment (4/13)
WEEK 14 4/14 - 4/20	Taking Action: Policy Practice for Social Workers	CHAPTER 13	Week 14 Assignment (4/20)
WEEK 15 4/21 - 4/27	Conclusion: Course Review	CHAPTER 14	Major Assignment 3 Due (4/27)
WEEK 16 4/28 - 5/5	Comprehensive Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam (5/5)



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MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Students will complete a total of 3 major assignments worth 100 points each (each assignment is 25% of your grade so 75% total!) There is a detailed explanation and breakdown of each assignment on Canvas. We will go over these in class as well.

Each assignment has directions and rubrics on Canvas under the Major Assignment tab.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a total of fourteen assignments including but not limited to hearing reports, quizzes, in-class assignments, discussion boards, and out of class assignments. Each week is different so make sure you pay attention. The assignments will open after class on Tuesdays and close the following Monday by 11:59pm.

Assignments are due Mondays at 11:59p.m.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be held during finals week and is not optional.