SOWK 2430 002 Policies, Issues, Programs in Social Welfare

Course Date Thursday 3:30PM - 4:50PM

Course Location: Building: Chilton Room: 255

Instructor Contact

Name: Rosalind Evans PhD LMSW Office Location: Chilton Hall, 390 H

Office Hours: By appointment Email: rosalind.evans@unt.edu

Communication Expectations: Students should primarily communicate through email, either

through Canvas messaging or through UNT e-mail.

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 as a hybrid class. The class will meet weekly for lecture, guest speakers, discussion, and activities. Additionally, material and assignments are in the online modules for reading, review, and completion of assignments.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites. Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions and activities. They are also expected to complete weekly modules online.

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: McNutt, John G. and Hoeffer, Richard (2021) *Social Welfare Policy: Responding to a Changing World*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press.

Other materials are in the Canvas modules online. They include readings, reference materials, videos, ad assignments.

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

Course Materials for Remote Instruction

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to selfisolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone - faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

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

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Canvas Technical Requirements (https://clear.unt.edu/supportedtechnologies/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
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs

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:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you."
- Use standard fonts such as Times new Roman and use a 12-point font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature

- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail

See these <u>Engagement Guidelines</u> (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

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: <u>UIT Student Help Desk site</u> (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-8pmSaturday: 9am-5pmLaptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit <u>Canvas Technical Help</u> (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:

- <u>Student Health and Wellness Center</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- <u>Counseling and Testing Services</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- <u>UNT Care Team</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- <u>UNT Psychiatric Services</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- <u>Individual Counseling</u> (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-testingservices)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

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

Course Requirements

ATTENDANCE: Although part of the course is online, there is a great deal of content to cover in a short amount of time. In class discussions of current events, guest speakers, lectures, and inclass activities are an important part of the class.

Three absence will be allowed for unforeseen circumstances, however, you will miss essential information. 20 points will be deducted from your final grade for the third absence, and for each additional absence thereafter. Arriving late and leaving early may also impact your grade. Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Absences may be excused with documentation in accordance with UNT attendance policy. Discussion and participation in class are encouraged and appreciated. It generally enhances the learning experience.

Quizzes: 2@50points each. Total 100 points

There are quizzes for the chapters assigned for reading in the textbook. Students will be tested on knowledge retained from weekly readings and evaluated on application of gained knowledge.

Policy Practice Assignment: 100 points

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: 150 points

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: 100 points

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.

Policy Brief Outline: 50 points

Students will submit an outline draft of their policy brief to ensure they have a selected policy and recommendations for the final paper submission. APA format for writing and citation must be used.

Wellness Proposal & PPT: Completion

Students will develop a wellness plan they will implement for the term. They will provide a presentation reflecting on their journey to reach their wellness goal. This assignment helps students develop the practice of self-care as a preventative technique.

Assignment	Points
	Possible
Quizzes	100 points
Article Reviews	150 points
Wellness Proposal	Completion
Wellness PPT	Grade
Policy Practice Assignment	100 points
Policy Brief Outline	50 points
Policy Brief	100 points
Total Points Possible	500 points

Grading

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

Overall course grades will be assigned on the basis of:

A = 450 - 500 points B = 400 - 449 points C = 350 - 399 points D = 300 - 349 points F = < 300 points

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.

Attendance and participation in class are important. There will be opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Examination Policy

All quizzes are open book.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

I hope to be able to present this material in a way that will stimulate your interest in the "big picture" of social welfare and the impact to individuals, families, agencies and society. In general, I really enjoy the feedback from the class. It gives me hope for a better future, with you leading in the field. Our students have been bright, articulate, and advocates for social justice. I will be happy to talk about these subjects further if you are interested.

Late Work

Late assignments will not be accepted for credit except in cases of extraordinary circumstances. Allowing late submissions is at the discretion of the professor and students need to communicate prior to the admission date whenever possible. While prior communication cannot always occur, please note that in most cases early communication is possible. It is thus the student's responsibility to discuss challenges with their professors, so they are able to be supportive to the students success throughout the course.

a. **Self-Care Day** Students are provided <u>three Self-Care days</u> throughout the semester. This initiative will allow students three late submissions without points deducted. Students will still have up to **two days** to submit the assignment after the due date. This policy *can only* be applied to individual assignments. It *does not* apply to group assignments in the course. Students will need to inform the professor via email in advance (before the assignments due date) when utilizing the Self-Care Day.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. They should notify the instructor of illness or other emergencies. They are expected to read and complete online materials and assignments. Visit the <u>University of North Texas' Attendance Policy</u> (http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-) to learn more.

Class Participation

Engaged, active participation is essential given the purpose and design of this course. Participation is observed and gauged through thoughtful, purposeful, and effective interaction by students. Students have the opportunity to participate through multiple outlets which can include both synchronous and asynchronous discussions, audio/video discussions, collaboration, and assignments.

Syllabus Change Policy

Changes to the syllabus will be made in the **announcement section on Canvas**. The syllabus is subjected to be changed by the discretion of the instructor. Students will be informed of changes made to the syllabus via email and 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 Canvas 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 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 international advising @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) they create 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 they 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, they 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.

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.

It is expected that readings will be done **prior** to class discussions. The instructor reserves the

right to modify the schedule, as class needs dictate.

Course Week	Course Material	Readings & Assignment
Week 1	Overview & Introduction	Review Syllabus
		Review Module1
		Intro Post Due Sunday
Week 2	Values, Terminology, & Politics	Read Chp.1 & Chp. 5
		Review Module 2
		Wellness Goal Due Sunday
Week 3	BSW Admissions Presentation	No Modules
Week4	Policy Analysis	Read Chp. 6 & 7
		Review Module 3
		Article Review Due Sunday
Week 5	History	Read Chp. 2,3, & 4
		Review Module 4
		Quiz 1 Due Friday
Week 6	Poverty	Read Chp. 9
		Review Module 5
		Article Review Due Sunday
Week 7	Work Week	Review Module 6
Week 8	Housing, Employment, &	Read Chp. 13
	Education	Review Module 7
		Policy Brief Outline
		Due Sunday
Spring Break (3/13-3/19)	No Class	No Assignments
Week 9	Criminal Justice	Read Chp. 12
	Online	Review Module 8
		Article Review Due Sunday

Week 10	Children & Families Aging	Read Chp. 11 & Chp. 14 Review Module 9
Week 11	Work Week	Review Module 10
Week 12	Online	Policy Brief Due Sunday
Week 13	Advocacy	Read Chp. 8 Review Module 11 Quiz 2 Due Friday
Week 14	Health & Well-Being	Read Articles Chp. 10 Review Module 12 Wellness PPT Due Sunday
Week 15	Course Reflection & Wrap Up	Review Module 13 Policy Practice Due Sunday