

**Westfield State College  
Social Work Program**

On-Line Course Preview Page for:

**SOCW 0103  
Introduction to Social Work  
and  
Social Welfare**

*Section 501  
Self-Paced On-Line Section*

**Instructor:**

Robert C. Kersting, ACSW, Ph.D.

**Instructor Availability:**

Feel free to email me at [rkersting@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:rkersting@wsc.ma.edu) (I will respond to all emails within 48 hours) or call me at 413-572-5536

**Catalogue Description:**

Preprofessional course designed to introduce the student to the present profession of social work, present social welfare programs, and the history of social work and social welfare.

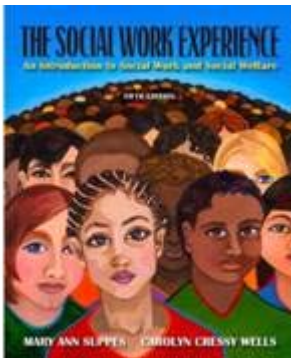
**Course Information:**

This is a 3 credit hour course.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course is offered totally on-line and is self paced but must be completed by the end of the semester it which it was taken.

This course is asynchronous which means that there are no specific times you must be on-line.



**Technical Requirements:**

Students needs a computer with DSL or Cable internet connection. Students need a web-browser (e.g. Explorer, Safari, etc.), a word processing program (MS Word, Apple Pages, etc.), iTunes (a free download from Apple for PCs and Macs) and Quicktime (a free download from Apple for PCs and Macs). Students need basic web-browser skills and word processing skills. Students will be

required to watch prerecorded content on iTunes, YouTube videos, and other Quicktime movies. Students will not be required to purchase any additional software or media beyond the course textbook.

NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to make initial contact with the instructor either via e-mail or phone. Student must have a valid working email address on file with the instructor.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course the student will be able to

- 1 describe what social workers do in a variety of practice settings;

- 2 define "social welfare policy" and describe contemporary social welfare systems;
- 3 outline the histories of social work and social welfare policy in the United States;
- 4 locate and use social work resources at the WSC Library
- 5 discuss the values and ethics of social work
- 6 identify their own attitudes and beliefs and discuss the social work profession's position on issues of diversity and social justice
- 7 determine if they may be interested in continuing their studies in social work

**Textbook (available at the WSC Bookstore):**

Suppes, M. A. & Wells, C. C. (2009) *The social work experience: An introduction to social work and social welfare*. Boston: Pearson.

**Course Requirements:**

The course is divided into 12 modules. For each module there is a reading assignment, videos to watch, and brief reaction activities/assignments to complete. At the end of every 3 modules there will be an on-line quiz to be completed. There is a required final assignment. Students will complete an assignments that explores their interest in and understanding of the field of social work. Students will have the option of completing a short video, presentation, or paper on this topic. Further guidance will be provided in the course syllabus.

**Course Grading:**

Module Activities/Assignment (50%)

Quizzes (40%)

Final Project (10%)