

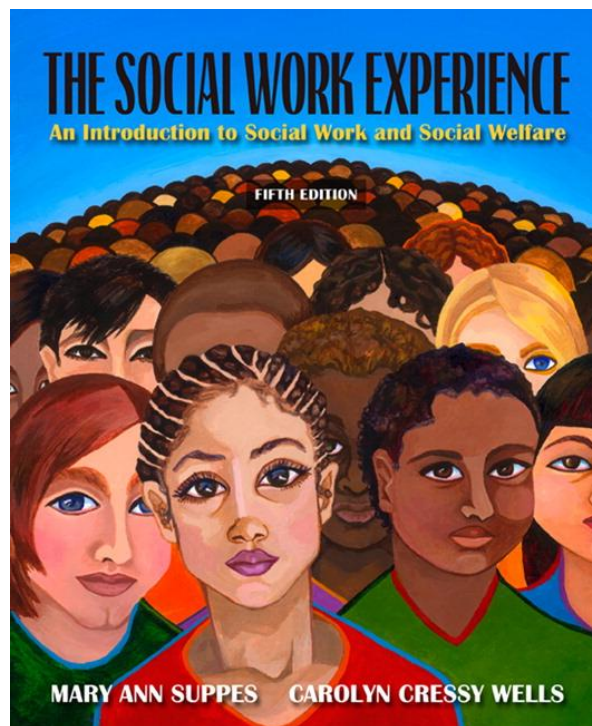
Westfield State College
Department of Sociology and Social Work

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK

AND

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

SOCW 103, Spring 2011



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Course Description

SOCW 103, Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare Policy, is a pre-professional 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.

This course provides an overview of the field of social work and explains how the social work profession has developed in the context of the changing social policies and social realities of the twentieth century. The first part of the course addresses the relationship between social work values and the field's concern for issues of oppression, vulnerability, diversity, and social justice. The second part of the course describes social work roles in a variety of social work settings and with a variety of specific client populations. The course is also designed to introduce students to the social work program at Westfield State College and help them decide if they may be interested in pursuing a major or career in social work. This course will include a variety of learning experiences: lectures, videos, case examples, small and large group discussions, and student presentations.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to help you develop the following Program Competencies & Practice Behaviors:

Educational Policy 2.1.1—Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly - Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.

Educational Policy 2.1.2—Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice - Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the NASW Code of Ethics and IFSW/IASSW Statement of Principles; and Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.

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

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

Educational Policy 2.1.6—Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research - Use research evidence to inform practice.

Educational Policy 2.1.8—Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services - Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being.

Educational Policy 2.1.10(a) – Engagement - Use empathy and other interpersonal skills.

Learning Objectives Applied to Practice Competencies:

- Describe what professional social workers do in a variety of practice settings. (2.1.1 and 2.1.10.a)
- Define "social welfare policy" and describe contemporary social welfare systems. (2.1.8)

- Outline the histories of social work and social welfare policy in the United States. (2.1.8)
- Locate and use social work resources at the WSC library. (2.1.6)
- Discuss the values and ethics of the social work profession. (2.1.2)
- Identify their own attitudes and beliefs and discuss the social work profession's positions on issues of diversity and social justice. (2.1.4. and 2.1.5)
 - Determine if they may be interested in continuing their studies in social work. (2.1.1)

Technical Requirements of the Course: In order to participate in this course, you will need basic word processing and web-browsing skills and access to a computer with a DSL or cable internet connection. You may use any web browser you wish, but for maximum compatibility, Mozilla Firefox is recommended for students using PCs and Safari is recommended for students using Macs. You will not be required to purchase any additional software or media beyond the course textbook.

Required Text: Suppes, M., and Wells, C. C. (2009). *The Social Work Experience*, 5th. edition, New York: McGraw Hill.

- The print version of this text is available in the college bookstore.

Grading: Students' grades will be determined by the following:

1. Completion of Weekly Assignments (50%). Each WEDNESDAY assignments will be given and are due throughout the week and completed by the following WEDNESDAY at midnight. Weekly assignments will include: reading, previewing videos, participating in discussion boards and groups, and/or completing quizzes.

2. Three Exams (30%). Three objective examinations

3. Personal statement (10%). This statement will serve as a "first draft" of the personal statement required for admission to the social work program. A detailed description of this assignment will be distributed at a later date.

4. Group Presentation (10%). Students will work in small (2-3 member) groups to prepare a PowerPoint presentation. Each group will focus on one area of social work practice, such as medical social work, child welfare, substance abuse, etc. The group's task will be to provide the class with a broader understanding of their area of practice. Each group member will select and read at least one article from a SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL and then discuss their article with the rest of their group. The group will prepare a presentation for the class that will summarize the articles they have read. Class presentations will be evaluated by the other members of the class. Each group will be required to submit a bibliography of their articles (with full citations in APA format) to the instructor at the end of their presentation. ***The PowerPoint Presentation will be due on the week that the special topic will be covered.***

Grading Scale: A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76;
C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 60-66; F 00-59.