

SCWK 3770 - Social Policy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41618,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Michelle Brown

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Mrs. Brown

Instructor Professional Qualifications: MSW, LISW-S

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Course Description

3770. Social Policy. Review of the programs, structures and functions of social services including historical development and social, political and economic issues. Application of scientific method to analyze and develop social work policies designed to achieve social work goals and purpose. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Becoming an effective policy advocate: From policy practice to social justice, (8thed.) Belmont, CA: Thompson Brooks/Cole CONNECTING EPAS	Jansson, B.S. (2008).	
Required	American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach (8th ed.) New York: Pearson.	Karger, H. J. & Stoesz, D. (2009)	

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Thu	8/27	: Karger and Stoesz: Chapters 1 & 3 (read); 6 (skim); 7 (skim)	Syllabus and Course Review	
Thu	9/3	Jansson, Chapters 1, 2, & 3	Introduction to Social Policy Defining Social Welfare Policy: The Impact of Social Values, Political Ideology and Economic Concerns. Voluntary and for-profit social welfare.	Discussion Board/ prompt will be provided Assignment: Current Events Paper Due
Thu	9/10	NASW talks about advocacy Podcast/ videos	Policy Advocacy	
Thu	9/17	Karger and Stoesz: Chapters 8 & 10	Policy Practice & Organizational Settings	Quiz #1 Discussion board
Thu	9/24	Karger and Stoesz: Chapters 8 & 10 Jansson, Chapters 4 & 6	Policy Practice & Organizational Settings Continued Critical Issues from Formulation to Implementation: A Rational Theory of Social Policy: Models for Analysis. Mental Health as an example of policy analysis	



Thu	10/1	Karger and Stoesz: Chapters 2 & 13	Overview of the Policy Making Process	
Thu	10/8	Jansson, Chapters 7, 9 & 14	Overview of the Policy Making Process	Discussion board
Thu	10/15	: Karger and Stoesz; Chapters 4 & 5	Poverty Causes and Perspectives; Major Social Policies and Their Impact on the Poor, from 1600-1996: A Review of the Elizabethan Poor Laws & the Social Security Act, the War on Poverty; Reaganomics; and the Clinton Administration. Stigma and discrimination in the United States.	Advocacy Letter Discussion Board
Thu	10/22	Karger and Stoesz, Chapter 18; Jansson, Chapter 5	International and global perspectives. Crisis of the welfare state. Reinventing government. Reconceptualizing the welfare state.	
Thu	10/29	Karger and Stoesz, Chapter 10, & 11 / Jansson, Chapters 6 & 11	Social Welfare Policy & Poverty	Quiz
Thu	11/5	Karger and Stoesz, Chapter 12 / Jansson, Chapters 8, 10 & 12	American Health Care and Policy Advocacy: A Moral Imperative; Confronting the AIDS Issue: The Response of Social Welfare	Discussion Board #5
Thu	11/12	Karger and Stoesz, Chapter 12 / Jansson, Chapters 8, 10 & 12	American Health Care and Policy Advocacy (continued)	
Thu	11/19	Karger and Stoesz, Chapters 13 & 14 / Jansson, Chapters 13 & 14	Implementing Homelessness Policy in America; Housing Policy: History and Current Reform Efforts; Food Policy.	Discussion Board #6
Thu	11/26		Holiday No Class	
Thu	12/3	Karger and Stoesz, Chapters 15th& 16th	Criminal Justice & Child Welfare	
Thu	12/10			Legislative Policy Paper Due

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.