

Social Work 220: Introduction to Social Welfare

The Ohio Board of Regents recently implemented a Social Work TAG; the courses that have been identified are: "Introduction to Social Work" and "Introduction to Social Welfare." Social Work 220 has been developed to meet the requirements of the "Introduction to Social Welfare" TAG. All learning outcomes noted on the syllabi are those developed and considered essential by the Board of Regents.

We would like to submit SW 220 for consideration as a Social Science: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources GEC.

This course provides an introduction to the history, structure, and function of the social welfare institution, and is designed to help students understand that social welfare policy touches every aspect of one's professional and personal lives.

- Students will understand the ideologies, values and ethics that drive social welfare policy.
- Students will be able to identify and understand the financial, organizational and administrative structures that influence the delivery of social services.
- Students will understand the role of current federal and state social policy in the delivery of social services.
- Students will identify and discuss forms and mechanisms of poverty, oppression and discrimination and how these impact social services.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of human diversity issues in the development and delivery of social services.

The required reading for this course is an introductory social welfare policy text designed to help students understand what drives social welfare policy, how it affects people's lives, and to gain insight into key issues of social concern. Included is discussion of the values and beliefs that drive our social welfare system. The text guides the reader through areas of social policy concern such as health care, poverty, child welfare, criminal justice, and aging, with a foundation of ideologies, theories, and values to help explain our social welfare system. The text will help students become "policy literate" – able to understand and analyze social policies.

Students will complete a multiple choice midterm and final exam and a 6-8 page paper that will assist them in critically examining an existing social policy, exploring the influence of societal values and beliefs that underlie this policy, and exploring their own values and beliefs related to this policy.

Methods of instruction will include lecture, discussion, films and guest speakers. Students are encouraged to ask questions or share pertinent experiences during lectures. To the degree that large lecture sessions can be interactive and still cover essential course content, students are strongly encouraged to relate lecture material to relevant practical situations and/or provide information from personal experience or outside readings. Classroom experiences are designed to enhance the student's ability to think critically about concepts and apply learned principles.