**University of Maine at Presque Isle**

**Statement of Commitment**

As a member of the university, I pledge to
Pursue academic excellence,
Support open inquiry and civil expression,
Listen respectfully to the viewpoints of others,
Participate responsibly in the life of the community,
Conserve and enhance the beauty of the campus, and
Help members of the university realize their potential.

**I. Course Overview**

This course is an introduction to social work with an emphasis on the fields of practice with special attention to services in a rural context, and populations at risk of societal oppression. It provides an overview of historical and contemporary social welfare and social work in the United States in response to societal problems and needs. Systems theory and the ecological perspective, as well as strategies appropriate to the empowerment process and strengths perspective, will be presented as the context for generalist social work practice. The various social work methods and fields of practice will be discussed and explored. In addition a brief exploration of the Canadian social welfare with comparisons will take place.

**II. Council on Social Work Education Evaluative Standards**

6.2 The baccalaureate curriculum prepares students for generalist social work practice; it is based upon a liberal arts perspective and must include the professional foundation.

6.3 The methods of instruction must reflect the cognitive, affective and experiential components of learning appropriate to the attainment of the specified goals of the
program. Instructional methods are to be designed to stimulate students’ capacities and to involve students in their professional learning.

**III. Objectives**

This course is the first of two courses in the BSW program’s social welfare policy and services sequence. The goal of this class is to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the philosophical and historical perspectives in developing the social welfare response to human need. As an introduction course it is also designed to facilitate student’s abilities to examine critically the policies and issues affecting social welfare as a part of society. Upon completion of this course, the student will be expected to achieve the following objectives:

**Knowledge Objectives:**
1. Define and describe micro, mezzo, and macro within the generalist framework.
2. Define and understand empowerment, advocacy, and transformation.
3. Understand social welfare policy and effects of social policy in relation to social and economic justice.
4. Become aware of different needs of diverse populations in rural environments.
5. Understand macro and political skills that promote the advancement of social and economic justice.
6. Realize the importance of having knowledge of resources to address human needs.
7. Knowledge of societal institutions responsive to human needs.

**Skills Objectives:**
1. Develop an understanding of populations at risk, cultural diversity issues, and rural settings.
2. List settings in which social workers are employed.
   Define and understand research methods utilized by social workers, particularly those used in agency settings.

**Values and Ethics Objectives:**
1. Understand values and ethics related to the social work profession.
2. A conscious awareness of the student’s own values and value system(s).
3. Understanding of the client’s right to self-determination.
4. Become aware of the importance of having a non-judgmental attitude when working with clients of different backgrounds.
5. An understanding of their own (the student’s) ethical conduct.
IV. Student Expectations

During the course itself, students will achieve certain learning outcomes. All performance assessment depends upon the accomplishment of these outcomes. Students are graded on achievement, rather than effort.

Plagiarism: IS NOT TOLERATED. IF PLAGIARISM IS DISCOVERED, IT IS GROUNDS FOR THE INITIATION PROCEDURES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY.

Academic honesty is highly valued at UMPI. A student must submit work that represents his or her original words or ideas. If any words or ideas are used that do not represent the student’s original words or ideas, citation of where the information came from must be done. A student must make clear to what extent such sources were used and failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Words and ideas that require citation are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. At UMPI, all submissions to any public meeting or private mailbox fall within the scope of words and ideas that require citation if used by someone other than the original author. Under the recommended texts for this course is a book “Writing with Style: APA Style for Social Work”. It is highly recommended that every student obtain a copy of this book for this course as well as for reference to any other social science class.

I believe that most matters related to the course and assignments can be resolved in the appropriate discussion forums. However, you are more than welcome to come see me in my office regarding questions, problems, or issues of a personal nature.

V. Teaching/Learning Methodology

The primary philosophy employed throughout this course will be:

“Your choices, your responsibility”

This course will utilize a variety of teaching/learning methods including lecture, large and small group discussion, news and TV media, periodicals, presentations, and two texts. The educational philosophy of this course is based on the belief that everyone has something to offer. Every member of the class has a base of formal
and informal education, which contributes to their current knowledge base. The instructor is not perceived as the 'giver' or 'imparter' of knowledge to an uninformed and wholly receptive group of students. This class assumes a teaching/learning partnership that is truly mutual and an educational milieu, which is challenging, creative, and dynamic. The instructor is responsible for establishing, nurturing, and monitoring the learning environment while the learner/participant is responsible for maximizing the learning environment and expanding his/her areas of knowledge, attitude and skill development. The focus of this course will be on understanding conceptualization and analytical reasoning - not on dictation or blind repetition of facts. Some memorization, especially of key terminology will be required. Therefore, the instructor will take the role of facilitator of learning.

VI. Required Materials


Recommended:

VII. Course requirements

Disability Services: Students with disabilities needing accommodations or assistance with coursework or testing should contact Mary Kate Barbosa, Director of Student Support Services, at 768-9613. Please note that students who identify as disabled must present current and complete documentation to receive accommodations.

Tutoring: Student Support Services offers tutoring to all students via experienced professional and peer tutors. If you are interested in receiving tutoring, please contact Helen Findlen, Tutor Coordinator, at 768-9614.
VIII. Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Values paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview with social worker</td>
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<td>Discussion Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Grading Scale: A = 91-100; B = 81-90; C = 71-80; D = 61-70; F = Below 60

- There is no bonus or make-up work for this course.
- I do not accept late assignments.
- I do not allow late exams.

Exams

The midterm (covering chapters 1-6) will be posted in the Assignments from Monday 12 AM until Sunday midnight in the 6th week – 01 March – 07 March. The final exam (covering chapters 7-12) will be made available in the Assignments from Monday until Thursday midnight in the final week, 10 May – 13 May. There will be 50 objective questions each for the midterm or final. It is open book, but you have to do and submit it by due date to get the points. These are forced completion exams. Once you start the exam, you will have 4 hours to complete it. You cannot save it and resume later.

How do I take the online exam?

In the section ‘Assignments’ during the exam dates indicated above, you will find the midterm or final. Just click on it, then the instructions and questions will pop up. Once you log in, you will have 4 hours to complete it. If anything goes wrong during taking your exam, do not panic, just send me an email, then I can reset it for you. It happens, so I advise you to take the exam early to allow you extra time to take it again. In the ‘tools section of blackboard, there is an option called “glossary” where all the terms for each chapter will be available. These terminology sheets are your primary study sheets for the examinations.

Values Paper

The detailed instructions are available in the Assignments.
SWK 200 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL WELFARE

a) Your paper should be in Word.doc format only. I cannot open other formats such as Word Perfect. If your paper is not in Word.doc format, you do not get a grade.

b) Submit your paper as ONE document. Do not separate the paper into several sections and submit several papers.

Where do you submit the paper?
In the “Assignments,” you will find “Values Paper.” Under it, you will see “View/Complete Assignments.” Click on “View/Complete Assignments,” browse to your saved paper, then submit. Do not send the paper to the Digital Drop Box. You do not get a grade if you send your paper to the place other than the site designated. For APA style, you can purchase the book recommended. I hope to post a sample paper for you to see how an APA paper is written.

Interview with a Social Worker
The detailed instructions are available in the Assignments.

a) Your paper should be in Word.doc format only. I cannot open other formats such as Word Perfect. If your paper is not in Word.doc format, you do not get a grade.

b) Submit your paper as ONE document. Do not separate the paper into several sections and submit several papers.

Where do you submit the paper?
In the “Assignments,” you will find “Interview with a social worker” Under it, you will see “View/Complete Assignments.” Click on “View/Complete Assignments,” browse to your saved paper, then submit. Do not send the paper to the Digital Drop Box. You do not get a grade if you send your paper to the place other than what I designated. For APA style, please refer to the sample APA paper posted on Course Documents, or you can purchase the book listed in this syllabus, “Writing with Style: APA style for Social Work”.

Discussion Board Questions
There will be 10 discussion forums including “The first day assignment”. Each forum is graded up to a total of 2 points and is therefore worth 20 points toward the total grade. Each discussion week runs from Monday 12am to Sunday midnight. During each discussion week, you are required to log on and participate in the discussion board forum at least 2 times. You can log on as many times as you want.
To receive full credit for group discussions, you must:

1. Answer the discussion question in your initial post by starting a new thread. A paragraph is expected, more is welcomed. Be sure to use the following format in the subject heading of your post: Most of the discussion questions have multiple numbers of the sub-questions and you need to identify the specific question you are answering.
   "Post 1 - question number. Brief topic of the question".
   Ex: "Post 1 - #1. Definition of social work"

2. On separate days, read all other group members’ posts and choose one to reply to, by doing at least one of the following: Expand on what your peer posted; ask questions for clarification; relate one person’s comments to another’s; and/or ask for input from the others. Be sure to label your reply “post 2”. Merely agreeing with something that was already said is not enough.

3. Feel free to rate your peers’ posts. Although your ratings will not be reflected in the grade except for some cases notified in advance, it can certainly provide feedback to your peers.

4. If you make only one post or make multiple posts all on the same day during the week, you will receive only the partial credit.

The rubric for your posts will be as follows:

| Post 1 | 1.25 points |
| Post 2 | .75         |
| Total  | 2 points possible |

The points will depend on the quality of your posts and whether or not you follow the guidelines for posting. FOR FULL CREDIT, YOU MUST ADD SOMETHING NEW TO THE CONVERSATION. You will not earn points, if you merely agreeing with or commending something else.

NOTE: I log on to the Blackboard Course Site at least 3 times per week. If you have questions, please post them to the appropriate discussion forum(s). Appropriate discussion forum means; if you have a question you would ask in a traditional classroom, make sure you post it for all to discuss in the discussion board under communications in the Blackboard Course Site. If you need to discuss something personal then e-mail me directly at kimanne.perkins@umpi.edu. I will
try to respond all emails within 24 hours. The best way to reach me is through e-mail. When emailing to me, always use the following format in the subject heading of your emails: SW101-90NT/your name/your topic
   EXAMPLE: SW101-90NT/Sue Brown/quiz 1

How do I talk to other colleagues?
The Discussion Board - here is where discussion questions are found and where class questions regarding assignments, lecture notes, text chapters, and other classroom materials should be discussed.

Response papers
There will be five response papers. (20 pts ea x 5: 100 points in total)

   To receive full credit for response papers:
Answer to the questions listed using the textbook or any other additional sources. Prepare the papers in a paragraph format, unless other requirements are specified in a separate assignment. The length of the paper required is indicated in each assignment,

   Where do you submit the response papers?
In the "Assignments," you will find "Response paper." By clicking on that heading you will find the questions to answer and the directions to submit the paper. Under "Response paper", you will see "View/Complete Assignments." Click on "View/Complete Assignments," browse to your saved paper and then submit. Do not send the paper to the Digital Drop Box. You do not get a grade if you send your paper to the place other than where I designated.

   How are the papers evaluated?
1. Depth and accuracy of response to the topic 15
2. Clarity and coherence of language and thought 5
   Total points 20

Keep in mind – because assignments are all here and posted and you know when everything is due...I do not accept assignment late. NO EXCEPTIONS!!! However, if you are unable to participate (e.g., discussion, assignment) due to health/medical reasons, it is your responsibility to contact me prior to something being due – otherwise I reserve the right to grade the assignment, etc. a zero.
IX. Course Schedule

You are to read the whole chapters from the textbook, because your exam will be from the chapter contents. Each chapter will have a terms sheet posted in the blackboard area for you to use as a study guide. Read as assigned. After you read the assigned chapter, log in to the Discussion Board or do the response papers. In addition to the textbook reading, there will be websites and additional materials for your interest. There is no specific assignments to these resources but they have been selected because they should add to your understanding of the subject areas.

❖ WEEK 1 January 18-24
  ➢ Log on to “Get to know each other” forum in the Discussion board: In Post 1, introduce yourself and in Post 2, respond to one of your peers’ Posts.
  ➢ Read Chapter 1, The Social Work Profession and make sure you understand all the terminology for this chapter listed under “Course documents”.
  ➢ Discussion 1 - Please define your understanding of social work and social welfare. Remember to include your anecdotal (life experience) understanding as well as what you have read.

❖ WEEK 2 January 25-31
  ➢ Read Chapter 2, Theoretical Perspectives and refer to the terminology for this chapter.
  ➢ Discussion 2
  ➢ Discussion 3

❖ Week 3 February 01-07
  ➢ Read Ch 3, Social Justice and Social Welfare Policy
  ➢ Response # 1

❖ Week 4 February 08-14
  ➢ Read Ch 4, Family and Children Services
  ➢ Discussion 4
  ➢ Values Paper due by 14 February
Week 5  February 22-28
- Read Ch 5, Mental Health
- Discussion 5

Week 6  March 01-07
- Read Ch 6, Health Care
- Response #2

Week 7  March 08-14
- MIDTERM Due by Sunday midnight Chapters 1-6
- Read Ch 7, School systems
- Discussion 6

Week 8  March 15-21
- Read Ch 8, Substance Abuse and Chemical Dependency
- Response #3

Week 9  March 29-April 04
- Interview with a social worker paper due by Sunday midnight
- Read Ch 9, Older Adults
- Discussion 7

Week 10  April 05-11
- Read Ch 10, Criminal Justice
- Discussion 8

Week 11  April 12-18
- Read Ch 11, Developmental Disabilities
- Response #4

Week 12  April 19-25
- Read posted chapter, Social Work in Occupational Settings
- Discussion 9

Week 13  April 26-May 02
- Read Ch. 12, Future Challenges
- Discussion 10
Week 14  May 03-09
  - Kiersey Temperment sorter
  - Response #5

Week 15  May 10 - May 13
  - Final