

# Syllabus for UWXS150

## Social Advocacy and the Social Work Experience

**NOTE:** This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

### Course Description

Social work as a profession, and social welfare as a social institution, have been influenced by, and influence the developing American society. This course presents an overview of the problems and issues addressed within social services environments and how to advocate for social change. This course is designed to prepare the beginning practitioner with an awareness of the range and complexity of social problems within the social environment. Students will develop an understanding of the historical progression of this social welfare policies and programs and the evolution and contribution of the social work profession within this context. We explore three critical areas; Ethical citizenship and frameworks that guide social welfare states, the role ethical frameworks play in guiding practice, as well as the social problems and human groups that are the focus of generalist social work practice.

### Prerequisite(s)

None

### Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior
- Engage diversity and difference in practice
- Engage in policy practice
- Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities

### Course Requirements/Components

#### Examinations (30 Points)

Two examinations will be the responsibility of the student during the semester. Only university justifiable excuses will be acceptable for a rescheduled exam. The exams will be delivered online via Canvas. Questions will be multiple choice, true/false and short answer, each worth 0.5 points for a total of 15 points each exam.

#### Volunteer Work (40 Points)

Thirty (30) hours of volunteer work is required to be completed this semester as part of “practical/hands on” education in this course. The minimum of 30 volunteer hours must be completed by the end of the semester and the journals, paper, and the

evaluation/verification of hours form must be handed in by the due dates. Failure to complete 30 hours will result in failing the class. It is very important to access your volunteer placement as soon as possible. Volunteer experience is to be a new one to you and should not be with family members. If, after searching using any sources you may have, you are unable to find a volunteer opportunity, please reach out to your instructor.

### Social Action Paper (20 Points)

Students will demonstrate an understanding of a social justice issue discussed in class or of their own choosing. Students will research the problem behind a social justice issue of concern, discuss some interventions that are used by social advocates, and create an action plan proposal that the student could carry out. Paper will be written using APA format. More information will be provided in Canvas.

### Small Group Discussion Participation (10 Points)

Each week, students will post comments about the assigned readings depending on their role for that week. Students will post an initial response (written, audio, or video) and a response to each of their group members. If preferred, students in the same small group can record a live discussion and post that discussion. Discussion grades will be assigned by individual active participation.

### Extra Credit (7 Points)

Each lesson contains an extra credit case study. The case study is not required. However, it is an opportunity to apply some of the concepts from the lesson. Each case study is worth 0.5 points, for a total of 7 points extra credit. Case studies can be completed throughout the semester.

## Grading

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Grade	Percentage Range
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	59% and under