



Sociology, Social Work, and Family Science

Introduction to Social Work

SWK 303.1

3 Units

Fall 2017

Table with 2 columns and 5 rows containing meeting days, times, location, additional info, and final exam details.

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith.

Department Mission

As followers of Christ, our mission is to nurture servant scholars who critically and empirically evaluate social systems, cultural patterns, and basic human needs to constructively engage as agents of hope with individuals, families, and communities.

Social Work Program Mission

At its core, the purpose of the social work program is to prepare competent social work professionals who are motivated to gracefully serve others as an expression of their faith.

The mission of the baccalaureate social work program is to develop competent professionals who are committed to serving others through acquisition and integration of the essential knowledge, skills, and values that form the foundation of generalist practice in the social work profession;

engagement in the community that empowers others are integral components of the means for relating to God through service.[1]

COURSE DESCRIPTION – SWK 303

SWK 303 is an introduction to the profession of social work and social welfare services in the United States. We will explore the history, values, and ethics of the profession. Additionally, we will work on developing basic skills critical for social work practice with individuals, families, communities, and organizations. Social work is an action oriented profession; thus, we will use a variety of active learning techniques including brief lectures, class discussion, personal reflection, and critical analysis of policies, practices, and systems to expose students to professional social work practice.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Objectives:

1. EP 2.1.2 Introduce generalist social work practice.
2. EP 2.1.7 Provide an understanding of social welfare systems and services in the United States.
3. EP 2.1.1 (1-4) Explore the history of the social work profession in the U.S., with particular attention to diverse and special populations.
4. EP 2.1.7 Present an introduction to the strengths and systems perspectives in social work practice.
5. EP 2.1.2 (1) (2) & .11 (1) (2) Discuss social work values and ethics in light of the prevailing societal values and the Christian faith.
6. EP 2.1.3 Encourage critical thinking and the development of decision-making skills, particularly regarding issues of social and economic justice.
7. EP 2.1.2 Cultivate identification with professional social work practice.

Student Outcomes:

1. Understand the historical development of social welfare systems and services in the U.S.
2. Exemplify social work values and ethics.
3. Demonstrate sensitivity to diverse and special populations.
4. Plan and execute an activity aimed at enhancing social and economic justice.
5. Assess and evaluate the class's activity, including each participant's contribution to the development and implementation of the small-scale social intervention.
6. Integrate Christianity with social work ethics, values, and practices.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION (In online or blended classes only—fill in blanks)

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a __unit class delivered over __ weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

- *Oral Presentation of a Field in the Social Work Profession:* Social work requires people to network or connect with each other. Our networks are one of our most valuable assets as social workers. As a result, we will begin to develop our professional networks from the start of our education. The goals of this assignment are: to identify areas of professional interest; begin the development of a professional network; improve planning and communication skills; develop the ability to present important information to key partners. The assignment will require identifying and interviewing a social work professional. It is important to identify a professional from a field of social work practice who sparks your personal interests. Once the

professional has been identified and interviewed, a 12-minute presentation outlining the field of practice, the path the professional took to their chosen field, and the insights gained from the interaction will be presented October 11th, 13th, and 15th. These are formal presentations. Dress and behave professionally. Attending the days your colleagues are reporting is a sign of respect for their hard work and is mandatory. Absences without prior approval on the days of reports will impact your final grade.

- *Mid-term Exam:* A take home mid-term exam consisting of brief answer and essay questions covering all of the content up to the class prior to the exam will be posted on Canvas on Wednesday, October 13th. The exam is due no later than 5:00 PM, Thursday, October 19, 2017. Try to get it done before break so you can relax!
- *Group Action Project:* The class will be responsible for identifying, planning, and implementing a project consistent with social work and Christian values. Students will be entirely responsible for the project. The group will be responsible for documenting the steps and the processes involved in taking the project from vision to reality. You are strongly encouraged to begin the discussion of the project early to ensure its completion by the first week of December. A one-page reflection describing the project and assigning yourself and your fellow classmates a grade reflective of your efforts is due no later than one week after the completion of the project, no later than December 9, 2016.
- *Social Work Pioneer Paper:* A goal of this course is to expose us to the history of the profession. Many social workers have pioneered new areas of intervention and practice. Each student is expected to select a social work pioneer and write a formal research paper on the pioneer and their contributions to the field. This paper is historical in nature. Students are expected to use both primary and secondary sources for the research; thus, while the internet can be a great resource it is not considered an adequate source for this kind of paper. The paper should not exceed 10 doubled spaced pages, using a 12-point font. Page borders must not be less than 1 inch. All references must be in the format of the American Psychological Association. The paper is due December 2, 2016. In addition to the paper, a 7-minute presentation of the outline of your paper will be presented Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 7:30 to 10:00 AM. A listing of pioneers can be found at www.naswfoundation.org/pioneers/default.htm, California Social Work Hall of Distinction <http://www.socialworkhallofdistinction.org/honorees/>, or in Volume 3 of the *Encyclopedia of Social Work*.
- *Participation:* Participation will be gauged by assessment of the reading assignments through periodic questions on Canvas, involvement in class activities, and preparedness and engagement in discussion. Mere attendance does not count for participation. Canvas questions will be graded with 0 – not submitted, -- -- Submitted with minimal effort, V – Average – a thoughtful response with elements of the reading incorporated throughout, + -- exceeds all expectations. Class participation grades will be determined proportionally to the assignment grades.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Morales, A. T. & Sheafor, B.W. (2010). *Social work: A profession of many faces* (10th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Beacon.

Additional articles and chapters will be assigned by professor and posted on the class web site.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

The final grade will be determined on the quality and completion of the assignments. The value for each assignment follows:

<u>Assignment Values:</u>		<u>Grade Distribution:</u>	
• Professional Exploration Oral Report	20	A=94-100	C=73-76
• Mid-Term Exam	20	A-=90-93	C-=70-72
• Group Action Project	15	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
• Social Work Pioneer Research Paper	25	B=84-86	D=63-66
• Participation	20	B-=80-83	D-=60-62
• Total Points	100	C+=76-79	F=0-59

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas.

Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor at any point about their grades. Any student with a grade below a C is highly encouraged to speak with the instructor.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

7/28/2016

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Responsibilities of the Class Members (Faculty included):

- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory at all class sessions. Missing 3 or more classes will result in de-enrollment or possible failure in accordance with the university attendance policy. NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.
- **Class participation:** Each person is a vital contributor to the educational environment. Our ideas and input are essential to the learning experience. Please participate actively and respectfully.
- **Respect:** Respect for others is a basic element of professional social work and Christian character. All discourse will be conducted in a responsible and respectful manner.
- **Reading:** We are expected to read all assigned material to engage in class discussion and other class based activities.
- **Completion of all class assignments:** All class assignments are to be completed and handed in in a prompt professional manner. There are no exceptions for tardiness. Late assignments will be penalized by a grade reduction of one letter grade for each day the assignment is not handed in beyond the original due date.

Inclusive Language

Given the power of language, all public language used in this course, including written and spoken discourse, will be inclusive. This standard is outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and is the norm in university-level work.

Public Discourse

Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative, by nature of the class discussions and general feedback given to written work and/projects; thus you should think of all your writing and speaking for and in class as public, not private, discourse. By continuing in this class, you acknowledge that others will view your work in the class.

7/28/2016
