

Social Work 200 – Introduction to Social Work
BYU Fall 2023, SocW 200, 002
Thu 4:00pm – 6:50pm, 3712 HBLL

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the broad field of social work. Students will gain a historical and practical overview of the profession including the purpose, focus, scope, and sanction of the social work professional in a wide variety of practice specialties, locations, and situations. You will learn how social workers engage in generalist practice and how it is applied in individual, group, and community settings. This course integrates knowledge of social work practice, values, ethics, social welfare policy, and social justice issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and discuss the historical roots and current development of social work theory and practice.
2. Explore the social work profession including career facts, code of ethics, certification and licensure, employment projections, and future trends.
3. Understand the wide variety of social work professional practice settings and social concerns such as poverty, mental health, and crime.
4. Know the difference between social work and the other behavioral science disciplines.
5. Have increased tolerance and acceptance of the diversity of the human experience in a social/cultural context.
6. Demonstrate awareness and increased sensitivity for diverse social issues.
7. Have enough information to make an informed decision whether social work is a good career fit for you.

UNIVERSITY/CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty Each student is expected to maintain academic ethics and honesty in all its forms, including but not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of work or verification, or passing off someone else's work as your own. The violation of academic honesty will be individually determined but will range from a fail grade for an assignment, to a fail grade for the course. Please refer to the BYU Honor Code.

Students with Disabilities BYU is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767).

Class Participation It is expected that students will participate actively and respectfully. Because social work can elicit strong feelings and beliefs, it is especially important to listen, process, and respond appropriately to the ideas expressed and, at times, the personal experiences shared by fellow class members. You are expected to have the reading assignment done before the class period. If you need to miss class, please talk with another student to find out what was missed (networking is a great social work tool).

Late Assignments You are expected to keep track of class due dates and turn in assignments on time. Late work is accepted with the following penalties: work turned in 1-2 days late =10% loss, 3-4 days late =20%, 5-6 days late =30%, 7-10 days late =50%, 11 or more days late = 60% loss of total possible points. The deadline for any late work is 11:59pm on **December 14**.

TEXT

Kirst-Ashman, K. (2016). *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare: Critical Thinking Perspectives* (5th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole. ISBN: 978-1-305-38839-0.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation Points (125 pts on student form + 25 pts from instructor = 150 points)

Participation points are designed to acknowledge your reading and preparation prior to class, as well as class attendance and participation. Doing well in these areas will have a positive effect on your performance in the other aspects of the class. Adhering to the honor system, you will record your own points for each day of class on the Participation Form and turn it in at the end of the semester with the points totaled. Give yourself a score for every class period. The points are broken down into the following categories:

- **Completion of reading assignments prior to class:** Reading the entire reading assignment by the end of the day it is due = 5 points (11 reading days/chapters = **55 points**). If you just skim or read only a portion of the assignment, or read it after class, give yourself 3 points.
- **Attendance and participation:** Attending class in person, on time, the entire time, and engaging yourself in that day's class will result in 5 points (14 days = **70 points**). Viewing the class zoom recording will be 3 points.
- The instructor will give up to **25 points** based on participation and engaging in discussions.

Presentation (50 points)

Students will select one chapter from the text and present a group 20 minute class presentation which will include a power point. The bulk of the presentation will include covering the terms for your chapter found in the Quiz Review documents. If you have additional time, you can incorporate other portions of the text, a group discussion, activity, or brief video clip. See sign-up sheet. Please post power point on Learning Suite under Digital Dialogue.

Quizzes (4 Quizzes, 30 points each, except for Quiz 3 20 points = 110 points)

There will be 4 Quizzes during the semester. These quizzes are based on the readings (not always covered in detail in the class), class discussions, and activities. They will be

based on the topics covered up to that point in class since the previous quiz. Quizzes will be matching terms with definitions. Please refer to Quiz Reviews which provide terms that will be found in the Quiz. The Quiz will be available to take in Learning Suite. See Course Schedule for the specific time range the quiz will be available.

Social Worker Interview Paper (75 points)

Students will conduct a face-to-face interview with a social work practitioner who has either a BSW or MSW degree, or SSW license. (Before conducting the interview, please be sure the person being interviewed has one of these two degrees, or the license) The social worker can be a private practitioner or can be employed in any government or private human service agency. You may conduct the interview individually or with a small group of classmates, though the paper will be done individually. Prior to the interview, a list of questions should be generated and include the following:

- The social worker's educational degrees, license and practice background
- Description of their current position and duties
- How they became interested in social work
- What they find most exciting and frustrating about their work.
- What advice they would give to a person considering the field of social work.
- Include 2-3 additional questions you would like to ask.

A 4-5 page paper (double spaced/any format) about the interview experience will be submitted describing the social workers responses to your questions. Include the social worker's first and last name. Half of the paper you will report on the interview. The other half of the paper you will share your own insights, perspectives, and responses to the interview and what you learned. Do not submit a transcript of the interview, but rather a discussion of it along with your impressions. Use your critical thinking skills. Consider how the information applies to you and your career choice. What impact did the information you obtained from the interview have on you?

Volunteer Experience (185 points)

This is a major project of the class and involves providing a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service in a human service agency of your choice. The hours counted for this class must be earned during the semester/term. The volunteer experience is independent of any employment you are involved in. Your service is for the benefit of the community and not for family members. An agency's orientation and training sessions count towards the needed hours. You may earn hours by volunteering for more than 1 organization. The volunteer placement you choose will either be working directly or indirectly with a social worker, or doing work in a social work type setting. Other placements that provide quality volunteer service may be acceptable if cleared in advance with the instructor. Academic based opportunities such as tutoring and reading are not able to count.

The following are resources that can help you find volunteer opportunities:

- Volunteer Placement Ideas document provided by instructor
- United Way (www.unitedwayuc.org).
- BYU Center for Service and Learning (yserve.byu.edu).

Be sure to make arrangements with a community setting far in advance of deadlines. Every setting has different criteria and timing for training and starting new volunteers.

The following must be completed and turned in **prior** to volunteering:

1. **Volunteer Agreement Form** – filled out by student and agency representative.

The following will be submitted at the **conclusion** of your volunteer experience:

1. **Volunteer Timesheet** – filled out by student and agency representative. You may use the form provided, or your own form with the same information.
2. **Volunteer Experience Essay** – a 4-5 page essay, double spaced/any format, including:
 - What you did for what agency
 - The population you served
 - What did the agency/people gain from your service
 - What you liked most/least
 - What you gained from the experience/how it has impacted you

Volunteer Experience Points Breakdown

Volunteer Agreement Form	10 points
Volunteer Timesheet	100 points (5 points for every hour up to 20)
Essay	<u>75 points</u>
	= 185 points

Final (75 points)

The final will be available to take for 1 week on Learning Suite during the end of the semester. More details will be announced during the last half of the semester.

General Information About Turning in Assignments

- All documents needed for the class are in Learning Suite under Content.
- All assignments are turned in via Learning Suite.
- Late work will be accepted up until 11:59pm on the last day of class.

CLASS GRADING SUMMARY

Participation Points (125+25)	150 points
Presentation	50 points
Quizzes	110 points
Social Worker Interview	75 points
Volunteer Experience	185 points
Final	75 points
BYU Student Ratings	<u>5 points</u>
Total Class points =	650 points

Grading Scale (based on the percentage of total points)

A = 100-95	B = 86-83	C = 76-73	D = 66-63
A- = 94-90	B- = 82-80	C- = 72-70	D- = 62-60
B+ = 89-87	C+ = 79-77	D+ = 69-67	F = 59-0