

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS

## SOC 250 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK

Credit Hours: 3 Lec: 3

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces social work as a profession. It examines the forces that have influenced the evolution of social welfare and the demand for social workers and their services. This course will analyze the impact of poverty on society, the people who live in poverty, and the effectiveness of social response to address and eliminate poverty.

1. COURSE GOAL

Consider social work as a career choice. This course will include a practicum and help students gain a solid foundation in theories relevant to social work.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 define within a global perspective social welfare, social institutions, social services, and social work and identify the different populations that are served by these systems.
- 2.2 distinguish social welfare from other major social institutions and social work from other helping professions.
- 2.3 critically analyze the value base, ethical dilemmas, historical evolution, theoretical concepts, and philosophical and political underpinnings of social welfare and social work.
- 2.4 identify and describe the commitment of social work as a profession to the promotion of social and economic justice on a local, state, tribal, federal, and global/international level.
- 2.5 distinguish between public, for-profit and non-profit private, and tribal social welfare structures; and identify the economic, social, and political local, state, national, and global contexts of these structures.
- 2.6 identify theoretical frameworks and practice processes of generalist social work including: ecological systems, strengths perspectives, and planned change processes.
- 2.7 explore the impact of poverty on society (local, state, national, and global) and its members.
- 2.8 critically analyze the theoretical perspectives to explain poverty and the nature, structure, and effectiveness of services and programs developed to address poverty.
- 2.9 critically evaluate the social welfare response to and social work practice with populations differentiated by reasons of class, age, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, geography, life style, and/or physical or mental conditions.
- 2.10 demonstrate understanding of the integration of research and professional social work practice with emphasis on empirically based research and practice.
- 2.11 demonstrate a beginning knowledge of the role of information technology in provision of social work services.
- 2.12 make an informed career decision by means of service learning experience in a human service agency as well as the experience of taking the course.

3. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 3.1 Class discussions
- 3.2 Teacher lectures
- 3.3 Multimedia
- 3.4 Handouts
- 3.5 Web enhanced activities
- 3.6 Case studies
- 3.7 Guest speakers

- 3.8 Service learning
- 3.9 Assigned readings
- 3.10 Discussion assignments
- 3.11 Exams

#### 4. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Note Taking
- 4.2 Classroom discussion and assignments
- 4.3 Classroom presentations
- 4.4 Service learning
- 4.5 Resources notebook

#### 5. EVALUATIONS

- 5.1 Class Participation
- 5.2 Written discussion assignments
- 5.3 Service learning experience
- 5.4 Service learning experience evaluation
- 5.5 Service learning experience paper
- 5.6 Resource list
- 5.7 Exam scores

#### 6. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 6.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 6.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 6.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 6.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 6.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.  
Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.  
For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
  - Submitting an academic assignment
  - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
  - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
  - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
  - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic

subject studied in the course