

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**SOCIAL WORK 120 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL WORK**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

Students will use a social problems approach to describe how poverty, child abuse, substance abuse, health and mental health issues, sexism, racism, other forms of discrimination, crime and other social issues affect people. Provides a framework for analyzing policy issues and for making informed civic decisions on social issues. Students are asked to volunteer at a social service/community service agency to observe and report on how social workers attempt to assess and address social problems.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Content**

- 1) How social work as a profession differs from other helping professions
- 2) Perspectives on major issues confronting society in order to arrive at informed positions
- 3) Existing services, merits and challenges of services and new programs needed to fill gaps in services
- 4) Intervention approaches in working with people to facilitate positive change
- 5) Critical thinking related to social work issues
- 6) Equitable distribution of resources and power among various groups in society
- 7) Strength-based approach to individuals, families and communities
- 8) Identifying people and communities in need
- 9) Social work values and how they relate to and guide practice
- 10) How social values were developed, and how they differ from and are similar to those in the other helping professions

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Describe how social work as a profession differs from other helping professions.
- 2) Describe different perspectives on major issues confronting society in order to arrive at informed positions.
- 3) Identify existing services, merits and challenges of services and new programs needed to fill gaps in services.
- 4) Apply intervention approaches in working with people to facilitate positive changes.
- 5) Apply critical thinking to analyzing how social workers handle cases.
- 6) Based on research presented and studied in the course, describe an equitable distribution of resources and power among various groups in society.
- 7) Describe methods for promoting a strength-based approach to individuals, families and communities.
- 8) Based on field observations, identify and describe people and communities in need.
- 9) Describe social work values and how they relate to and guide social work practices.
- 10) Describe how social values are developed, and how they differ from and are similar to those in the other helping professions.

**Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Exams that require students to describe how social work differs from other “helping” professions, describe perspectives on major social work issues, describe method for promotion of strength-based approaches, describe social work values and relate them to social work practices, describe how social values were developed and how they differ from other “helping” professions.
- 2) Based on first hand observations/volunteering at a social agency, papers that require students to describe a social worker’s function, how social workers approach clients with challenges, and how social work ethical and value systems guide their practice interventions.
- 3) Presentations that require students to identify existing services, people and communities in need, and the merits and challenges of services and new programs needed to fill gaps in services.

**Special Materials Required of Student**

None

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

Smart classroom

**Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Class discussion
- 3) Observation at social work agencies

**Out-of-Class Assignments**

- 1) Field observations at social work agencies
- 2) Written review of literature and reading material
- 3) Exam review and study

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative examples):
  - a. Zastrow, Charles. *Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare*. 12th edition. Cengage, 2017.
  - b. Corey & Corey. *Becoming a Helper*. 8th edition. Cengage, 2020.
  - c. Mick Cullen, Matthew Cullen. *Social Work & Social Welfare: Modern Practice in a Diverse World, 2023*, Licensed by/under: [Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial](#), Link: [Social Work & Social Welfare: Modern Practice in a Diverse World | OER Commons](#)
- 2) Supplemental: None

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1) Describe how social work uses different perspectives to facilitate other helping professions deal with different social issues and problems.
- 2) Identify and apply intervention approaches to fill gaps in serves and facilitate positive changes in various social working cases.
- 3) Apply critical thinking to the identification of critical needs and application of social work values to best meet the needs of individuals, families and communities.