

**Valdosta State University
Division of Social Work
SOWK 7400 A Fall 2013
3 Credit Hours**

Advanced Social Welfare Policy and Practice

Instructor:	Diane Holliman, LCSW, Ph.D.
Office:	Pine Hall 206
Office Hours:	Mondays & Wednesdays 3 pm to 5 pm Tuesdays 9:30 am to Noon Web weekends: Fridays 2 pm to 5 pm, and Saturdays 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm <i>Or, email, call or text for appointment or with questions</i> 229-560-8645 (Cell)
E-Mail:	dhollim@valdosta.edu
Class:	Wednesdays 5-8 PM, Pine Hall 114

Dr. Holliman will check blazeview each day M-F, and check cell phone and dhollim@valdosta.edu emails messages daily and plans to return all messages within 24 hours. Short text messages are okay, but please identify who you are (first and last name) when texting. If there is a change in instructor availability, she will let the class know in class or by blazeview.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course is a continuation of SOWK6400 that focuses on advanced social welfare policy and practice analysis from legislative and judicial sources.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a continuation of SOWK 6400 and it incorporates analyses of legislative and the judicial contributions to the creation, development and interpretation of social welfare policies and practices.

PREREQUISITE

Admission to the program and SOWK 6400 Social Welfare Policy, Problems, and Services.

RELATION TO OTHER COURSES

SOWK 7400 builds on all foundation courses, particularly SOWK 6400 (Social Welfare Policy, Problems, and Services.) The primary objectives of this advanced policy analysis course are for students to analyze and critique social welfare policies using local, state, federal and international sources and to identify and apply legislative and judicial rules in advanced generalist social work settings. The course construction provides students with a framework for

policy analysis that focus on legislative and judicial sources. The course content has direct implications for SOWK7300 (Advanced Practice in Rural Areas- I-Individuals), SOWK7310 (Advanced Practice in Rural Areas II-Families), and SOWK7320 (Advanced Practice in Organizations and Communities) in the application of problem solving strategies at multi-levels. SOWK7400 prepares students to analyze and evaluate social programs from an advanced generalist perspective as in SOWK7500 (Advanced Research in Program Evaluation). The course content also helps students to apply knowledge and theoretical concepts for practice and post-graduate study as evidenced in SOWK 7611 (Advanced Social Work Practicum I) and SOWK7612 (Advanced Social Work Practicum II).

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS:

Rome, S.H. (2013) *Social Work and Law: Judicial Policy and Forensic Practice*, Pearson, Text packaged with *My Search Lab*. The ISBN for this package is 9780205223503..

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND READINGS:

American Psychological Association (2010) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition, Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Barusch, A.S. (2006). *Foundations of social policy: Social justice in human perspective* Belmont CA: Thomas/Brooks/Cole.

Karger, J. & Stoesz, D. (2010). *American social welfare policy* (6th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Saltzman, A. & Furman, D.M. (1999). *Law in social work practice*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group/Thomson Learning.

Zinn, H. (2005). *A people's history of the United States: 1492-Present*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Blazeview D2L will be used as a tool for course enhancement. Your documents will reside in the Blazeview D2L course site, where you will find all handouts, and links to Internet sites. I want to encourage you to access the online course materials in Blazeview D2L as soon as possible.

D2L SUPPORT

Technical support for Blazeview D2L is free for students. If you need technical assistance with Blazeview D2L call the 24/7 helpline 1-855-772-0423 or visit <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>. You may also contact your instructor for assistance.

COURSE GOALS and OUTCOMES

This course is organized by goals and outcomes that will provide focus, consistency, and clear evaluation criteria. The goals of this course are general statements for what the students will learn and do in this course, and what the students will be able to do after they have completed the course.

COURSE GOALS

1. Apply legislative and judicial policy to social work practice at multiple levels.
2. Critique and evaluate advanced policy analyses.
3. Successfully complete an advanced policy analysis (the course compendium).

COURSE OUTCOMES

The course outcomes are more specific and more measurable than the goals. The skills and knowledge that support achievement of the course outcomes will receive the majority of class time. These course outcomes are derived from the MSW program objectives, and will help you build toward achievement of those objectives. Lessons, materials, methods and assignments are organized toward your achievement of the outcomes and toward what you as a student will be able to do differently, as a direct result of participating in the course:

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

- 1. Articulate an overview of policy analysis that integrates both legislative and judicial sources of advanced generalist social work practice mandates and roles.**
- 2. Analyze specific examples of how the legislative and judicial sources of social welfare policy have influenced advanced generalist social work practice with individuals, organizations, and communities.**
- 3. Explain the role and relevance of the historical and cultural context of the statutory and/or constitutional premise for prominent social welfare policy.**
- 4. Evaluate prominent U.S. social welfare policies relative to corresponding social welfare policy in a foreign country.**
- 5. Summarize the most influential arguments for and against prominent social welfare policies.**
- 6. Evaluate legislation and case law pertaining to prominent social work policy in terms of intended and unintended social consequences at multiple levels.**
- 7. Categorize and apply basic and legally recognized concepts and principles that support social justice in prominent areas of social work practice.**
- 8. Explicate the legal hearing process and the relevance of the hearing process in major social work settings.**

9. Articulate the components of effective performance of potential roles encountered by advanced generalist social work practitioners in the hearing processes associated with specific social work settings.
10. Locate and use the primary sources of law, legal citations, statutes, and court opinions that are related to the legislated social welfare policy underlying the practice of advanced generalist social work.
11. Explicate five basic constitutional concepts and principles operative in social welfare policy that affect social work practice, i.e. The Requirement of State Action, The Least Restrictive Alternative, Overbreadth and Vagueness, Due Process of the Law, Equal Protection of the Laws.
12. Identify if and how the five basic constitutional concepts and principles are operative in your social work practicum setting.
13. Describe the basic legal concepts, primary sources of law (statutory, case law), the probable legal roles of social workers, and the steps in the preparation of evidence that affect social workers in your practicum setting.
14. Compare and contrast social work values and ethics with local, state, federal and international policies and laws.
15. Critically analyze the supporting data (overview of history and current trends, basic legal principles, rights attaching to client participants, legal processes, influential arguments and the current status of the case and statutory law) of an advanced policy analysis.
16. Critically analyze the supporting data (overview of history and current trends, basic legal principles, rights attaching to client participants, legal processes, influential arguments and the current status of the case and statutory law) of MSW student presentations of prominent advanced policy analysis.
17. Evaluate how advanced policy analysis influences (or fails to influence) the practice of social work at multiple levels.
18. Identify and describe student involvement in one activity that is forensic in nature and occurs in the social work practicum setting.
19. Assess and recommend appropriate strategies for advanced generalist social workers to use in legal processes (i.e. hearings, preparation of evidence) to influence practice outcomes at multiple levels.
20. Facilitate and participate in collaborative critiques of policy to influence practice outcomes and shape the professional environment.

COURSE POLICIES PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO THIS COURSE (*Division of Social Work and VSU policies are listed at the end of the Course Schedule*).

Written Work & Submission of Assignments and Quizzes

- Your written work should show thoroughness, accuracy and professionalism. All work should be carefully proofread and corrected. Unless otherwise instructed, all assignments must be word processed, double spaced with numbered pages. Papers should use standard margins (one inch from the top, bottom, and sides). **Points will be**

deducted for typos, spelling and grammatical errors, not following directions, and lack of clarity. (See Compendium rubric, Discussion rubric, and Journal rubric).

- Late sections of your compendium will lose a letter grade (10%) for every 24-hour period they are late (including weekends and holidays). For papers and assignments that are less than 24 hours late, students will lose 5% of the assignment grade. (For compendium see “Lateness Policy for Compendium sections and the effects on your grade” in the Compendium Rubric).
- Discussions, journals, quizzes, and the Discussion Rubric Team and Self Evaluation form will not be accepted after their drop dead deadline and you will receive 0 points on the assignment or quiz.
- *Penalties for late assignments, discussions, forms, journals and quizzes may be lessened with bona fide medical or legal documentation. Please contact the instructor ASAP if you find yourself in this situation.*
- **In this course the compendium sections, discussions, quizzes, journals and forms are due at the starting time of the class, Wednesdays at 5 pm unless otherwise specified.**
- Compendium sections, discussions and other submissions are graded in the order that they are submitted by the student.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will demonstrate your achievement of course outcomes through your submitted projects and assignments:

1. Advanced Policy Analysis (Compendium) and Presentation

The compendium is assigned to be completed throughout the semester (See Compendium Rubric). The entire compendium assignment is worth **300 points**.

Section 1: History of policy area	50 points
Section 2: Description of specific policy area	50 points
Section 3: Delineate and Evaluate Governing Laws and Policies	50 points
Section 4: International Comparison	50 points
Section 5: Significance to Social Work	50 points
Complete Compendium	25 points
Compendium Presentation	25 points

2. Quizzes In this course there are 11 online quizzes worth a total of **100 points**. These quizzes are for mastery and may be taken as many times as the student wishes before the due date. However, the quizzes will **not** be available after the due date.

Syllabus quiz	10 points
Foundation policy quiz	10 points
Policy analysis quiz	10 points
Library quiz	5 points
Chapter 1 quiz	10 points
Chapter 2 quiz	10 points
Chapter 3 quiz	10 points
Chapter 4 quiz	10 points
Chapter 5 quiz	10 points
Constitutional Principles Quiz	5 points
Compendium quiz	10 points

3. Discussion teams and student engagement-The discussion teams and student engagement are worth a total of **120 points** and include (1) **Nine** online discussions for a total of **80 points**. Discussions posted after the final due date will be assigned a grade of **0**. (See Discussion Rubric)

Exploring compendium topic	5 points
2-3 paragraph summary of topic for reference librarian and instructor	5 points
Chapter related to compendium topic	10 points
International SW discussion	10 points
Course Outcomes 8 & 9 discussion	10 points
Course Outcome 18 discussion	10 points
Constitutional Principles Discussion	10 points
Second Settings Chapter Discussion	10 points
Course Outcome 20 discussion	10 points

(2) Completing the rubric team and self-evaluation form for **5 points**. Form must be submitted during specified timeframe. (3) Student journals- **15 points** (See instructions for student journals) Students must journal more than twice during the semester, but students may only journal once per week. (4) In class participation-**20 points** (see In class participation guidelines).

ASSESSMENT and ASSESSMENT ISSUES

GRADING SCALE

There is a total of 520 points in this course.

- A** 468-520 points
- B** 416-467 points
- C** 364-415 points (a “C” involves one deficiency point—See Student Handbook, p. 21.
- D** 312-363 points (a “D” involves two deficiency points—See Student Handbook, p. 21.
- F** Less than 312 points (an “F” involves three deficiency points and you must retake the course—See Student Handbook, p. 21.

I will need to inform your Advisor if your final grade falls below a “B.”

Other information about grading in this course: $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ points are not given on assignments, discussions, quizzes and other submissions. Your final grade should come to a whole number, and will not be rounded up or down. Quizzes may be taken an unlimited number of times during certain timeframes, and you can improve your grade through journal postings and in class participation. (See guidelines for journals and in class participation). Thus, extra credit is not needed to meet the course goals and outcomes.

Please Note: Students should be aware of various issues that may adversely affect their grades and even their participation in the program. These regulations arise from legal codes, The Georgia Board of Regents, Valdosta State University, or the Valdosta State University Division of Social Work. All of them are listed in the Student Handbook at <http://www.valdosta.edu/sowk/documents/StudentHandbook07-08.pdf> IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK. *Remember the “STATEMENET OF UNDERSTANDING” signed by all students (see pages 20-24).*

Please contact me with any special needs or developing problems. I will help you all I can.

COURSE SCHEDULE SOWK 7400 A

Note: Your “handouts,” syllabus, assignments, rubrics, course e-mail, and links to activities of interest are all found in Blazeview D2L.

Module 1

August 14, 5-8 PM Pine Hall 114

Introductions

Overview of Course, Syllabus & Course Guidelines

Blazeview D2L & My Search

Discussion Groups (Amethyst and Azure Groups)

Compendium Assignment and Rubric (Compendium examples)

Guidelines and Rubrics for Quizzes, Discussions, Journals, Team & Self Evaluation and In Class Participation

Review of Social Work Foundation Policy

Homework: 1. View in course videos on “Academic Integrity” and “Student Engagement;”
2. “Exploring your compendium topic” in discussion groups **5 points** *This discussion and your responses for the week of August 21 are worth 5 points;*
3. Syllabus Quiz **10 points** 4. Week 1 Journal (see journal instructions)

August 21, 5-8 PM Pine Hall 114

Topics

Review of Foundation Policy (Continued)

Advanced Policy Analysis (Zinn, Barusch, Critical theory, K&S and more)

Getting into “My Search”

Homework: 1. Respond to at least two student posts in your discussion group from “Exploring your compendium;” 2. Complete a 2-3 paragraph summary of your compendium topic for reference librarian and instructor-*Due Monday, August 26; 8 am to dhollim@valdosta.edu & hscarrier@valdosta.edu (5 points)*: 3. Foundation policy quiz (**10 points**) 4. Read the Preface of the text, book review and explore “My Search” 5. Read a chapter in your text which you think is most related to your compendium topic. In the discussion board summarize this chapter in 3-5 paragraphs as it relates to your compendium topic. *This discussion and your response for August 28 are worth 10 points.* 6. Week 2 Journal (see journal instructions)

August 28, 5-8 PM Pine Hall 114

MEET IN ODUM LIBRARY 3270; Mr. Howard Carrier

Meet with instructor in subgroups about your compendium topics

Homework: 1. Policy analysis quiz (**10 points**) 2. International Social Work readings (TBA) 3. Respond to at least two discussion posts from the chapter summaries from last week (this is included in the 10 points from last week). 4. Read Chapter 1 in text and corresponding “My search materials.” 5. Week 3 Journal (see journal instructions)

September 4, 5-8 PM Pine Hall 114

International Social Work-Dr. Mizan Miah

Chapter 1: Social work and the legal system: History; Understanding the Judicial System; Understanding the legal environment; Social Work Roles in judicial system.

Homework: (1) International Social Work Discussion **(10 points)** (2) Chapter 1 Quiz **(10 points)** (3) Library Quiz **(5 points)**; (4) Section 1 of Compendium due (5) Week 4 Journal (see journal instructions)

Module 2

September 11, 5-8 PM Pine Hall 114

Section 1: History of Policy Area Due 50 points

International Social Work Continued

Homework: (1) Respond to at least two posts from the International Social Work Discussion. (2) Read Chapter 2 in text, see My Search materials; (3) Week 5 Journal (see journal instructions)

September 18, 5-8 PM, Pine Hall 114

Meet with Instructor in subgroup meetings about compendium research

Chapter 2: Law and Judicial Policy-The role of case law in policy; The US Supreme Court; Judges and Decisions; Reading and analyzing a case.

Homework: (1) Chapter 2 Quiz; (2) Description of policy area due (3) Read Chapter 3 in text with corresponding My Search materials. (4) Week 6 Journal (see journal instructions)

September 25, 5-8 PM, Pine Hall 114

Section 2 of Compendium Due: Description of Policy Area

Chapter 3: Law and Forensics Practice: Forensic Interviewing, Testifying in Court, Responding to a Subpoena, Guest Speaker.

Homework: (1) Chapter 3 Quiz (2) Week 7 Journal (see journal instructions)

October 2, 5-8 PM , Pine Hall 114

Course Outcome 8: Explicate the legal hearing process and the relevance of the hearing process in major social work settings. Course Outcome 9: Articulate the components of effective performance of potential roles encountered by advanced generalist social work practitioners in the hearing processes associated with specific social work settings.

Homework: (1) Outcomes 8 and 9 Discussion; (2) Section 3 of compendium due (3) Week 8 Journal (see journal instructions)

Module 3**October 9, 5 – 8 pm, Pine Hall 114****Section 3: Delineate and Evaluate Governing Laws and Policies Due**

Chapters 4 & 5 in text: Influencing the Judicial System; Practicing within the law

Homework: (1) Read Chapters 4 & 5 in text and corresponding My Search Materials (2) Respond to at least two Outcomes 8 and 9 discussions (3) Week 9 Journal (see journal instructions)**October 16, 5-8 PM Pine Hall 114**

Subgroup compendium meetings

Homework: (1) Chapter 4 Quiz **10 points** (2) Chapter 5 Quiz **10 points** (3) Course Outcome 18 discussion question (10 points) (3) Section 4 of compendium due (4) Week 10 Journal (see journal instructions)**October 23, 5-8 PM, Pine Hall 114****Section 4 of compendium due; Constitutional Principles and social work practice****Homework:** (1) Readings on Constitutional Principles to be posted. (2) Outcome 18 discussion responses (3) Constitutional Principles discussion (4) Section 5 of compendium due (5) Week 11 Journal (see journal instructions)**October 30, 5-8 PM, Pine Hall 114****Section 5 of compendium due;** Presentations begin (3-4 presentations); Constitutional Principles Continued**Homework:** (1) Whole compendium due to whole class; (2) Constitutional Principles discussion response (3) Read second setting chapter, begin Second Setting discussion (this will be a whole class discussion rather than group discussion). (4) Week 12 Journal (see journal instructions)**Module 4****November 6, 5-8 PM, Pine Hall****Whole compendium due to whole class;** 3-4 Presentations; What every social worker should know from text lecture/discussion**Homework:** 1. Second setting discussion continued; 2. Complete team and self-evaluation form 3. Read student online compendiums 3. Constitutional Principles Quiz 4. Week 13 Journal (see journal instructions)**November 13, 5-8 PM Pine Hall 114**

5-6 Presentations; Team and self-evaluation form due

Homework: 1. Continue to read online compendiums 2. Begin Course Outcome 20 discussions 3. Week 14 Journal (see journal instructions)

November 20, 5-8 PM, Pine Hall 114

Final presentations, course wrap-up!

Homework: 1. Complete Course Outcome discussions (discussions will end December 4 at 5 PM). 2. Complete Compendium Quiz 3. Week 15 Journal (see journal instructions)

Journals must be completed by December 4 at 5 pm; Journals may only be done once per week!

And, don't forget the SOIs!

DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK and UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The goal of the Social Work Department is to prepare students for the professional practice of social work. The Department requires students to adhere to professional practices and standards in all classes and practicum. These practices and standards are outlined in the *MSW Student Code of Conduct* which can be found on pages 63-73 of the current *MSW Student Handbook*. The Code of Conduct must be signed by all students beginning MSW students.

The following standards are not negotiable: Students may depend on well-planned classes and knowledgeable instructors. Professors are committed to the facilitation of student success. Learning is a complex phenomenon for which BOTH instructors and students are responsible. Evaluation criteria are stated clearly in the syllabus. However, if students have questions about grading, it is the students' responsibility to discuss these matters with their instructors. The course syllabus represents a contract between students and the instructor. Professors reserve the right to modify syllabi, and students will be notified in writing when such changes are made. Likewise, students are responsible for reading and following instructions on the syllabi.

Class Attendance: Because the MSW Program is a professional program, class attendance is **MANDATORY**. The Attendance Policy is extremely important and can be found in the current *MSW Student Handbook* on page 19. Students are expected to be on time for class and to return from breaks in a timely manner. Likewise, students are expected to participate in class discussions and activities.

Submission of Assignments: All assignments must be submitted ON TIME and IN THE MANNER directed by the faculty (e.g., brought to class, sent to an assignment drop box, etc). Deadlines are extremely important for professional social workers. Additional information about assignment submission is found in the Attendance Policy.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable in a professional social work program. **By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity in a plagiarism software program.** Students who engage in this type behavior risk failure on specific assignments, in the course,

and possible dismissal from the MSW Program. Academic dishonesty is prohibited by the university as well as the Division of Social Work. The following link outlines [VSU's Academic Honesty Policies](#). The Academic Dishonesty Policy for the Division of Social Work is found in the *MSW Student Handbook* found as a link off the [Division web site](#).

Incompletes: Incomplete grades are given only in cases of extreme emergency with proper documentation, and are granted only with the prior approval of the instructor. Policies governing Incompletes are found in the *MSW Student Handbook*.

Academic Performance: Students are expected to maintain a 3.00 grade point average in the MSW Program. A discussion of all academic expectations and grading can be found in the *MSW Student Handbook*, including the Division's policy of Academic Deficiency Points given for grades lower than C.

Cancellation of Classes: The University President may cancel classes under specific emergency conditions. The most frequent cause of cancellation is inclement weather. Please check the main page of the VSU web site if you have concerns about inclement weather or an emergency situation: <http://www.valdosta.edu>

ADDITIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION

Technology Assistance: Students having technology problems may contact the [Help Desk](#) (phone 229-245-4357) or e-mail a question at helpdesk@valdosta.edu. The Help Desk is located on the 2nd floor of the Odum Library. Their hours are 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Mondays – Thursdays; 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Fridays; 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Saturdays; and 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Sundays. Technical support for Blazeview D2L is free for students. If you need technical assistance with Blazeview D2L call the 24/7 helpline 1-855-772-0423 or visit <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>. You may also contact your instructor for assistance.

Specific Learning Needs: Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss their needs with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students who are not registered with the Access Office for Students with Disabilities should contact [VSU's Access Office](#) or call 229-245-2498 (229-219-1348 for TTY). The office is located in Room 1115 Nevins Hall.

Students Experiencing Academic Difficulties: Students with academic concerns are strongly encouraged to contact the staff of the [Student Success Center](#) or call them at 229-333-7570. The Student Success Center is located on first floor of Langdale Hall on the main VSU campus. Services provided by the Success Center include tutoring, writing assistance, and help with time management. Students are encouraged to make appointments with Center Staff through the web link or by telephone. The Center is available to all VSU students, and evening appointments are available.

Additional services: The Counseling Center (phone 229-333-5940; e-mail pjaynor@valdosta.edu). Services are free of charge to students with emotional/mental, social, substance abuse and other problems. The Farber Health Services provides physical health services (phone 229-333-5886).

Emergency Campus Policy: The Police Contact Number is **229-259-5555**. The Campus Police Division is located in Pine Hall. Officers will escort students on campus, and emergency phones are placed across campus. Students are **strongly encouraged to program the campus emergency number, 911** (for local police) **and *447** (GA State Highway Patrol) **into their cell phone.**