



SOCW 2362 SOCIAL WELFARE: LEGISLATION, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES ONLINE

Course Syllabus: FALL 2025

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."

A banner featuring a portrait of Carmen Shurtleff, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. To the left of the portrait, the text 'CARMEN SHURTLEFF' is written in large white letters, with 'Professor of Sociology and Social work' in smaller orange letters below it. A white box contains her office hours: Monday - off campus, Tuesday - 1:30-3:30, Wednesday - 10:00-5:00, Thursday - 1:30-3:30, Friday - off campus. At the bottom, there are icons for email (cshurtleff@ntcc.edu), phone (903.434.8307), and social media (carmenshurtleff).

CARMEN SHURTLEFF
Professor of Sociology and Social work

Monday - off campus
Tuesday - 1:30-3:30
Wednesday - 10:00-5:00
Thursday - 1:30-3:30
Friday - off campus

cshurtleff@ntcc.edu 903.434.8307 carmenshurtleff

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description: This course offers a historical and contemporary examination of legislation and resulting programs, policies, and services in the context of the social welfare system in the United States. Special attention is given to the political, economic, environmental, and social conditions that prompted the development of legislation to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Societal responses to legislation are also considered.

Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe characteristics of legislation.
2. Differentiate between legislation and policy.
3. Explain how legislation influences service delivery and identify current proposed or recently passed state or federal legislation that will influence services.
4. Trace the history of major pieces of social welfare legislation, including the political, economic, environmental, and social conditions affecting vulnerable populations that prompted the legislation's development.
5. Describe how political ideology and social constructions of vulnerable populations influences the development of social welfare legislation.
6. Describe how political ideology and social constructions of vulnerable populations influence societal responses.
7. Compare and contrast the residual, versus institutional, view of social welfare.
8. Articulate how social workers can actively and ethically engage in the political process to address social justice issues.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Discussions	100 points
NUMIA Labs	100 points
Social Welfare Policy Letter	100 Points
Mid-term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
 Total Possible	 500 points

Grading and evaluation--In general, a course grade of a "C" represents an acceptable level of work. A course grade of "B" represents a substantial effort and achievement. It is clearly a grade for the better than average product and effort. An "A" is awarded only in the case of both outstanding efforts and quality in the required products. The grades will be awarded on the following basis:

A = 90% to 100% of possible points
 B = 80% to 89% of possible points
 C = 70% to 79% of possible points
 D = 60% to 69% of possible points
 F = 59% and below of possible points

Required Instructional Materials: Segal, E. (2016). Social Welfare Policy and Social Programs: A Values Perspective, 4th Ed. Boston, MA: Cengage Publisher: Cengage

ISBN Number: 978-1-305-10192-0

Recommended Reading(s): None

Optional Instructional Materials: None

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Below are some technical requirements for using Blackboard that will help your experience in this course.

You will see the NTCC Tech Support email address and phone number below. Please get in touch with them if you run into any technical problems during the semester. Please let your instructor know you are having difficulties as well. If you need further NTCC technical support services please contact IT at IT@ntcc.edu or 903.434.8140.

Blackboard will work on both a Mac and a PC. (Chrome Books are known to have issues with Blackboard.) It is best to access Blackboard through Fire-Fox or Chrome as your web browser. If you have trouble with any of the activities working improperly, you might change your web browser as your first solution. The Default Browser in Windows 10 is Edge. This browser does not do well with Blackboard! If you will go to Windows Accessories you will find Internet Explorer still on your computer, but is not your default browser. If you have any difficulties navigating with Edge, close it and go to Internet Explorer. You can download Blackboard Student for your smart phone from the Play store or the App store. More information is available for Technology Requirements and Support under the Student Resources – Technical Support Tab in Blackboard.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

1. Communicate via email including sending attachments
2. Navigate the World Wide Web using a Web browser such as Internet Explorer
3. Use office applications such as Microsoft Office (or similar) to create documents
4. Be willing to learn how to communicate using a discussion board and upload assignments to a classroom Web site
5. Be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files
6. Have easy access to the Internet
7. Navigate Blackboard, including using the email component within

Blackboard. Instructions and tutorials for this are provided in your course.

For more information or technical assistance on using the Learning Management System, please refer to the Home Page, Orientation Module, in the important technical requirement, information and support folder in Blackboard.

Course Structure and Overview:

Students are expected to complete all the readings of the required text, watch the instructional videos and complete the chapter activities as assigned. You will see that the course is divided into 16 weeks. Each week you will be expected to complete certain assignments for the chapter. Pay close attention to deadlines for all assignments. Assignments will not be accepted late! Technical difficulties are no excuse for late assignments. In class participation is an essential element in this course. Each student will be expected to participate in speaking drills/activities which will occur during class time. These activities will allow students to sharpen their presentations and enhance delivery skills.

Tests/Exams:

There will be two tests (100 points each). Everyone must take the final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching or definitions, and short essay questions. Make-up examinations, as a rule, will not be permitted, unless the student's absence is excused in advance. A grade of incomplete ("X") will not be given unless the student contacts the instructor to make special arrangements for making up required work. Only emergency situation that prohibit the student from completing the course as planned will warrant consideration of the grade of "X".

Assignments:

All written assignments should be typed (12-point font), double-spaced, with one-inch margins, a title page, and stapled. Students are encouraged to submit written work that has been spell-checked and is free of grammatical errors. Students are expected to use APA style when citing reference materials. Students are advised that points will be deducted if these criteria are not met.

DISCUSSION BOARDS

GRADING: 100 POINTS

DUE: SEE COURSE SCHEDULE

Discussions/Activities is where we will assess your participation, whether you are an online or face-to-face learner. You are expected to be an active and engaged class member throughout the semester.

Discussions/Activities are a way to exchange ideas and learn from your peers. Each student is expected to participate in the discussions/activities fully. It could involve summarizing articles, responding to questions from the text, or viewing and commenting on streaming videos. There will be a minimum of 4 discussions at 25 points each.

To receive credit, you must post your response to the posted discussion board questions by Thursday at midnight. In addition, you must post a response to another peer's post by Sunday at midnight.

Your grade on the discussion board is based on participation. However, to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements: - After posting your answer to the question, you are expected to respond to at least one other peer in the class. Initial posts should be at least **150 words**, and a response at a minimum of **75 words**. All posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion. Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary appropriate for a college-level course. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be accepted.

NUMIA LABS

GRADING: 100 POINTS

DUE: SEE COURSE SCHEDULE

NUMIA labs are an immersive Learning Experience that bridges concepts and skills in Real-World scenarios, an innovative approach to education beyond traditional classroom learning. It allows students to engage in hands-on, experiential learning within real-world settings, resulting in increased student engagement, learning, and reflection on practice. This immersive learning experience allows students to acquire and apply knowledge in practical, real-world scenarios. These immersive experiences include roleplaying, scenarios, field immersion, service-learning projects, case studies, gamification, experimental workshops, reflective journals and/or blogs, multimedia presentations, interdisciplinary collaboration, and cultural immersion. There will be a minimum of 4 labs at 25 points each. **All NUMIA labs should be written in and submitted in APA format. If a student does not submit in APA format, lab will NOT be graded.**

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY LETTER

GRADING: 100 POINTS

Choose a social welfare issue discussed in this course, textbook, or through internet exploring. Prepare a letter to an elected official regarding your chosen social welfare issue. You are not required to send the letter; however, it will need to show the appropriate format and content. Before writing your letter, engage in assessment tools to gain knowledge of the difference between policy and legislation, the characteristics of legislation, and how social workers actively engage in social change. Guidelines on how to write a social policy letter can be found in the course resource folder.

Communications:

Emails will be responded to within 24 hours. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, then the email was not received. Posts in the Discussion Forum “Questions, Comments, and/or Concerns?” will be monitored by the instructor. Responses by the instructor will be within 72 hours of post. The college’s official means of communication is via your campus email address. I will use your campus email address and Blackboard to communicate with you outside of class. Make sure you keep your campus email cleaned out and below the limit so you can receive important messages.

All students are strongly encouraged to download the Microsoft team’s app on their personal phone or computer. This will be my primary communication tool for this course. To download the Teams mobile app, go to your mobile device’s IOS App Store or Google Play Store and download the app. Once downloaded, use your NTCC email and password to log in. You can access Microsoft teams from any internet browser by going to the following link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/log-in>. You can also download teams to your personal computer by using the link above. Be sure and turn on notifications in your setting to avoid missing any notifications or important announcements for this course. **Please note if you use the internet browser only, you will not receive notifications.** I typically respond within one hour to messages; however, I may take up to 24 hours to reply. If you need additional help, please reach out to me via my email, cshurtleff@ntcc.edu.

Look for this app:



Institutional/Course Policy:

No late work will be accepted without prior approval by the instructor. Students are always expected to be respectful toward classmates and professor! Review Student Conduct in the Student Handbook. It is the

student's responsibility to check Blackboard for important information/announcements regarding the course. Students should be working on course material via Blackboard every week. Do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit assignments in case of technology issues.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

Artificial Intelligence Statement:

Individual instructors may allow or disallow any use of AI software for coursework. It is the student's responsibility to follow any AI classroom policy and the course's guidelines set forth by the instructor. Integrating AI into the course can undoubtedly bring numerous benefits and advancements. However, any use of AI software must be cited, or it could constitute academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Recognizing the potential risks and ensuring that AI technologies are implemented responsibly and ethically is crucial. Students are fully accountable and responsible for any content, AI or non-AI, used in an assignment that is submitted. If any student has any questions surrounding the use of AI, please reach out to the instructor.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence,

a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Student Social Support Resources:

At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often have concerns that could lead to barriers to success. If you are a student who needs support and/or guidance, NTCC offers EagleAssist. EagleAssist is a comprehensive hub for students to access resources beyond the classroom. Some of those services include but are not limited to classroom accommodations, mental health counseling, tutoring, CARE Center, Financial Literacy, and Emergency Assistance. NTCC supports alleviating barriers, enabling student value and success, regardless of lived experience. To access services, please email eagleassist@ntcc.edu. In addition, if you need additional community resources, please www.ntcc.edu/carecenter.

