



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOCW 2362 SOCIAL WELFARE

Course Syllabus: FALL 2026

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

Instructor: Ms. Carmen Shurtleff

Office: UHS 109

Phone: 903-434-8307

Email: cshurtleff@ntcc.edu

Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	By appointment
Tuesday	9:00-11:00
Wednesday	8:30-12:30/1:30-3:30
Thursday	9:00-11:00
Friday	None

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 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:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

Points	Requirement
100	NUMIA Labs
100	Engagement Activities & Course Participation
100	Policy Letter
100	Midterm
100	Final
500	TOTAL

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Generally, course grade “C” represents an acceptable level of work. A course grade of "B" represents a substantial effort and achievement. It is a grade for the better-than-average product and effort. An "A" is awarded only for outstanding efforts and quality in the required products.

There will be two tests (100 points each). Everyone must take the final exam. Exams include multiple choice, matching or definitions, and short essay questions. As a rule, make-up examinations 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 the required work. Only emergency situations that prohibit the student from completing the course as planned warrant consideration of the grade of "X".

Required Instructional Materials:

introduction to Sociology 3e. OpenStax. OpenStax, 2021

Publisher: OpenStax.

ISBN Number: 13: 978-1-71149-398-5

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 contact 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.) Accessing Blackboard through Fire-Fox or Chrome as your web browser is best. If you have trouble with improper activities, 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 go to Windows Accessories, you will find Internet Explorer still on your computer, but it is not your default browser. If you struggle to navigate with Edge, close it and go to Internet Explorer. You can download Blackboard Student for your smartphone from the Play or App stores. More information is available for Technology Requirements and Support under the Student Resources – Technical Support Tab in Blackboard or on the NTCC website: <https://www.ntcc.edu/about-us/computer-services/technology-support-services>.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

The ability to communicate via email, including sending attachments; navigate the World Wide Web using a Web browser such as Internet Explorer; use office applications such as Microsoft Office (or similar) to create documents; willingness to learn how to communicate using a discussion board and upload assignments to a classroom Web site. In addition, students need to be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files; navigating blackboard, including using the email component within Blackboard. For more information or technical assistance on using the Learning Management System, please refer to the Home Page, Orientation Module in Blackboard's critical technical requirement, information, and support folder.

Course Structure and Overview:

This is a course where students must access graded activities on the Blackboard Learning Management System. A typical class involves general participation by all members in course activities. Students must complete online activities, discussion forums, assignments, and exams. Students must watch instructional videos, read course textbooks, and complete assignments in the Learning Management System, Blackboard, by due dates.

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. Please refer to the APA manual or use www.apastyle.org for guidelines on writing in APA format. Students are advised that points will be deducted if these criteria are NOT met.

Social Welfare Analysis/Policy Letter - 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

Engagement Activities & Course Participation — 100 Points

Active and consistent engagement is an important part of success in this course. Participation in the course involves more than simply logging into Blackboard or submitting major assignments. Students are expected to regularly engage with the course materials, learning activities, and instructional content throughout the semester.

What Counts as Course Engagement?

Course engagement may include, but is not limited to:

- Reading assigned OpenStax textbook chapters and other course materials
- Reviewing course announcements and instructor updates
- Completing assigned Blackboard modules and instructional content
- Watching assigned videos, lectures, or other media
- Completing topic check-ins
- Completing knowledge checks or low-stakes quizzes
- Participating in discussion activities when assigned
- Responding to questions related to readings, videos, or course topics
- Completing brief reflections or chapter activities
- Participating in other learning activities identified by the instructor

The type and format of engagement activities may vary throughout the semester. Not every module or week will include the same type of activity.

Engagement Activities

Throughout the course, students may be asked to demonstrate their engagement and understanding through a variety of activities. An engagement activity could be a topic check-in, quiz, knowledge check, discussion, brief reflection, video response, chapter activity, or another activity within Blackboard.

Students should follow the specific instructions provided for each activity. Some activities may require a written response, while others may involve answering questions, reviewing instructional materials, interacting with classmates, or simply completing assigned course content.

When interaction with classmates is required, students are expected to communicate respectfully, constructively, and appropriately for a college-level learning environment.

How Participation Is Evaluated

Course Engagement & Participation is worth a total of 100 points.

Participation is evaluated based on meaningful and consistent engagement with the course rather than simply logging into Blackboard. Evaluation may consider:

- Completion of assigned engagement activities
- Completion of assigned course content and learning modules
- Engagement with assigned readings and instructional materials
- Regular and timely participation throughout the course
- Completion of activities by the stated deadlines
- Quality and relevance of responses when a written contribution is required
- Appropriate participation in course interactions when applicable

Blackboard course activity and completion data may be used as part of the overall evaluation of course engagement. ***Simply logging into Blackboard or completing major graded assignments without engaging with the assigned course content and learning activities does not constitute full participation.***

Participation Expectations

Students are responsible for regularly accessing Blackboard, reviewing course announcements, completing assigned readings and course content, and participating in assigned engagement activities. Because engagement activities may vary, students should carefully review the instructions and expectations provided within each Blackboard module.

NUMIA Labs – 100 points

NUMIA Labs are designed to provide hands-on experience in analyzing and interpreting social work data, case studies, and practice scenarios. These labs help students apply key social work concepts, ethical frameworks, and intervention strategies in real-world contexts.

Through these exercises, students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and professional decision-making skills essential for social work practice.

Exams - 100 Points:

There will be two tests (100 points each). Everyone must take the exams. Exams will include multiple-choice, matching or definitions, and short essay questions. As a rule, make-up examinations 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 the required work. Only an emergency that prohibits the student from completing the course as planned will warrant consideration of the grade of "X". EXAMS on released on the date above and students are provided 48 hours to complete the exam.

Communications:

The college's official means of communication is via your campus email address. Emails will be responded to within 48 hours (about 2 business days). I will use your campus email address and Blackboard to communicate with you outside class. Ensure you keep your campus email cleaned out and below the limit so you can receive important messages.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Late work will only be accepted with prior approval by the instructor. Students are always expected to be respectful toward classmates and professors! 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 technical 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.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law,

policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model].
<https://chat.openai.com/> MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

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.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation 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 accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. 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: <https://www.ntcc.edu/student-services/eagle-assist/classroom-accommodations/contact-office-special-populations>.

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.

Title IX

Northeast Texas Community College is committed to providing a safe educational environment free from sex-based discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. Under Title IX, students who experience or become aware of prohibited conduct are encouraged to seek support and report their concerns. Please be aware that instructors are considered responsible employees and are required to report disclosures of possible prohibited conduct to the NTCC Title IX Coordinator. Students may contact the Title IX Coordinator at 903-434-8121. Additional information, reporting options, and support resources are

available on the NTCC Title IX website at <https://www.ntcc.edu/about-us/title-ix>. In an emergency, call 911.

Eagle Assist

NTCC recognizes that challenges inside and outside the classroom can affect student success. Eagle Assist is a central resource for students who need additional support, including classroom accommodations, mental health counseling, tutoring, food and basic-needs assistance, emergency financial assistance, financial literacy resources, and support for students with children. If you need assistance or are unsure where to begin, contact Eagle Assist at eagleassist@ntcc.edu or visit the NTCC Eagle Assist website: <https://www.ntcc.edu/student-services/eagle-assist>.

Classroom Recording Policy

To protect the privacy of students and support an open classroom environment, audio, video, photography, screen recording, or other recording of class sessions is prohibited without prior permission from the instructor. This includes recording lectures, discussions, presentations, Zoom sessions, or other course activities.

Students who have approved accommodation that includes recording should make arrangements with the instructor prior to recording so that the accommodation can be implemented appropriately. Approved accommodations will be honored in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504, and NTCC procedures. Any authorized recording is for the student's personal educational use only and may not be shared, posted, distributed, or published without permission.