



SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SCIENCES

SYLLABUS

TITLE: Social Welfare Systems and Social Policy
CODE: TSO 317
PREREQUISITE: N/A
CREDITS: 3 credits | 45 contact hours | 1 term

DESCRIPTION

The course examines the development of the social welfare system and social policy from a critical, historical, and inclusive perspective of human rights. The process of analysis, formulation, implementation, and evaluation of social policies is studied. This considers contemporary patterns of social service provision and their repercussions for socially and economically disadvantaged populations. It analyzes the existing debates and dilemmas of the role of professional social work practice in the development of affirmative policies and the ways to engage in these processes through practices that promote social justice, such as social action. The course is aimed at students of Social Work and related disciplines.

JUSTIFICATION

Everyday life is intimately linked to social policy determinations, which have a direct impact on the sense of general well-being and on the forms of interaction between different social groups. The exercise of citizenship and professional practice committed to social innovation refers to the ethical responsibility to participate in and promote the creation or improvement of social policy measures to guarantee the fulfillment of human rights. Therefore, it is necessary to master the professional competencies that guarantee contributions that promote collective well-being and effective policy actions

COMPETENCES

The course develops the following competences in students:

- **Ethical sense and social justice**
- **Research and exploration**
- **Entrepreneurship and innovation**

OBJECTIVES

After completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the concepts: social welfare, social justice, oppression, human rights, need, social problem, and social policy.
2. Interpret, from a historical-critical point of view, the development of social welfare and its system.
3. Outline the interconnectedness of social policy with historical, social, economic, organizational, environmental, and global processes and influences in Puerto Rico and the United States.
4. Explain how human rights and social justice, as well as social welfare and the services that support it, are influenced by existing economic and social policy.
5. Identify social policy alternatives for each area of social welfare, as well as the ways of accessing and providing social services existing in Puerto Rico.
6. Critically expose the processes for the formulation and analysis of social policies.
7. Recognize the civic-professional responsibility to participate in the development, creation, or improvement of social policy.
8. Critically analyze social welfare policies in Puerto Rico, in light of principles such as: equity, social, economic, and environmental justice, participation, and effectiveness.
9. Apply evidence from social research to improve social policy and service delivery.
10. Propose ideas in the policies analyzed that promote human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.
11. Engage in practices that promote human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice.

CONTENTS

- I. Towards Social Welfare: Complexity and Breadth of the Study Area
 - A. Human rights in the face of social needs and problems
 - B. Social justice, oppression, and privilege
 - C. Social welfare, social policy, and the social welfare system
- II. Historical Development of Social Welfare in The United States and Puerto Rico
 - A. Types of states and their relationship to social welfare
 - B. Social policies: process and product in the social question
 - C. The areas of social welfare and social policy: access to and delivery of social services
 - D. Social welfare system from a human rights perspective
- III. Social Policy Formulation and Analysis
 - A. Posing a social problem: process, scenarios, and stakeholders
 - B. Study and analysis of a social problem: from a rational to a political approach from a human rights perspective
 - C. The construction of social policy proposals
 1. Use of social research
 2. Evaluation criteria on which it is formulated
- IV. Citizen Participation, Social Policy, and Human Rights
 - A. Lobbying and the approval and creation of legislative projects
 - B. Citizen participation: social action as an instrument for the promotion of human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice

METHODOLOGY

The following strategies from the active learning methodology are recommended:

- Interactive lectures
- Discussion groups
- Cooperative groups
- Panel discussions
- Field visits
- Expert consultations
- Policy analysis exercises
- Policy innovation
- Concept maps
- Individual & group presentations

- Written reflections
- Participation in activities promoting social welfare and human rights

EVALUATION

Partial assignments	25%
Compositions	20%
Participation	10%
Immersion experience	15%
Final project or exam	30%
Total	100%

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

The institutional assessment rubric is applied to the course's core activity.

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ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org>

Biblioteca Virtual de Puerto Rico <http://www.bibliotecavirtualpr.com>

College of Social Work Professionals in Puerto Rico <http://cptspr.org/>

Commission on Civil Rights of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

<http://www.agencias.pr.gov/agencias/cdc/Pages/default.aspx>

Derechos humanos en el mundo <http://www.derechos.org/ddhh/mundo.html>

Digital Library of the Organization of Ibero-American States: www.oei.es

Electronic Library of the College of Social Work Professionals in Puerto Rico

<https://sites.google.com/site/2010coltrabsoc/catalogo-en-linea/revistas-colegio-de-trabajadores-sociales-de-puerto-rico/o---s/revista-de-servicio-social>

House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

<http://www.tucamarapr.org>

Laws and Jurisprudence in Puerto Rico www.lexjuris.com

Legislative Library of Puerto Rico <http://www.oslpr.org/BibliotecaLegislativa.asp>

Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico <https://senado.pr.gov>

Unidos por los derechos humanos <https://www.unidosporlosderechoshumanos.mx/>

For more information resources related to the course's topics, access the library's webpage <http://biblioteca.sagrado.edu/>

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

For detailed information on the process and required documentation you should visit the corresponding office. To ensure equal conditions, in compliance with the ADA Act (1990) and the Rehabilitation Act (1973), as amended, any student in need of reasonable accommodation or special assistance must complete the process established by the Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón to take courses with or without academic credit. A lack of academic integrity is any act or omission that does not demonstrate the honesty, transparency, and responsibility that

should characterize all academic activity. Any student who fails to comply with the Honesty, Fraud, and Plagiarism Policy is exposed to the following sanctions: receive a grade of zero in the evaluation and / or repetition of the assignment in the seminar, a grade of F (*) in the seminar, suspension, or expulsion as established in the Academic Integrity Policy effective in November 2022.

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