

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

HMNS 102 – Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare Systems

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: HMNS 102—Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare Systems

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2021

D. Effective Term: Fall 2022

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Isabel Gutierrez-Bergman, Dept. Chair: Isabel.gutierrez@raritanval.edu

Patrice Marks, Division Dean, Liberal and Fine Arts: Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

The course will examine the profession of social work and the development and implementation of social welfare programs in the United States. The course is structured to introduce students to the critical knowledge, skills and values of social work, including systems theory, bio-psycho-social assessment, culturally responsive practices, and ethical decision making. Students will begin to examine the evolution of social welfare programs and current social policy issues as the context for social work intervention. Upon completion students should be able to determine if social work is their preferred career

path and be able to navigate the social welfare system in the US for their personal and professional benefit.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course provides an introduction to the field of social work and the social welfare system in the United States for students working in a human service setting or interested in pursuing bachelor's degree in social work. It is the first of five courses that serve as the foundation for students enrolled in the A.S. degree in Human Services/Pre-Social Work. HMNS 102 aligns with the introductory requirements established by the Counsel on Social Work Education for 4-year degrees and thus provides students with the foundation necessary to develop more specialized clinical skills and fulfill internships requirements. This course is also one of two introductory courses in two-year Human Service degree programs, providing a professional foundation for employment in a wide variety of human services settings. Positioning this course as an introductory, discipline specific course, without a pre- or co-requisite affords students undecided about an area of concentration an opportunity to explore this career option while gaining basic knowledge of social programs and the history of social welfare in the United States.
- B. This course is fully transferrable to all BSW programs and provides the foundation necessary to begin junior year course work upon transfer. Without this course students transferring to accredited BSW programs would otherwise be unable to graduate within two years, as they would not have this prerequisite for advanced course work.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course meets a program requirement for the A.S. in Human Services/Pre-Social Work, the Certificate of Completion in Chemical Dependency, the Certificate of Completion in Human Services, the Certificate in Human Services
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites. As noted above, this course is generally transferable to any accredited social work program.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Social Welfare in the United States
 1. Historical evolution of the welfare state
 2. Landmark legislation
 3. Political philosophies & policy formation
- B. Emergence of the Social Work Profession

1. Historical Perspective
2. Social Work Competencies
- C. Social Work Practice Skills
 1. Systems theory
 2. Bio-psycho-social assessment
 3. Eco-mapping
 4. Social histories
 5. Empathy and Rapport Building
- D. Social Work Values & Ethics
 1. Service
 2. Social Justice
 3. Dignity & Respect
 4. Integrity
 5. Importance of Human Relationships
 6. Professional Competence
- E. Social Work Practice with Specific Populations:
 1. Women
 2. Lesbian, Gay, Transgender & Bisexual People
 3. Children & Youth
 4. Older Adults
 5. People with Disabilities
 6. Substance Abuse
 7. Veterans
 8. Racial and Ethnic Minorities

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Complete written assignments of varying lengths reflecting self-awareness, critical thinking, and information literacy. (GE 1)
2. Identify ethical issues and situations impacting individuals and their social environment. (GE—ER)
3. Examine the importance of cultural competence in interpersonal relationships in a diverse society. (GE 8)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Apply ethical standards and decision-making models to evaluate issues impacting individuals and families.

2. Demonstrate self-awareness by identifying personal biases and social work values in working with diverse clients and constituencies.
3. Identify the influence of political philosophies reflected in the social welfare delivery system.
4. Identify appropriate resources and interventions to meet identified needs within client systems.
5. Identify the historical influences and events shaping the profession of social work and the social welfare system in the U.S.

C. Assessment Instruments

1. Formal papers
2. Essays/reflection papers
3. Oral presentation
4. Written examinations

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Essays
- B. Research papers
- C. Self-reflection exercises
- D. Projects
- E. Tests
- F. Presentations

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. guest speakers
- E. student oral presentations
- F. simulation/role playing
- G. student collaboration
- H. independent study
- I. self-reflection exercises

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Suggested textbooks:
 - Colby, I, and Dziegielwski, S. F. (2017) *Introduction to Social Work: The people's profession*, 4th ed. New York: Oxford Press.
 - Kirst-Ashman, K.K. (2010). *Introduction to Social Work & Social Welfare: Critical thinking perspectives*. Belmont, CA: Thompson.

- NASW, *Social Work Ethics*
- Griffin, J.H. (1996) *Black like me*. New York: Signet Publishing.

B. Web sources

IX. Resources

- A. Library databases and reference materials
- B. Guest speakers

X. Honors Option

N/A

Revised: 11/10/17

Approved by Dept: 11/17/17& 1/21/21

Updated: 3/19/21