

SO 210 <sup>40</sup> -- Introduction to Social Services  
Chaminade University of Honolulu  
5:30 - 9:40pm Wednesday

Fall Term 1999  
Fort Shafter  
Oct 4 - Dec 16

Instructor: Dr. Richard Rohde  
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**Required Text:**

- Wayne Johnson and contributors, *The Social Services: An Introduction*. Fourth Edition. Itasca, Illinois: F.E. Peacock Publishers.

**Course Description:**

This course provides an initial examination and orientation to the field and range of contemporary American social services -- a very broad range of activities with an equally wide array of intended functions. All social services are intended to help people, to reduce the conditions of human suffering and misery, and to improve the quality of life, both of individuals and the collective society. The field of social services (which also includes social welfare and social work) is derived in large part from the discipline of sociology. The discipline of sociology -- the study of the social, symbolic, and material worlds which humans experience -- and its perspectives emphasize the influences of social groups, processes, and institutions upon human behavior and perception. Sociology, while concerned with human behavior, is (arguably) more primarily interested in observing and researching, and hopefully explaining, through the development of basic concepts and theories, larger-scale (collective of group level) human phenomena. In contrast, the field of social work, and the delivery of social services, is more concerned with the direct application of sociological theory to human and social problems through practical approaches. Whether these methods or practical approaches involve individual case management, therapeutic work in clinical settings, directly working with families or other small groupies, or administering non-profit community organizations, the common denominator is the commitment to bringing about social change and enhancing social justice through the reduction of social inequality and problems. The primary goal of this course, then, is to expose the student to the range of social problems in America, and to evaluate the effectiveness by which social workers and other professionals in the social services address these human problems through daily practice. We will promote the development of a critical perspective towards understanding social workers, ourselves, and our interactions with others through the analysis of current social, economic, and political issues.

**Examinations and Writing Assignments**

Two examinations (each worth 35 per cent of your final grade) will combine multiple choice, short answer and essay formats. The final exam is non-cumulative; that is, students are responsible only for that material covered since the previous exam. Makeup exams may be allowed without penalty ONLY if prior arrangements are made. A minimum of one letter grade (10 points) will be subtracted from makeup exams resulting from unexcused absences.

One paper (6-8 pages plus references, typewritten, due December 01) is required. You may choose a topic of interest to you, based upon your observation of and/or participation in a particular social group or institution. The purpose of this paper is to relate sociological concepts, perspectives, and theories developed in class to the situations and issues that we experience in the "real world" of daily life. The paper will count 20 per cent of your final grade. You will be asked to share your findings, briefly and informally, with the class members.

### **Attendance**

Class attendance and participation is very important -- I can't overemphasize this. Your attendance will count 10 per cent of your final grade. Being prepared for class is equally important, that is, having read the assignment prior to class so you can listen and/or participate intelligently. The success of this class depends upon all of us sharing information, and deciding what it all means through discussion. Lectures will supplement, not reiterate, the information within the textbook. Integrated within the class schedule are videos which have been selected to illustrate and reinforce the topics brought forth in the readings and in lectures, and to provide a common basis of discussion.

**Grading Scale** Your final grade will be based on the following formula:

100 points = A+ // 99-90 = A // 89-80 = B // 79-70 = C // 69-60 = D //

The following schedule lists the topics to be covered in each class, and the respective reading assignments that will be addressed in that class.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Oct 06 class 1	Introduction to this course	
	Introduction to Social Services	Ch. 1
	Basic Concepts of Social Welfare, Social Work, and Social Services	Ch. 2
	Historical Development	Ch. 3
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Oct 13 class 2	Public Welfare & Income Maintenance	Ch. 4
	Services to Families & Children in the Home	Ch. 5
	Services to Families & Children	Ch. 6

Oct 20 class 3	Social Work in the Schools	Ch. 7
	Social Services & the Health Field	Ch. 8
	Mental Health & Social Work	Ch. 9
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Oct 27 class 4	Social Services & Disabilities	Ch. 10
	Social Services & Substance Abuse	Ch. 11
	Criminal and Juvenile Justice <b>Exam I</b>	Ch. 12
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Nov 03 class 5	Aging and Social Work	Ch. 13
	Occupational Social Work	Ch. 14
	Emerging & Less Traditional Contexts of Social Work Practice	Ch. 15
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Nov 10 class 6	Newer Approaches in Social Work Practice: The Generalist	Ch. 16
	Working with Individuals and Families	Ch. 17
	Social Work with Groups	Ch. 18
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Nov 17 class 7	Working with Communities	Ch. 19
	Social Service Organizations: Administration & Management	Ch. 20
	Social Work Research	Ch. 21

Nov 24  
class 8

Human Diversity & Empowerment Ch. 22

Gender Tensions: Issues for  
Women & Men Ch. 23

Housing, Homelessness, &  
Social Welfare Ch. 24

Dec 01  
class 9

Social Development: An International  
Perspective Ch. 25

Professionalism, Education, &  
Personnel in the Social Services Ch. 26

Social Work: A Future Perspective  
**Paper Due** Ch. 27

Dec 08  
class 10

Class Presentations  
**Final Exam**