

University of Salahaddin- Hewler

Department of Social Work

4<sup>th</sup> Year 2022-2023



## **Contemporary Theories in Social Work**

Coursebook

**Instructor:** Sangar Y. Salih

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 9:30:00– 12:30

**Class Time:** Saturday 10:00 -11:15

**E-mail:** [Sangar.salih@su.edu.krd](mailto:Sangar.salih@su.edu.krd)

Sunday 8:30 – 9:45

**Classroom:** Social Work Hall 36

**Course description:**

This course offers an orientation to social work theory. Students will become familiar with several social work theories, related concepts, and historical development. Utilizing the content of the course gives opportunities for students to experience practice situations through a variety of activities. This will help students to understand the very important relationship between theoretical orientation and stages of the helping process.

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to:

- Educate students on the roles and importance of theory in social work and its relationship with practice.
- Identify the main theories in social work and related professions.
- Familiarize students with the historical development of each theory, its concepts, and its limitations.
- Develop student's tentative theoretical framework, based on the study of existing theories, and concepts, and also the examination of his or her own values, beliefs, behaviors, and feelings.
- Undertake empirical projects (assignments) to develop critical thinking and writing skills through personal reflection on the readings.

**Course Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify the roles and importance of theory in social work and its relationship with practice.
- ✓ Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of main theories in social work and related disciplines.
- ✓ Highlight the historical development of each theory, its concepts, and its limitations.
- ✓ Discuss the influence of own attitudes and value judgments on subjects addressed in the social work theories.
- ✓ To think critically and have capacity to present their reflection through writings.

**Teaching Methods**

Lecture, seminar, student presentation, individual work, and selected readings.

**Course Assignments and grading**

**1. Class attendance (5%)**

Students must be seen in each lecture, fully prepared with the materials that given to them by their coordinator.

**2. Weekly class participation and quizzes (5%)**

Students should be prepared to discuss each week's assigned readings and to participate in role-playing exercises or demonstrations. Students must be prepared for sudden quizzes during the semester.

### 3. Theory paper (10%)

- + Choose a theory which is applicable on your research subject and write a short essay (minimum 1500 words), which answers the following questions:
  - Why do you think this theory is more applicable on your research subject?
  - How can this theory help to understand and explain your research subject?
  - Explain the applicability of the theory on your research subject by an example/scenario.
- + Students can do this assignment as individuals or as research team.
- + Submit your essay in word version document.
- + Please make sure your essay has; page title, introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion, and reference list.
- + Students are responsible to submit their reports to the course instructor and the deadline is **March 28 , 2023 at 11:59 pm.**

### 4. Reading weekly articles and presentations:

- The prescribed readings for the course will be distributed among students to read and present as followings:
  - Each student will choose his/her week team,
  - Each student will read the prescribed reading for his/her team,
  - Students work together as a team to prepare a presentation for their week reading,
  - Students agree on who is doing what,
  - Students are responsible to inform the instructor one week before their presentation.
  - Presentations must be in English,
  - Students use PowerPoint to present their articles.
- The list of the prescribed readings and the name of the week teams will be posted on google classroom during the first week of the course by the course instructor.

### 5. Exam (10%)

Students will have exam (s) in which they will be announced and they must be prepared.

#### Format and Procedures:

- ❖ You are expected to attend all lectures. If a student cannot attend a class session, the teacher must be notified prior to that.
- ❖ Please be on time and ready to begin class at the prescribed time.
- ❖ Make sure your **Cell** phone(s) is **turned off/ silent** within the class.
- ❖ You are expected to have read all the assigned readings for each class, and come prepared to engage in discussions on them.
- ❖ There will be unannounced quizzes in class to evaluate your comprehension of the assigned reading material.
- ❖ Use **EXTRA** available resources in the library or any academic references that helps to improve students' knowledge and understandings.
- ❖ Academic Dishonesty: academically dishonesty is a completely unacceptable code of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form.

#### Course readings:

- Payne, Malcolm (2014). *Modern social work theory* (4th ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Optional readings:**

- Langer, C. L. & Lietz, C. A. (2015). *Applying theory to generalist social work practice*. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN: 978-1-118-85978-0
- Oko, J. (2011). *Understanding and using theory in social work*. Learning Matters.

**Course Content**

Weeks	Subject	Readings
Week 1	Course Orientation	
Week 2	The social construction of social work theory	Payne, Malcolm (2014). Part 1, Pp 1-29
Week 3	Connecting theory and practice	Payne, Malcolm (2014). Part 1, Pp 65-91
Week 4	Psychodynamic practice	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 95-125
Week 5	Cognitive-behavioral practice	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 150-183
Week 6	Macro practice, social development and social pedagogy	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 212 - 241
Week 7	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
Week 8	Humanistic practice, existentialism and spirituality	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 271 - 292

Week 9	Empowerment and advocacy	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 294 - 317
Week 10	Critical practice	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 319 - 347
Week11	Assignment March 28, 2023	
Week 12	Feminist practice	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 348 - 372
Week 13	Anti-oppressive and multicultural sensitivity approaches to practice	Payne, Malcolm (2014), Pp 373 - 400
Week 14	Presentations	