



Law and Ethics in Social Work

University of Salahaddin

College of Arts

Department of Social Work

Academic year: 2018-2019

Fourth Year

Course Responsible: Zaryan D. Kareem

The course is intended to address the interconnection between law and social welfare while examining the implications on social work practice. What is the nature of this relationship and how this may reflect on social work in the real world? Depending on the prevailing ideological underpinning of law in any particular context, the state of social welfare and its delivery, the conditions of social work and its conduct will vary. Whether welfare is seen as a human need or considered a human right will have a significant impact on the conduct and implication of social work practice.

This course also explores the significance of ethical issues in social work practice. In so doing, it introduces the students to values, principles and philosophies underlying practices of social workers in different contexts. Different approaches to understand the role of social workers and their relationships with service users will be illustrated. The course will also touch on managerial constraints which have recently been imposed on social workers and how these constraints may endanger the overarching value of the centrality of service user.

Aims:

- To address the main theoretical themes in relation to law and welfare
- To distinguish between the two main approaches to social work: the need-based and the right-based approaches

- To examine the practical implications of 'the rule of law state' in social work practice
- To evaluate the state of welfare and social work practice in Kurdistan against the theoretical background addressed earlier
- Introducing students to meanings of ethics, values, beliefs and principles in social work
- Making students familiar with different philosophical approaches to ethics in social work experiences
- Introducing students to ethical dilemmas which they may face in their future career

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course students will be familiarised with:

- the main theoretical bases of the 'the rule of law' in the area of social welfare
- distinguishing characteristics of each of the right-based and the need-based approaches to welfare and social work
- the practical implications for social work of any particular approach
- ethical issues in social work and how to deal with such issues

Course Evaluation:

Students' performance will be evaluated according to the following parameters:

-Participation/in-class activities 10%

-Med-term exam 15%

-presentation 15%

-Final exam 60%

Course timetable:

Week 1

Introduction to the course

Week 2

-What is 'law'?

What is Ethics?

Week 3

7 Core functions of Social Work

6 core values of Social work

Week 4

Social Work Ethics and Values

Week 5

Why Law?

Why Social Workers should know about laws?

Why code of ethics?

Week 6

Mid-term Exam

Week 7

- Are laws enough? NO or Yes?

- Cleveland case

Week 8

Children's Act Changed

What kinds of laws are there?

Week 9

Ethical issues in Social Work

What are the ethical issues in social work?

Week 10

Ethical Dilemmas

What Is an Ethical Dilemma?

Week 11

Principles of social work

Week 12

Themes shaping practice

The nature of the social work task

Week 13

Human Rights

What are human rights?

Week 14

Combine Social work and Law

How to Effectively Combine Social work and Law to Better Serve Clients?

Backgrounds of Law and Social Work

Differences between lawyers and social worker

Week 15

End-of-term exam

Major Textbooks:

Banks, S. (2006). *Ethics & Values in Social Work* (3rd Edition). Hampshire, New York: Palgrave-Macmillan

Robert Johns. (2011). *Using the law in social work*. Learning matters LTD

1-Albert, Raymond. 2000. *Law and social work practice: A legal systems approach*. 2d ed. New York: Springer

2- Alexander, Rudolph. 2003. *Understanding legal concepts that influence social welfare policy and practice*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

3- Brayne, Hugh, and Helen Carr. 2010. *Law for social workers*. 11th ed. New York: Oxford Univ. Press

4-Madden, Robert G. 2003. *Essential law for social workers*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press

5-Martin, Peter W. 2010. *Introduction to Basic Legal Citation*.

6-National Association of Social Workers Legal Defense Fund. *Legal Issue of the Month*. Washington, DC: NASW Legal Defense Fund

7-Schroeder, Leila Obier. 1995. *The legal environment of social work*. Washington, DC: National Association of Social Workers Press.

8-Stein, Theodore J. 2004. The role of law in social work practice and administration. New York: Columbia Univ. Press

9- Robert Johns, Ethics and Laws for Social Workers.

10- Benjamin E Caldwell, Preparing for the California Clinical Social Work Law and Ethics exam.

11- Hugh Brayne, Law for social workers

12-Jonathan Dickens, Social Work, Law and Ethics

13- Robert Adams, Social Work themes, issues and Critical debates.

14-Robert Johns, Using the Law in Social work

15- Sarah Banks, Ethics and Values in Social Work.

16- Siobhan Liard, Practical Social Work law

17- Richard hugman, ethical issues in social work