

Spring 2026

**South Plains College: Social Work 2362 Section 151
Social Welfare: Legislation, Programs and Services**

- **Introduction to Social Work/Instructor: Robert Wood**
 - **CONTACT:**
 - **Email—rwood@southplainscollege.edu**
 - Office Location: Levelland, Student Services 118
- Levelland Office Hours: 8:15-9:30 MTWR 8:15-11:15 on Friday
 - Office Phone: 894-9611 ext. 4034

South Plains College: Common Course Syllabus

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Social Work

Course Number: SOCW 2362

Course Title: Social Welfare: Legislation, Programs and Services

Semester Hour Credit: 3 Hours; 3 Lecture Hours; 0 Lab Hours (3:3:0)

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes (Behavioral Science)

Prerequisites: none for campus; TSI reading compliance for Internet

Available Formats: Conventional classroom and Internet

Textbook: *Cengage Unlimited Subscription.*

Supplies: Computer and Internet access for Internet courses and campus classes.

Course Specific Instructions: Internet classes- access Blackboard from South Plains College homepage on the first day of the semester. Campus classes may use Blackboard for course material, see instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

Course description: This course offers a historical and contemporary examination of legislation and resulting programs, policies, and services in the context of the social welfare system in the United States. Special attention is given to the political, economic, environmental, and social

conditions that prompted the development of legislation to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Societal response to legislation are also considered.

Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal: The purpose of the behavioral science component in the core curriculum is to enable the students to understand and apply social work principles theories and concepts as they examine human society.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete this course, students should attend all classes, log into Blackboard multiple times per week, read required textbook/course materials, complete required homework/assignments and/or examinations. See instructor's course information sheet for specifics.

Course Evaluations: Refer to Instructor's course information sheet for specifics coursework and grading.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

See instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

- **Academic Integrity:** As per the SPC General Catalog: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.
- **Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.
- **Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.
- **More Information About Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.
- **Plagiarism violations include,** but are not limited to, the following: 1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill; 2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation; 3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; 4. Missing in-text citations; and 5. Using any form of A.I. to create or write your responses
- **Cheating violations include,** but are not limited to, the following: 1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion; 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given; 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment; 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; 5. Taking an examination for another; 6. Altering grade records; 7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment; 8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; 9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Conduct Policy:

- **Classroom Conduct:** Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course.

- See *South Plains College Student Guide* for full policy covering other areas of conduct including penalties for misconduct and procedures for disciplinary action.

Campus Concealed Carry Policy:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

(http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php)

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Grade and Academic Discipline Appeals: South Plains College provides two procedures which allow students the opportunity to address grievances of an academic nature.

- **Appeal Restrictions:** Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed
- **Informal Appeal**
 - The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or disciplinary action.
 - 2. If the student is still not satisfied, she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate departmental chairperson to discuss the situation. The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.
 - 3. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.
 - 4. If the student is still not satisfied, he she should be advised of the formal appeal process.
- **Formal Appeal:** If the student is not satisfied with the results of the informal appeal, s/he should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:
 - A request for a formal appeals hearing.
 - 2. A brief statement of what is being appealed.
 - 3. The basis for the appeal.
 - 4. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.
- The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.
- **The Hearing**
 - Composition of the appeals committee:

- Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing.
- Faculty member of the student's choice.
- Faculty member and student selected by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- President of Student Government Association.
- Dean of Students.
- Other persons who should be available at the hearing:
 - The student who requested the hearing.
 - The faculty member involved.
 - Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case.
 - Chairperson and Divisional Dean.
- Hearing procedure:
- The committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy and such representatives as desired will present all facts relating to the case. By majority vote, the committee will decide to sustain, amend or reverse the previous decision.
- The decision of the committee is final and completes the academic appeals procedure.

See *South Plains College Student Guide* for more information.

Students can find the Diversity Statement, Disabilities Statement, Non-Discrimination Statement, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement, and Campus Concealed Carry Statement here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Compare and contrast the basic theoretical perspectives of sociology.
2. Identify the various methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data in sociology.
3. Describe key concepts in sociology.
4. Describe the empirical findings of various subfields of sociology.
5. Explain the complex links between individual experiences and broader institutional forces.

Core Objectives:

- **Communication skills-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** to include the ability to apply, analyze, and draw conclusions based on scientific and mathematical concepts.

- **Social Responsibility-** to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number..... 44.0701.52

Revised summer 2019

Course Specific Information

Spring 2026

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General Course Information

Course Description: Social Welfare: Legislation, Programs and Services: This course offers a historical and contemporary examination of legislation and resulting programs, policies, and services in the context of the social welfare system in the United States. Special attention is given to the political, economic, environmental, and social conditions that prompted the development of legislation to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Societal responses to legislation are also considered

- Learning Outcomes
- Differentiate and be able to describe Policy and Legislation
- Explain how legislation influences service deliver
- Trace the history of major pieces of social welfare legislation
- Describe how political ideology and social construction of vulnerable population influence development of legislation and societal responses
- Compare and contrast residual and institutional views of social welfare
- Articulate how Social Workers can actively and ethically engage in the political process to address social Justice Issues

Course Competencies:

Each student will learn to examine the different characteristics of legislation and policy, and see whom these things impact. Students will become more familiar with the nomenclature of the profession of Social Work, and how these terms are used. Since you are taking this class, you are now a Social Worker and therefore will go beyond “personal” views in order to be objective. Objectivity does not mean that you accept or approve but only that you intellectually

understand. In many cases, understanding will lead you to broaden yourself not only as an individual but also as a member of society.

Academic Integrity- See College Catalog, p. 23.

Unfortunately, it is necessary to remind all students that any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating is cheating, whether plagiarism or copying another student's exam. Since the Internet has become a common source of information, it is important that you understand plagiarism and not neglect to include citations or footnotes on all papers. Please do not put yourself or others in the position of having cheated. If you are caught, cheating at my discretion you may be removed from class. In discussions, you will need to read the material before posting your first discussion post. On papers as well as discussions: You are not allowed to simply copy work and rephrase it and claim it is your own. This is plagiarism!

Use of AI software is prohibited in the class. If your work triggers multiple AI detection software packages. You will be given a zero and feedback will direct you to the syllabus. If you feel this was an error, you have 10 days to set up an appointment with me and I will ask you to explain the learning objectives or content that the assignment is covering. If you do that and illustrate that you have mastered the material, we can discuss your grade on the assignment in question. If you do not contact me and have an appointment within the first 10 days after the grade is posted, you forfeit the right to have any such meeting or grade appeal directly with the instructor. This does not mean that you cannot appeal the grade at another level, that is still your right.

Classroom Behavior:

Although this is an online course there are still acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. I do want you to feel the academic freedom to ask questions of myself and other students. I do want all questions though to be academic in nature and respectful. We will cover many controversial subjects (race, sexuality, class) and I want you all to feel comfortable asking questions but there is to be no name calling during discussions and all posts must be respectful of everyone in the class. Also see the Attendance section!!

Attendance:

While this is an online class there will obviously not be the need for physical attendance. However working at regular intervals is paramount in student success so you need to be involved in the class every week either through your discussion topics, or handing in assignments. **If you are not attending or participating in the course you may be dropped. If you miss four or more than four assignments over the course of the semester I may drop you with an X or an F.** This includes missing discussions, papers, or tests. You must do all of the activities in the class to be a part of the class. If you are not fully participating in discussions (doing the introductory post but not responding to others, or vice versa) and this becomes a pattern these may be counted in your missed assignments.

If you have a life circumstance that you believe warrants being excused from class work, it is your responsibility to inform me of this situation as soon as possible. This does not mean at the end of the semester, but rather when the situation happens. Most of the time I will NOT extend deadlines other than one chance per student per semester. Once per semester I will extend a

deadline for a regular module . This does NOT include the discussion. I will only give this to each student one time per semester. **You must let me know if you want this prior to Nov 14.** I cannot extend any modules after that date. This is your only “bonus points” opportunity for the semester. No other opportunities are available for this class.

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Grading and Testing:

There are no exams in this course but there are 14 Learning Modules that range in point value from 50 points to 450 points. Many of these assignments are in the MindTap software. Other graded assignments include discussions, journals, and the final PowerPoint research project.

Instructor Expectations: While much of the syllabus details what I expect of you as a student this section deals with what you can expect of me. If you send me an email on M, T, W, R, or F (by noon), you can expect a response within 24 hours. This does not mean that I will know the answer to your question, but if I do not then I will at least respond and let you know I got your email and am working on it. If you email on Friday afternoon, Sat or Sun then I *may* get back to you that day, but you can expect to hear from me by Monday afternoon. When grading assignments, I will have everything graded within a week of when it was originally due. This includes discussions and exams. The only exception to this one-week rule are your papers. I will try to have those graded within a week but sometimes may fall behind. I will however have them graded and returned to you with feedback at least two weeks before the next paper is due. Feedback is very important and I will use it on the discussions as well as the papers. It is important that you read the feedback so that you do not repeat the same mistakes and lose points again for something that can be avoided. If you feel that I am not keeping up my end of the bargain as an instructor I certainly want you to feel free to speak with me about it. You can do this through email or a phone call. If for some reason you feel that you cannot talk to me about it then I would welcome you to speak with my Department Chair Dr. Peggy Skinner.

Textbook:

The Cengage Unlimited subscription is required for this class. You may buy the paper version of the books BUT even if you do that you are required to buy the Cengage Unlimited subscription which contains the books already. This is the only way you can access the MindTap software which is where many of the assignments are located.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

PARTICIPATION IN THIS CLASS WILL SIGNIFY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF ALL CLASS AND SPC POLICIES. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE POLICIES COULD RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM CLASS AND AN "F" FOR THE SEMESTER.

Reading- You will have to read the textbook. There is no way around this. No short cuts, no alternative plan. If you give this class the same attention that you were to give a face to face class I am sure you can be successful. Remember a face to face class has 2 ½ hours of lecture time each week. You need to use that time to read and learn the material. Most of the assignments in this course deal with application. It is almost impossible to apply something if you do not understand it. You also cannot pass the class without doing the online assignments that are a part of the reading.

Discussions- for many modules in this course, there will be a threaded discussion under the discussion tab in Blackboard. You are to answer the question posed in the discussion topic area. Most of the time these discussions will be applying the chapter we have read to some element of popular culture. You will not be able to do this well without reading first! You will not be able to see any other student's work until you create your own original post, to prevent students from simply copying others work. For your initial posting you need to have at least a 6-8 sentence well-formed paragraph. You are also required to respond to at least **two (2)** other student's postings. Comment on how their posting is similar to or different from your own. If you cannot make a 6-8 sentence paragraph responding to a single student then respond to 4 to 5. These discussion topics will only when the class starts, if you wish to work ahead, but once they close, they are closed. Your original thread that you create **with your name as the title** is due 11:00 PM on Thursday of the week that the discussion closes. The responses will be due by 11:00 PM on Saturday. For example if a discussion closes on Saturday, September 28, the initial post which is your response to the discussion prompt with your name as a title has to be posted by 11:00 PM on Thursday and then you have 2 days, until 11:00 Saturday to post your response to other students. Remember you do not have to wait until Thursday or Saturday to do the work, that is simply the deadline before which the work must be posted on line. **To earn the most points for a discussion you must follow the directions of the assignment as well as fully answer the questions posed by the discussion prompt and integrate what you have learned in the textbook into your work.**

Calendar- There is a calendar that I will load into your blackboard course (It is in the form of the excel spreadsheet titled course calendar and checklist) that lets you know what assignments are due. Please pay attention to it as staying on schedule is important in school and especially so in an online course. All assignments will be due at 11:59PM. This includes Journals, Discussions, Learning Modules, and Projects. Late work will not be accepted or graded.

If you have any questions please contact me. I realize that online courses may seem overwhelming but I am confident that we can work together to enhance your learning in the course. I will work with you and help you to understand what is expected of you.

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual

Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).

OPTIONAL STATEMENT ON PRINTED SYLLABUS - Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

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COVID 19 or other serious illness statement:

South Plains College is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning and work environment for students, faculty and staff as the SPC Texan Community returns to campus amid the COVID-19 pandemic. To accomplish this goal, it is imperative that everyone join together to do their part. SPC has developed a Return to Campus Plan that outlines how the college will operate and the measures that will be implemented to help protect you and your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus, as we continue to emphasize the following points:

- All students, faculty and staff should monitor their health and notify appropriate personnel and their health care provider if they experience any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- All students, faculty and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 should contact DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN in Health Services at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or at (806) 716-2376.