The University of Oklahoma
College of Continuing Education
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:
Social Welfare in a Changing World

Course Number:
HR 5313-101

Course Description:
A historical and descriptive review of U.S. social welfare programming, introduction to social welfare policy analysis, and the role of the social work profession in affecting change in social welfare policy.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

- Dates: March 16-17, 30-31 & April 13-14, 27-28, 2012
- Location: Room 120, Zarrow Hall, 700 Elm Avenue, Norman OK
- Hours: Friday 5:00pm-9:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am-5:00pm
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: March 16, 2012

Site Director:
Cathy Yeaman. Assistant: Jan Plavchak. Phone: 405-325-3333; Fax: 405-325-9148; email: apnorman@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Anthony P. Natale, MSW, PhD
Mailing Address:
School of Social Work
Anne and Henry Zarrow Hall, Rm 345
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405)-325-1408
Fax Number: (405) 325-7072
E-mail Address: anatale@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.
Recommended Text:


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Purpose:

This is a required course in the curriculum of the Master of Social Work degree program. The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of federal and state social welfare programming, policy analysis and policy practice. The historical foundations and current forms of social welfare are presented as societal responses to identified social problems. The process of policy analysis is presented in order to foster creative and analytical thinking and to engage students in examining how different policy decisions have differential impacts on diverse client populations while assessing their own personal philosophy of social welfare.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

Given regular class attendance, participation in class activities, completion of assigned readings, and successful completion of course assignments, students will, at the conclusion of the course, have the ability to:

A. Identify and describe the historical development of social welfare as a social institution at the federal level.
B. Identify and describe the basic organizational structure and services of the major social welfare provisions in the United States, with particular emphasis upon social welfare programming in Oklahoma.
C. Apply knowledge on political processes relevant to the achievement of social work goals in generalist practice and to critical analysis of social and economic justice.
D. Gain an understanding of how social policies direct social programs and how these policies and programs affect the clients with whom they will be working as generalist social work practitioners.
E. Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues, as demonstrated through the knowledge of the history of social welfare and written analysis of existing public social policy.
F. Apply critical thinking skills to analyze, formulate and influence social policies, as demonstrated by the use of a framework to analyze social welfare policy according the principles of social and economic justice and through informed support or opposition to current proposed social policy legislation, based upon principles of social and economic justice.
G. Use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities as demonstrated through a formal presentation of analysis of public social policy.

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES AND PRACTICE BEHAVIORS ASSESSED:

Upon successful completion of the course students will demonstrate advanced beginners ability in the following areas:

*EP 2.1.1 – Competency:* Identify with social work profession and conduct oneself accordingly

**Associated Behaviors:**

- Advocate for client access to the services of social work
- *(Assessed in Assignments 2,3,4)*
- Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development
  *(Assessed in assignment 2)*
• Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication (Assessed in assignments 2,3,4, 6)
• Engage in career-long learning (Assessed in assignment 2)

**EP 2.1.2 – Competency:** Apply ethical principles in practice  
**Associated Behaviors:**  
• Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice (Assessed in assignment 2,3,4)  
• Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the NASW code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles (Assessed in assignments 2,3,4)  
• Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts (Assessed in Assignments 2, 3)

**EP2.1.3 – Competency:** Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments  
**Associated Behaviors:**  
• Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom (Assessed in assignments 2,3,4)  
• Demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues (Assessed in assignments 1,2,3,, 64)

**EP 2.1.4 – Competency:** Incorporate Diversity in Practice  
**Associated Behaviors:**  
• Recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power (Assessed in assignment 2,3, 6)  

**EP 2.1.5 – Competency:** Advocate for Human Rights and Social and Economic Justice  
**Associated Behaviors:**  
• Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination (Assessed in assignment 2,3,4)  
• Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice (Assessed in assignments 3,4)  
• Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice (Assessed in assignments 2,3,4)

**EP 2.1.8 – Competency:** Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services  
**Associated Behaviors:**  
• Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being (Assessed in assignments 2,3,4)  
• Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being (Assessed in assignments 2,3,4)

**EP 2.1.9 – Competency:** Respond to contexts that shape practice  
**Associated Behaviors:**  
• Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services (Assessed in assignment 2,3,4)  
• Provide leadership in promoting sustainable changes in service delivery and practice to improve the quality of social services (Assessed in assignment 2,3,4)

**CLASS POLICIES**

**Methods of Evaluation:**
Evaluation of student is based on a qualitative assessment of written materials submitted, in class presentations of course related material and overall participations in class discussion and activities.
Breakdown of Class Grading

1) Identify Elected Officials 5%
2) Policy Practice Paper 15%
3) Colleague Consultation 5%
4) White Paper 25%
5) Policy Analysis 25%
6) Presentation 15%
7) Participation/Pop Quiz 10%

Course Grade:

100 - 95 = A: Excellent: Work exceeds course expectations
Student displays outstanding work (over and above course expectations) during the course. Evidence of this may be shown by one or more of the following: completion of all assigned readings and additional readings beyond what is assigned; superior written work; active engagement in class discussion; evidence of critical thinking; creativity and innovation; and attendance at all class sessions.

94 - 85 = B Good: Work meets course expectations
Student displays good work in meeting course expectations during the course. Evidence of this may be shown by one of more of the following: basic mastery of course material through completion of all assigned readings; high quality written work; active participation in class discussion, and attendance at least 90% of class sessions.

84 - 75 = C Fair: Work marginally meets course expectations
Student demonstrates marginal work during the course. Evidence of this may be shown by one or more of the following: completion of some but not all of assigned readings; marginal written work; difficulty with critical thinking; minimal class participation; a pattern of lateness to class.

74 - 71 = D Poor Work: Work does not meet
Student demonstrates poor work during the course. Evidence of this may be shown by more than one the following: completion of some but not all of assigned readings; marginal written work; difficulty with critical thinking; minimal class participation; a pattern of lateness to class.

70 and below = F Failure: Work does not meet course expectations
Student demonstrates unacceptable work during the course. Evidence of this may be shown by one of more of the following: inadequate understanding of course content; poor quality written work; no class participation; and more than one absence from class or chronic tardiness.

Academic Conduct

Each student should acquaint him or herself with the University’s codes, policies, and procedures involving academic misconduct, grievances, sexual and ethnic harassment and discrimination based on physical handicap. This information can be obtained at www.ou.edu/studentcode. Students should also be familiar with the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work Academic and Professional Performance Policy and the NASW code of ethics.

Statement of Reasonable Accommodation

The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the professor as early in the semester as possible. International students, who are not fluent in English, can request extended times for examinations.

Students with disabilities must be registered with the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations in this course.
Provost-Approved University Activities and Religious Observances

It is university policy “to excuse student absences that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.” Therefore, a make-up exam will be given when it falls on a practiced religious holiday and/or for religious observances and “Provost-approved University-sponsored activities such as scholarly competition, fine arts performances...” and legally required activities, such as emergency military service and jury duty... (Student Codebook, p. 26)

Course Outline:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>• Syllabus and Course Overview</td>
<td>Karger and Stoez 1 and 8</td>
<td>Assignment 1 Due Monday, March 19 by 9am. to the D2L dropbox.</td>
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<td>• American Welfare state</td>
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<td>• Political Party Spectrum</td>
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<td>• Making Government Policy</td>
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<td>3/17</td>
<td>• Discrimination</td>
<td>Karger and Stoez 4, 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>Assignment 2 Due Monday March 26 at 9am. to the D2L dropbox.</td>
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<td>• Poverty in America</td>
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<td>• The Voluntary Sector</td>
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<td>• Human Service Privatization</td>
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<td>3/30</td>
<td>• Social Policy analysis</td>
<td>Karger and Stoez 2, 3, 9, 18</td>
<td>Bring to class: 1- detailed outline of assignment 4 with references</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Religion and Social Welfare</td>
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<td>2- selected policy to class for in-class review and approval today</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Tax Policy and Income Distribution</td>
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<td>• International Perspective</td>
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<td>3/31</td>
<td>• Social Insurance Programs</td>
<td>Karger and Stoez 10, 11, 12</td>
<td>Project 4 Consultation due to partner  Thursday, April 5 by 9pm Return to partner on Saturday, April 7 by 6pm. Assignment 4 due Monday, April 9 by 9am to the D2L dropbox</td>
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<td>• Public Assistance Programs</td>
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<td>• American Health Care Policy</td>
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<td>• HIV/AIDS Policy</td>
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<td>4/13</td>
<td>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy</td>
<td>Karger and Stoez 13, 14</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>4/14</td>
<td>• Criminal Justice Policy</td>
<td>Karger and Stoez 15, 16, 17</td>
<td>Project 5 Colleague Consultation due to partner  Thursday, April 19 by 9pm Return to partner on Saturday, April 22 by 6p.m. Assignment 4 due Monday, April 23 by 9am to the D2L dropbox</td>
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<td>• Child Welfare Policy</td>
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<td>• Housing Policy</td>
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<td>• Food Policy and rural life</td>
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<td>4/27</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>4/28</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Presentation Colleague evaluation Participation form</td>
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Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Assignment #1: Elected Officials

1. Create a wore document which includes the following:
   a. Your federal congressional delegation:
      i. 5 Representatives– name, district, committee memberships and contact information (telephone, mailing address, fax or e-mail)
          1. Asterisk the person representing your district.
      ii. 2 Senators – name, district, committee memberships and contact information (telephone, mailing address, fax or e-mail)
          1. Asterisk the person representing your district.
   b. Your state congressional delegation:
      i. Your state representative (name, district, committee memberships and contact information (telephone, mailing address, fax or e-mail)
      ii. Your state senator (name, district, committee memberships and contact information (telephone, mailing address, fax or e-mail)
   c. Indigenous Tribal Leadership (if applicable)

If you do not have the information you need to complete the assignment, you can obtain it through [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org).

Assignment #2 –Policy Practice (9 pages total)

Using professional journals (e.g. Social Policy, Policy and Practice of Public Human Service, Journal of Social Policy, Journal of Progressive Social Policies) provide three policy practice reviews focused on any field of social work practice (e.g., child welfare, mental health or substance abuse, corrections, health). For each article, include the reference at the top of the page in proper APA format.

1. In *your own words*, write a two page description indicating the major substantive content covered. Avoid quotations and citations. Detail the purpose of the article and major points made by the author(s).
2. Follow this with a one page application of the material:
   a. Identify and discuss 5 insights and corresponding practice applications gained from reading the article. Be sure to label each. Application one should follow Insight one, etc. Insights indicate what you learned; applications indicate what you will do with what you learned. Be specific and practical.

Assignment #3 - Colleague Consultation

If you receive a late or incomplete paper for consultation, please notify the Instructor immediately.

1. Exchange a complete draft of the paper as time/dates assigned in above.
2. Return draft with your critiques assigned in syllabus to the original writer.
3. Use the course website to send e-mails —*ALWAYS* include yourself in the e-mail to ensure it was sent properly.
4. In Microsoft Word – under the Tools tab, you will see the feature *Track Changes*. Use it to review your colleague’s paper. You can make notes in the margins or directly in the text and the reader will know exactly what text needs correction or where you had questions or comments.
5. Students are provided with an electronic form to rate colleagues for the received including specific criteria for assessing a score.
6. Criteria include: timeliness in response, depth of consultation, helpfulness to improving product, clarity of suggestions.

Assignment #4: Social Problem White Paper (16 pages)

**Rationale:** All papers must be analyzed using Turnitin.com prior to your colleague consultation, failure to do so will result in a late penalty of 10%.

1. Identify and describe a social problem of concern to social work (2 pages)
   a. Incidence and prevalence
b. Historical trends and key developments

2. Illuminate known factors from the social work literature known to cause or worsen the problem. (Factor Analysis) (6 pages)
   a. Identify intractable factors that have influenced the development of the social problem (persistent poverty, ill health, lack of education, lack of political will) from the literature.
      i. Social Factors (detail 5 factors minimum)
      ii. Political Factors (detail 2 factors minimum)
      iii. Economic Factors (detail 2 factors minimum)

3. Identify and describe who is affected and how. (Systems Analysis) (4.5 pages)
   a. Individuals
   b. Families
   c. Groups and Communities - Overview any special populations impacted by the problem (children, gays and lesbians, aging persons).
   d. Institutions (specify level- local, state, federal)
   e. Social Work and allied professions

4. Identify the people, groups, and organizations addressing this problem. Specify the role of the social work profession (2 pages)
   a. What parties, what levels, with what specific activities?

5. Describe current policies exist or are being proposed to addresses the problem? (1.5 pages)
   a. State level
   b. Federal level
   c. Identify and briefly describe the Oklahoma state bill to be used for the next assignment.

Assignment #5: Policy Description and Analysis (15 pages)

Following the policy analysis framework provided in Chapter 2 analyze a current bill in the Oklahoma state legislature. The analysis must address a policy of relevance to social welfare and the social work profession. Some of the information you are seeking will likely require several contacts (early and often) with state representatives/senators as it will not be explicitly stated in the bill. Stating that you could not get someone to return your calls/emails is unacceptable, therefore diligence is necessary. Your paper should include the following:

Part A – Policy Description (5 pages)

1. Intention
   a. How is the policy intended to work?

2. Benefits
   a. What resources or an opportunity is the policies expected to provide?

3. Criteria
   a. Who will be covered by this policy and how?

4. Implementation
   a. How will the policy be implemented?

5. Goals
   a. What are the short-term goals?
   b. What are the long-term goals?
   c. What are the intended outcomes?

6. Administration
   a. Who is charged with administering the policy?
   b. What agencies or organizations are charged with overseeing, evaluating and coordinating the policy?

7. Funding
   a. What is the funding mechanism for the policy?

8. Analysis
   a. What are the formal and informal criteria used to determine policy effectiveness?

9. Temporal Considerations
   a. For what length of time is the policy expected to be in existence?
10. Ideology
   a. What is the knowledge base or scientific grounding on which the policy rests?

Part B- Policy History (1 page)
   1. When and by whom did the policy originate? Who else is supporting/sponsoring the bill?
   2. How has the original policy changed during the legislative session?
   3. What is the legislative history of this policy?

Part C – Analysis (9 pages)
   1. Policy Goals
      a. Are the goals of the policy legal?
      b. Are the goals of the policy just and democratic?
      c. Do the goals contribute to greater social equality? How?
      d. Do the goals positively affect the redistribution of income, resources, rights, entitlements, rewards, opportunities, and status?
      e. Do the goals contribute to a better quality of life?
      f. Do the goals contribute to positive social relations between target groups and the overall society?
      g. Are the goals consistent with social work professional values?

   2. Political Feasibility
      a. Which groups are in support of the policy?
         i) How powerful are they?
      b. Which groups are opposed to the policy?
         i) How powerful are they?
      c. What is the public sentiment?
         i) Is a large segment of the public concerned about the policy?
         ii) Do people feel they will be directly affected?
         iii) Does the policy threaten fundamental values?
         iv) Is the policy compatible with the present social and political climate?
         v) Can either side marshal support for or against?

   3. Economic Feasibility
      a. What is the minimum level of funding necessary for successful implementation?
      b. Does adequate funding for the policy currently exist?
         i) If not, what is public perception about funding level increases?
      c. What are future funding levels likely to be?

   4. Administrative Feasibility
      a. Is the policy broad enough to accomplish its stated goals?
      b. Will the benefits of the policy reach the target group?
      c. Is the implementation of the policy likely to cause new or other social problems?
      d. What are the ramifications on the non-target sector?
      e. Is the policy important enough to justify scarce resources?
      f. Will the proposed policy have better results than the present policy or no policy?
      g. Can an alternative policy achieve better results?

Be sure to document the data used to support your analysis.

Assignment #6: Policy Presentations (15 minutes, 2 minutes for questions)

The following parts must be included:
1. Problem statement (including use of appropriate statistics and literature)
2. Social Problem Factor Analysis
3. Systems Analysis
4. Brief review of multi-level policies addressing the problem
5. Brief description of a bill
   a. Benefits, criteria, goals, funding
6. Political Feasibility
7. Economic Feasibility
8. Administrative Feasibility

The presentation is followed by a brief discussion that includes time to field class questions about the bill and analysis followed by a vote on the bill.

Assignment #7: Participation/Pop Quizzes

Five times during the course students are assessed through short-quizzes, material from the course text. The lowest quiz score is dropped. Quizzes are given randomly at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy
Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty
Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement;
- assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement
The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies
Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright
Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Anthony P. Natale, MSW, PH.D.

Education
- 1997 Bachelor of Social Science, Washington State University
- 1999 Master of Social Work, Portland State University
- 2005 Doctor of Philosophy, Social Work, University of Denver

Current Positions
- Associate Professor, Graduate Programs Coordinator
- Anne and Henry School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma 2005-present
- Advanced Programs Professor 2007-present

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- SWK 5313 Social Welfare Policy

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Administration and Community Practice
- Social Policy
- Evaluation of Prevention Programs
- HIV/AIDS
- Global Health

Representative Publications and Presentations

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- 2005 Faculty Member of the Year - University of Denver
- 2010 Graduate Faculty Member of the Year- Anne and Henry School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma

Major Professional Affiliations
- Council for Social Work Education – CSWE
- Society for Social Work Research - SSWR