COURSE OUTLINE
Introduction to Social Work

Course Description
SW 102. Introduction to Social Work. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to explore social work as a helping profession. The student will examine the development of social work as a profession as well as the knowledge and skills used by social workers. The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Transfers as SOC1020).

Required Materials
For complete material(s) information, refer to https://bookstore.butlercc.edu

Butler-Assessed Outcomes
The intention is for the student to be able to
1. Evaluate and describe the profession of social work.
2. Develop critical thinking skills regarding social work as a profession.

Learning Outcomes
1. Define and describe social work - what it is, what it does, and with whom, in what areas of human functioning, in what context, and with what focus.
2. Compare and contrast social work from other helping professions (e.g. psychology, applied sociology, psychiatry, etc.); professional social work from volunteer helping; profession from occupation; and social service organizations from other organizations.
3. Identify and critically examine the philosophical and historical roots of social work and social welfare.
4. Identify common fields of generalist practice at the various levels of social work interventions (e.g. individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities).
5. Identify the social work professional’s core values and ethical principles and compare and contrast with the individual student’s values and those values held in society (NASW Code of Ethics).
6. Identify core theories and research that guide social work and social welfare policies, frameworks, perspectives, and generalist practice methods.
7. Identify and examine social and economic justice issues addressed by the social work and social welfare profession, especially those related to poverty, inequality, racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism, and other forms of oppression at the micro, mezzo and macro levels.
Learning PACT Skills that will be developed and documented in this course
Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

Analytical Thinking Skills
- Problem solving - Through written assignments and other class activities, the student will develop critical thinking and analytical skills used by social workers in the field.

Major Summative Assessment Tasks
These Butler-assessed outcome(s) and Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by
1. Completing a writing assignment demonstrating critical thinking applications in the practice of social work.

Skills or Competencies
These actions are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
1. Develop critical thinking skills with regard to human behavior.
2. Demonstrate computer skills to facilitate research and type papers.
3. Use critical thinking skills to analyze course topics and effectively communicate ideas.

Learning Units
I. Introduction: social work
   A. Identify and critically examine the history and development of social work and social welfare.
   B. Examine the profession of social work and compare and contrast social work from other helping professions.
   C. Understand the goals and knowledge requirements for social workers.
   D. Identify historical figures important to the field.
   E. Identify core research methods used in social work and welfare.

II. Social work as a career
   A. Identify core theories of social work.
   B. Investigate options in employment within the field of social work and welfare.
   C. Discuss the standards and regulations within the social work practice.
   D. Compare and contrast between agency-based practice and private practice.

III. Practice of social work.
   A. Identify the social work profession's core values and ethical principles.
      Compare and contrast them with the student’s own values and those held in the NASW Code of ethics.
   B. Investigate the global approach to social work practice.
   C. Examine reactive versus preventative emphasis.

IV. Social work practice with special populations. Identify and examine social and economic justice issues addressed in social work with the following groups.
A. Women and children  
B. Gay and lesbian groups  
C. Elderly  
D. People with disabilities  
E. Race and ethnic diversity  
F. Religious diversity

**Learning Activities**
Learning activities include lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, and student presentations. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course. These activities may be either face-to-face or online.

**Grade Determination**
The student will be graded on completion of assessment tasks, written assignments, tests, daily work, class participation, out-of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.