

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

SW516 - Social Welfare Policy and Services

Course Outline

Fall 2005

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Wednesday 3:35-6:35
Office Hrs: Wednesday 2:30-3:30,
Thursday 3:30-4:30
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Course Requirements:

A basic text has been selected and readings are listed in the bibliography. In addition to assigned articles, students are encouraged to read from the recommended selections and independently from the professional journals.

The course will include lectures, class discussions, and student presentations. Graded assignments will include a mid-term examination, a policy analysis paper, a policy brief, and a report on a public hearing or committee meeting. All written assignments should be double spaced and sources should be documented and referenced, using APA format. The final grade will be determined as follows:

policy analysis paper (30%);
mid-term exam (40%);
policy brief (20%);
policy hearing report (10%).

Grading Scale

A = 90-100
B+= 87-89
B= 80-86
C+= 77-79
C= 70-76
D+= 67-69
D= 60-66
F= <60

Criteria for the policy analysis, brief, and committee report are as follows:

Policy Analysis:

Your readings on policy analysis provide frameworks for analyzing policy. Use one of these frameworks to analyze your chosen policy. Use government documents, historical analyses and research articles to answer the following questions:

1. What policy will you analyze? Describe when the policy was enacted and at what level of government. (10pts.)
2. What social problem is the policy designed to alleviate? Provide appropriate Literature review of the problem addressed. Critically analyze the issues surrounding the problem. (20pts.)
3. Description of the Policy
 - What benefits or services are provided by the policy? (5pts.)
 - Who is eligible for the program? (5pts.)
 - How is the program financed? (5pts.)
 - How is the program administered? (5pts.)
 - Is the program: residual, institutional (5 pts.)
 - Selective, universal (5 pts.)
 - Public, private (5 pts.)
4. Analyze the program/policy using one of the frameworks provided in your readings as guides (25pts.)
Examples: Adequacy, equity, efficiency, political feasibility, legality, or economic feasibility.
Has the program alleviated the problem? Have there been intended or unintended consequences?
Make sure this section has an argument: what is your thesis or hypothesis, than provide information to back up your assertion.
5. APA style, page numbers, headings (10pts).

Policy Brief:

Chapter seven of Willard Richards' *Lobbying for Social Change* outlines the steps to take in creating a policy brief. Briefs will be graded as follows:

1. Why is there a need for change? You can base this on a short synopsis of your analysis. (15pts.)
2. What is the proposed change? (10pts.)
3. How will the Proposed change meet the need? (5pts.)
4. Discuss the feasibility of the plan. (15pts.)
5. How will the benefits of the plan outweigh any harmful consequences? (15pts.)
6. Rebuttal (20pts.)
7. How will you deal with the rebuttal? (15pts.)
8. APA style, page numbers, headings (5pts.)

Council/Committee/Public Hearing Report

Students must attend at least one public council/committee/hearing meeting in one of the following areas: City government, County government, Public Transportation, Knox delegation legislators, school board, PIC, welfare advisory committee, police review board, etc.

Read the paper for a few weeks and find an issue that is currently being debated publicly. Attend the meeting in which your issue is on the agenda. Grades are as followed:

1. Provide newspaper article(s) that you have used to track the issue (10 pts.)

2. Provide notes from the meeting (20 pts.)

3. Your report should discuss the meeting in terms of the following:

-Who turned out? (10 pts.)

-Who spoke ? (who did they represent?) (10 pts.)

-your analysis of the issue (30 pts.)

Who is on what side of the issue (public vs administrative officials, etc?),

Is there public interest? How has the media influenced the debate?

What are the similarities and differences in the two or more sides?

How does the process, as it is set up, restrict or foster communication, participation and influence?

The newspaper article, notes from the meeting and report should be turned in to your instructor on the last day of class and a small 5-10 minute report given during class. (20 pts.)

Decide on the issue and check with me for topic approval.

Students will be expected to: (1) complete assigned readings for preparation for each class session; (2) attend and participate in class discussion/activities; and (3) complete all assignments.

Course Texts:

Required:

Karger & Stoesz (2005). American Social Welfare Policy (4th ed.) Allyn & Bacon Pub.

Optional:

Jansson, Bruce. (2003). Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate. (4th ed.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Press.

Additional Readings are available in library reserve, under both Rocha and Rogge, SW516.

Readings and Course Outline:

PART 1 - NATURE OF SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS AND PRACTICE

Class 1: 8/24 Course overview. Review syllabus, class assignments, required texts, assigned readings, academic integrity. Computer use exercise in library research.

Class 2: 8/31 Defining social welfare policy, policy analysis & policy practice.
The Legislative Process.

Readings:

Karger & Stoesz, Chapter one

Gil, D. Unraveling Social Policy, 5th Ed. (Cambridge: Schenkman Co.) Chapter 1. Reserve Reading.

Class 3: 9/7 Analyzing Social Welfare Policy.
Policy Description and analysis

Readings:

Karger & Stoesz (1998). Ch. 2, S.W. Policy Research: A Framework for Policy Analysis
Dinitto, D. Chapter 12. Implementing and Evaluating Social Welfare Policy: What Happens after
a Law Has Passed?

Class 4: 9/14 Policy Practice and Policy Implementation
Affecting Change.

Richan, Chapter 7, Preparing the Case

Handout. - Introducing Legislation.

Jansson, Chapter 10, Developing Political Strategy

Jansson, Chapter 11, Putting Strategy into action.

PART II - HISTORICAL AND CURRENT CONTEXT IN WHICH SOCIAL POLICIES ARE DEVELOPED IN THE UNITED STATES

Class 5: 9/21 Historical Development of Social Welfare Policy and Services and the Relationship to the Social
Work Profession.

History of Social Welfare Policy

Two Ideological roots: Institutional vs residual views of social welfare.

The Three Discoveries of Poverty.

Readings:

Chapters 3-5: Dolgoff, Feldstein & Skolnik, (2000). Understanding Social Welfare Policy:

Chapter 3. Social Values and Social Welfare: England from the middle ages onward,

Chapter 4. Social Values and Social Welfare: the American Experience,

Chapter 5. America, Poverty, Two Paths.

Class 6: 9/28 Issues of Discrimination and Oppression - historical and current trends in American Society.

Value Bases of Social Welfare

What is Poverty?

Handout: Income and Wealth inequality

Poverty and the inner city

The feminization of poverty and Family decline

The Working Poor

Readings:

Karger & Stoesz, Chapters 4 and 5.

Rocha, C. (1997). The Working Poor. Encyclopedia of social Work.

1997 Supplement.

Class 7: 10/5 Organization and Structure of American Social Welfare System

Social Policies and programs for senior and disabled citizens

Social Security (OASDI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Handout: Medicare
Americans With Disabilities Act

Reading:

Karger & Stoesz, Chapters 10 & 12, and pp. 284-286

Class 8: 10/12 Social Policies and programs for workers
Unemployment insurance
Workers Compensation
Family Leave Policy
Earned Income Credit

Handout: Affirmative Action

Readings:

Karger & Stoesz, Chapter 10

Chapter 7, Rank, M. Living on the Edge., Working

Class 9: 10/19 Social policies and programs for the poor
AFDC, Nutritional Programs: Food Stamps, WIC
Medicaid, Housing,

Handout: Welfare Myths

Readings:

Karger & Stoesz, 11, 16, 17

Sherraden, M. (1991) Assets and the Poor. Chapter 4, Federal Welfare Policy: Who Benefits?

Class 10: 10/26 **Exam**

PART III CURRENT POLICY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES FOR INFLUENCING
POLICY

Class 11: 11/2 Ethics and values in the Policy Process
Underlying Assumptions of Social Policy

Readings:

Jansson, Chapter 2. Ethical, analytical and political rationale for engaging in policy advocacy.

Gil, David. Unraveling Social Policy, Chapter 9.

Hand out: NASW Code of Ethics

Hand out: Comparison of Conservative, Liberal, and Radical Perspectives.

Class 12: 11/9 **Policy Analysis Papers Due**
Issues for policy change and current reforms.
Corporate Welfare
Tax Policy
Income Inequality

Readings:

Karger & Stoesz, Chapters 7 and 9

Rocha & McCarter (2004), Strengthening Economic Justice in Social Work Education, *Arete*, 27 (2), 1-16

Class 13: 11/16 Social Trends Affecting Social Welfare
GLBT Population
Immigration
Aging Population

Readings:

Revisit Karger & Stoesz, Chapter 4: Discrimination

Padilla (1997). Immigrant Policy: Issues for Social Work Practice

Drachman, (1995). Immigration Statuses and their Influence on Service Provision, Access and Use.

Class 14: 11/23 Comparative Social Welfare Policy
The Case of Sweden and Norway

Readings:

Karger & Stoesz, Chpt. 18

Rosenthal, M.G. (1994). Single mothers in Sweden: work and welfare in the welfare state. *Social Work*, 39(3), 270-279.

Van Wormer, K. (1994)., A society without poverty - The Norwegian experience. *Social Work*, 39(3), 324-327.

Class 15: 11/30 Council/Committee/Hearing Reports due

Policy Briefs Due Friday 12/2, 5:00 p.m.

Bibliography

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- Katz, M. (1986). In the Shadow of the Poorhouse. New York: Basic Books.
- Kartz, M., Ed. (1993). The Underclass Debate. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
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