

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

SW516 - SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES
Course Outline
Spring 2007

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Course Outline:

- I Nature of Social Policy and Social Policy Analysis
- II Definition of Social Welfare Policy
- III Historical Development of Social Welfare Policy and Services and the Relationship to the Social Work Profession
- IV Current Policy Issues and Strategies for Influencing Policy
- V Ethics in the Policy Process and The Role of Policy Practice in Social Work
- VI The Role of Policy Analysis in Understanding the Policy Process
- VII Affecting Change in Social Welfare Policy

Course Requirements:

I. Attendance is required. *Two classes may be missed without any consequence. For each class missed after three, five (5) points will be deducted form your final grade.* Please notify me of tardiness/absences, although notification does not indicate excused absence /tardy.

II. 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 also include lectures, guest presenters, class discussions, and small group class exercises. **Students will be expected to: 1) complete assigned readings for preparation for each class session regardless if that particular reading is discussed by the instructor in class; (2) participate in class discussion/activities; and (3) complete all assignments. Graded assignments will include three (3) quizzes, a group poster presentation, and an individual policy analysis paper. The final paper must be typed, double-spaced and sources should be documented and referenced using APA format. No more than 50% of your sources should be obtained from Internet resources.**

III. The course includes a major service learning experience. All students will be required to participate in activities related to the Social Work Legislative Conference (previously Social Work Day on the Hill) i.e., **attendance at the event, scheduling of meeting with Senator or Representative, and attendance in a committee meeting; also, students will be required to complete a three page paper describing this experience.** Details of this process will be discussed during the second-class section.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

QUIZZES (3)	30%
Group Poster Presentation	25%
Service Learning (Social Work Legislative Conference)	15%
Policy Analysis Paper	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

The grading scale for this course is:

95-100	A
90-94	B+
85-89	B
80-84	C+
70-79	C

Required Course Text:

DiNitto, D. (2005). *Social Welfare: Politics and Public Policy, 6th ed.* Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Optional:

Jansson, B. (2003). *Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice (4th ed).* Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Davis, K.E. & Bent-Goodley, T. (2004). *The Color of Social Policy.* Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Karger, H. & Stoesz, D. (2002). *American Social Welfare Policy: A Pluralist Approach.* New York: Allyn and Bacon.

Assignments

1. Group Policy Poster Presentation

The group policy poster presentation involves an in-depth review of a particular social problem and the policy needed to alleviate the problem. A list of policy issues that will be addressed by NASW in the 105th TN General Assembly will be passed out to the class for each group to select one.

Objectives of the policy poster project:

- 1) Students will be able to apply and synthesize policy concepts and principles
- 2) Increase students understanding of the composition of policy development, moving from identifying an initial policy topic to the finalized poster and presentation
- 3) Increase knowledge in policy-making process and policy advocacy
- 4) Develop presentation skills that motivate others for policy change

Requirements:

- 1) The policy poster must be presented as a table top display. It is suggested that students present their policy posters on three panel display boards that are available at most office supply stores. The poster must be able to stand alone on a 6ft table without support.
- 2) Each poster submission must be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation regarding the poster that is no more than 5 minutes in length.
- 3) Each group must submit an abstract of the poster no later than Monday,

March 5th.

- 4) The following points must be included in the poster:
- Poster defines the social policy or issue clearly.
 - Poster states the policy as it currently is and analyzes the strengths/limitations of current policy.
 - Poster identifies vulnerable and at-risk populations and specific ways in which these groups are impacted by the current policy.
 - Poster incorporates into the overall policy analysis the six core values of the social work profession identified in the NASW Code of Ethics.
 - Poster states at least five recommendations to improve current policy; these recommendations should address all levels of social work practice and may include examples of how other states have addressed this same policy issue.
- 5) Policy poster presentation should be creative and motivational.

Due date: March 19, 2007. One poster from UTCSW in Nashville will be chosen for presentation at the Social Work Legislative Conference on April 2nd and 3rd

2. Social Work Legislative Conference Reflection Paper

A three-page typed, double spaced paper describing your experience and participation in the Social Work Legislative Conference. The paper should include your learning experiences and thoughts about the process. **Due date: April 9, 2007.**

2. Individual Policy Analysis Paper

Using the policy issue identified in the poster presentation, each individual student will need to select one of the policy analysis frameworks discussed in class to develop a policy analysis paper. (Individual students are encouraged to utilize the analysis done by their group in developing their individual paper.) The following points must be included in the paper:

- A description and discussion of the issue and the policy. How does this policy affect vulnerable populations? Attach a copy of the policy to your paper.
- A description and discussion of your chosen policy analysis framework. Provide a rationale for why you chose this particular model.
- Using your chosen model, provide a step-by- step analysis of your policy.
- Based on your analysis, provide specific recommendations for policy changes. These recommendations are to be based on the objective information obtained in the analysis process.
- If relevant, include a national and international perspective.

The paper will be graded on how well the policy is critically analyzed. Are statistics, case examples, research, and objective information used to support the analysis process? Are both opponent and proponent positions discussed in the analysis? The papers should be at least 15 pages in length, typed, and doubled spaced. **Use APA style for referencing. Final date for submitting policy paper: April 16, 2007.**

<p>January 22</p>	<p>Social Policy: An Introduction</p> <p>Part I: Course overview, review syllabus, assignments, texts, readings, and academic integrity.</p> <p>What is social welfare and why is it important to social work education?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition(s) of social welfare and social welfare policy • Review Preamble of Code Ethics and its relationship to social welfare policy <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DiNitto, Chapter 1 - 1-5 <hr/> <p>Part II: The American Public and Social Welfare: Understanding social welfare policy from an ecological system, an afrocentric, and rational perspectives; distinguishing social welfare systems from social welfare policy and social welfare programs.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pople & Leighninger, Chapters 1 & 2. • Matt Bai, New York Times Magazine July 17, 2005/Section 6 “The Framing Wars”: Do Republicans win elections because they know how to turn issues into stories? Can Democrats • DiNitto, Chapter 1, 19-35 • Karger & Stoesz, Chapter 1: Social Policy and the American Welfare State, pp. 2-6. • Schiele, J. H. (1997). An Afrocentric Perspective on Social Welfare Philosophy and Policy. <i>Journal</i> <p>Web Resources:</p> <p>Political Ideologies http://www.hildesheim.co.uk/quickreference/politics/ideologies.html</p> <p>Class discussion: How does policy impact social work practice?</p>
<p>January 29</p>	<p>History of social welfare policy; policy as a form of social control.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karger & Stoesz, (1998) Chapter 3: The Origins and Future of American Social Welfare, 77. • DiNitto, D. Chapter 2: Government and Social Welfare, pp. 36-79 • DiNitto, D. Chap. 9, pp. 349-379 • History of Social Work Profession (Handout) <p>Web Resource:</p> <p>The Social Work History Station:</p>
<p>February 5</p>	<p>Organizational structure of the American social welfare system.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karger & Stoez, Chapter 8: The Making of Government and Social Policy, pp. 206-232. • Social Work Speaks, The Role of Government, Social Policy and Social Work, pp. 316-320

- DiNitto, D. Chapter 1 The Policy Making Process, pp14-19

Web Resources:

Policymaking Process: University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service:

Public Policymaking in America

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agepubs/ip/ip19/ip19.pdf>

Special Interest Influences:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~leslie.armijo/new/04%20post%20ISA%20revise.pdf>

Legislative Process:

http://congress.indiana.edu/learn_about/legislative.htm

http://www.senate.gov/legislative/common/briefing/Enactment_law.htm

Tennessee General Assembly <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us>

February
12

Quiz # 1

Part I: Policy Research using the internet.

Readings:

- Karger & Stoez, Chapter 3: Technology and Social Policy pp 40-54.

Web Resource:

- How to Use Census Data. <http://factfinder.census.gov/home>

Part II: Ethics and values in the policy process, underlying assumptions of social policy, ideologies and social policy, NASW Code of Ethics.

Readings:

- Prigmore, C. & Atherton, C. (1979). Values and choices in contemporary social welfare policy, pp. 23-40.
- Handout: NASW Code of Ethics
- Galambos, C. (1997). Quality of Life for the Elder: A reality or an illusion? In Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 27, 3, 27-44.

Web Resource:

- National Conference of State Legislatures: Center for Ethics in Government <http://www.ncsl.org/Ethics/>

Class discussion: Ethical decision-making in the policy arena.

February
19

Skills for policy practice: Affecting change. Understanding the policy process, recognizing and using power, strategies of policy persuasion.

Guest Speaker: Carol Westlake with TN Disability Coalition or Stewart Clifton, Clifton Governmental Relations

Readings:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jansson, B. (1999) <i>Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice</i>. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole. Chapter 1: Why Engage in Policy Practice and Policy Advocacy, pp. 1-28. Chapter 9: Policy Persuasion, pp. 231 - 255. Linhorst, D. M. Federalism and Social Justice: Implications for Social Work. <i>Journal of the National Association of Social Workers</i>, 47(3), pp. 201-208.
February 26	<p>Using Data and Framing in Public Policy Advocacy</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Pam Brown or Linda O’Neal from TN Commission on Children and Youth</p> <p>Web Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth http://www.state.tn.us/tccy/ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities http://www.cbpp.org/ The Frameworks Institute http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/ <p>Class exercise in framing</p>
March 5	<p>Quiz #2</p> <p>Analyzing Social Welfare Policy: A review of frameworks will be discussed (Karger & Stoez, DiNitto, Chimungu).</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DiNitto, Chapter 1, pp. 13-14 Karger & Stoez, Chapter 2: Social Welfare Policy Research: A Framework for Policy Analysis, pp.29-38 Chipungu, S. (1991). A Value-based Policy Framework, pp.290-305. In Everett, J.; Chipungu, S., & Leashore, B. <i>Child Welfare: An Africentric Perspective</i>.
March 12	SPRING BREAK!!!!!!
March 19	Policy Poster Presentations – 10 minutes per group
March 26	<p>Part I: Defining poverty: Who are the poor? Theories of poverty; strategies for combating poverty</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DiNitto, D. Chapter 3, pp.80-118. Albeda, R. & Tilly, C. (2001). Women, income & poverty: There’s a family connection. In Rotherberg, R. S. (2001). <i>Race, Class, & Gender in the United States</i>. New York: Worth Publishing. Bane, M.J. & Elwood. (1986). Slipping into and out of poverty: The Dynamics of Spells. <i>The</i>

Part II: Types of Social Programs

Social Insurance Programs. Definition and background of social insurance. Key social insurance

- OASDI
- Unemployment Insurance
- Workers Compensation
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Medicare, Medi-gap, long term care

Readings:

- DiNitto, D. Chapter 4, pp124-154.
- Beverly, Sondra, G. (2002). What Social Workers Need to Know about the Earned Income Tax Credit? *Journal of the National Association of Social Workers, 47(3)*, pp. 259-266.
- Privatizing Social Security/Bush's Plan (TBA)
- Hooyman, Kiyak, & Asuman, (1999). *Social Gerontology*, Ch. 16: Health & Long Term Care Policy & Programs, pp. 471-494.

April 2 Social Work Legislative Conference at Downtown Sheraton in Nashville

April 9 Types of Social Programs continued:

Public Assistance Programs. Assumptions underlying public assistance, U.S. farm policies; Rural poverty. Key public assistance programs:

- AFDC/TANF, welfare reform, Families First
- Medicaid
- SSI
- Housing
- Nutritional programs
- WIC, Food Stamps

Readings:

- DiNitto, D. Chapter 5, 6, 7, pp. 161-288.
- Families First (TBA)
- Wedel, K.R. & Butler, F.C. (1999) Welfare reform and demand for rural public transportation. In LeNay, C., Edwards, R., Reid, N., *Preserving and Strengthening Small Towns and Rural Communities* Washington D.C.: NASW Press
- Lens, V. (2002). TANF: What Went Wrong and What to Do Next. *Journal of the National Association of Social Workers, 47(3)*, pp.279-290.
- Abramovitz, M. ((2001). Everyone is Still on Welfare: The Role of Redistribution in Social Policy. *Social Work, 46 (4)*, 297-308. Washington, DC: NASW.

April 16 Improving Healthcare, Providing Social Services and Addressing Civil Rights

Readings:

- DiNitto, D. Chapters 8,10,11. pp293-.344;384-501
- Greene, R. & Knee, R. (1996). *Shaping the Policy Practice Agenda of Social Work*(41)5, pp. 553-560.
- Social Work Speaks. Social Services, pp 348-352

Policy Analysis Paper Due!!

April 23

LAST CLASS

Quiz #3

Implementing and Evaluating policy.

Readings:

- Linhorst, D. M. "Federalism and Social Justice: Implications for Social Work". *Journal of the National Association of Social Workers*, 47(3), pp. 201-208.
- DiNitto, D. Chapter 12, pp. 407-431

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- DiNitto, D. (1997). *Social Welfare: Politics and Public Policy*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
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