Social Work 1006
Social Welfare II

Course Description

This course builds upon Social Work 1005 and engage students in analysis of the nature and impact of economics political/social ideologies and forces that shaped the development of American social welfare policies and services from 1935 to present, including discrimination, poverty, social insurance programs, public assistance programs, health care, mental health, substance abuse, criminal justice, child welfare, housing/homeless, and food programs. This course will continue with the curriculum focus on social justice and oppressed populations. In this instance the emphasis will be on the impact of social welfare policy at all levels on members of oppressed populations and the direct service worker’s place in developing and modifying policy to lessen the degree of oppression, and its impact on the whole society.

Educational Outcomes

At the end of the course students will be able to:

• identify and describe the development of social welfare policy presented from 1935 to the present that were established to serve the poor within our society;

• apply the elements of a conceptual framework for policy analysis and formulation and use them to become informal citizens and skilled advocates;

• identify social values reflected in policy statements, choices and alternatives;

• formulate and articulate rationales, identify empirical evidence and belief positions which influence positions taken on social policy issues by professionals, lay persons, and community decision makers;

• identify policy alternatives and value positions in current social welfare policy issues as they develop at local, state and federal levels and are reflected in the news media and professional journals;

• analyze and debate the different options on choices among policy alternatives, formulating convincing arguments to support pro and con positions on policy issues;

• identify options for participation in the process of policy formulation from one’s agency position and community citizen position;
• identify implications policy has in shaping direct practice and affecting the lives of clients;

• student will understand the history of and forces behind discrimination toward groups such as women, minorities of color and other minorities in our society and use these towards developing informed positions and working for change and empowerment of the disadvantage groups in our society.

**Required Text**


**Additional Required Readings** - will be placed on reserve at Hillman Library.

**Supplemental Readings**


Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. U.S. General Services Administration.


**Course Format**

This course will consist primarily of lecture/discussion. There will be occasional guest lecturers, who will relate to specific social welfare policy. Students will be encouraged to share from time to time, their experience with social services.

**Grading and Evaluation**

Each student will be expected to complete the following:

- **Reading Reaction Logs or Journals** – Three reading reaction logs to be turned in on February 5th, March 12th, and April 2nd. The logs are to reflect the integration of your thoughts about the course required readings. You are asked to react (not summarize) the course required readings. This discussion must cover (please follow format):
  
  a. The significance of the material;
  b. The relationship of the material to what you are learning elsewhere;
  c. Personal experience(s) that relate to the material;
  d. What you do not agree with in the material;
  e. What you do not understand about the material;
  f. Implication for professional social work practice

Reactions logs should not exceed one written page per chapter.
Historical Policy Analysis: Social Security Act: prepare a retrospective term paper description, analysis and synthesis of one of the first four titles of the Social Security Act (refer to Appendix A for Title Summary). Each student will be assigned a specific title by the instructor. The outline for this paper is located in Appendix B and the length of the paper must not exceed 10 typed pages excluding the bibliography and the supporting reference material. The paper is due the eighth week of the semester;

- Quizzes and examinations which will be given during the semester;

- Group Social Problem Analysis/Policy Formulation Paper - the class will be divided into work sub-groups from an analysis of a policy addressing a social welfare issue of importance today. Topics will include the following: Discrimination, poverty, social insurance programs, public assistance programs, health care, mental health, substance abuse, criminal justice, child welfare, housing/homeless, and food programs. A maximum paper length of 25 typed pages will be accepted. This length does not include appendices, bibliographies and attached copies of relevant policies. The paper should be double spaced with standard margins and stapled together. References should be made using APA style. This paper is due on the fourteenth week.

Some class time will be allocated for planning and working together on these papers.

At the end of the paper, each group member must sign the last page indicating their agreement with the submitted project. All group members must contribute substantially to the content of the paper. However, one or two group members may serve as overall editor and typist. Refer to Appendix C for Group Term Paper Framework for problem analysis.

Grading and Evaluation

- Reading Reaction Logs ------------------------------------------ 20%
- Historical Policy Analysis Paper---------------------------------25%
- Quizzes and Examination-----------------------------------------20%
- Group Social Problem Analysis/Policy Formulation Paper---------35%
SOCIAL WORK 1006
SOCIAL WELFARE 2

COURSE OUTLINE

SCHEDULE OF COURSE ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

PART I: AMERICAN SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

Weeks I and II  Introduction and Framework for Examination

- Overview of course objectives and requirements
- Definition of Terms
- Dominant American Values

Chapter 1: Social Policy and the American Welfare State

- Definitions of Social Welfare Policy
- Social Problems and Social Welfare Policy
- Social Work and Social Policy
- Values, Ideology, and Social Welfare Policy
- The Political Economy of American Social Welfare
- The U.S. Economic Continuum
- The U.S. Political Continuum
- The Welfare Philosophers and the Neoconservative Think Tanks


- A Proposed Model for Policy Analysis
- Researching and Analyzing Social Policies

Chapter 3: Technology and Social Policy

- The Digital Divide
- Political Advocacy and the Internet
- Social Policy Research and the Internet

Reading: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in text


Week III

Chapter 4: Discrimination in American Society

- Discrimination
- Racism
• Discrimination against African Americans
• Hispanic Americans
• Native Americans
• Asian Americans
• Immigrants and Immigration
• Women and Society
• Gays and Lesbians: Two Populations at Risk
• Ageism
• People with Disabilities
• Legal Attempts to Remedy Discrimination

Reading: Chapter 4 in text

Week IV  Chapter 4 continued

Week V

Chapter 5: Poverty in America

• Some Theoretical Formulations about Poverty
• Who Make Up the Poor?
• Measuring Poverty
• Families and Poverty
• The Urban and Rural Poor
• Work and Poverty
• Strategies Developed to Combat Poverty

Reading: Chapter 5 in text

Part Two: The Voluntary and For-Profit Social Sectors

Week VI

Chapter 6: The Voluntary Sector Today

• Structural Interests within Social Welfare
• The Forgotten Sector
• Advancing Social Justice
• Contemporary Nonprofit Human Service Organizations
• The Future of the Voluntary Sector

Reading: Chapter 6 in text

Week VII

Chapter 7: Privatization and Human Service Corporations

• Concerns about Privatization
• Issues in the Privatization of Health and Human Services
• The Challenge of Privatization
• Unions and the Private Sector
• Corporate Welfare
• History of the Corporate Sector
• Corporate Social Responsibility
• Corporate Influence on Social Welfare Policy
• The Future of Corporate Involvement in Social Welfare
• Human Service Corporations
• Consolidation and Growth in Human Service Markets

Part Three: The Government Sector

Chapter 8: The Making of Governmental Policy

• Technical Aspects of the Policy Process
• A Critical Analysis of the Policy Process
• The Policy Process
• Non-Decision Making
• Social Workers and Social Reform
• Social Work and Advocacy Organizations
• Political Practice

Reading: Chapters 7 and 8 in text

Week VIII

Chapter 9: Tax Policy and Income Distribution

• History of U.S. Tax Policy
• Tax Policy and Special Interests
• Federal Tax Policy
• State Tax Policy and the Poor
• The Efficiency of Tax Policy in Reducing Poverty
• Tax Expenditures as Poverty Policy
• The Antitax Movement

Chapter 10: Social Insurance Programs

• Definition of Social Insurance
• The Background of Social Insurance
• The Financial Organization of Social Insurance
• Key Social Insurance Programs
• The Social Security Dilemma

HISTORICAL POLICY ANALYSIS TERM PAPER DUE

Reading: Chapters 9 and 10 in text

Special Reading: Chapter 10 in Prigmore and Atherton, Social Welfare Policy: Analysis and Formulation.

Week IX SPRING BREAK
Week X

Chapter 11: Public Assistance Programs

- Some Assumptions That Underlie Public Assistance
- Aid to Families with Dependent Children
- Supplemental Security Income
- General Assistance
- Issues in Welfare Reform

Chapter 12: The American Health Care System

- The Organization of Medical Services
- Major Public Health Care Programs: Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP
- The Health Care Crisis
- Explaining the High Cost of U.S. Health Care
- Cutting Health Care Costs
- AIDS and Health Care
- Reforming U.S. Health Care
- Comparative Analysis: Health Care in Canada and Britain

Reading: Chapters 11 and 12 in text

Week XI

Chapter 13: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy

- Mental Health Reform
- The Community Mental Health Centers Acts
- Deinstitutionalization
- The Revolving Door
- CHMCs under Siege
- Preventive Commitment
- Mental Health Service Delivery
- Parity for Mental Health Care
- Substance Abuse
- Private Practice and Mental Health Services

Chapter 14: Criminal Justice

- History of U.S. Criminal Justice
- The Criminal Justice System
- Juvenile Justice
- The War on Drugs
- The Underclass and “Moral Poverty”
- Legalization of Drugs
- The “New Penology”
- The Future of Criminal Justice
Reading: Chapters 13 and 14 in text

Week XII

Chapter 15: Child Welfare Policy

- History of U.S. Child Welfare Policy
- Protective Services for Children
- Foster Care for Children
- Adoption
- Head Start
- Emerging Issues in Child Welfare

Chapter 16: Housing Policies

- Overview of Housing Legislation
- The Federal Government and Low-Income Housing Programs
- Issues in Housing Policy
- Homelessness
- Housing Reform

Reading: Chapters 15 and 16 in text

Week XIII

Chapter 17: The Politics of Food Policy and Rural Life

- Hunger in the United States
- Governmental Food Programs
- Farming in the United States
- Farmworkers
- Governmental Farm Policies

Part Four: The American Welfare State in Perspective

Chapter 18: The American Welfare State in International Perspective

- American Exceptionalism
- The Welfare State in Transition
- Ranking National Development
- Capability Poverty
- International Aid
- Global Capital
- The Future

Reading: Chapters 17 and 18 in text

Week XIV    Student Group Presentations
Week XV    Student Group Presentations
BIBLIOGRAPHY

SELECT POLICY AND LEGISLATION WEB SITES

- http://www.pitt.edu/~amssw


- http://yahoo.com/Social_Science/Political_Science/Public_Policy/Institutes/Think_Tanks. User notes: This is a rather extensive listing of public policy think tanks compiled by the folks at Yahoo.


- http://www.pitt.edu/~wschutz/swII.htm. User Notes: This is the class website; it is currently under construction. It is designed to supplement the material presented in this class.

Additional Information which may assist you in completing your social security title policy analysis paper

Article on Social Security in the 1937 Social Work Year Book.


In addition to the above information the Government Document Section of the Hillman Library will greatly assist you in this assignment especially the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government
Publications and the Congressional Record. Also consider looking at newspapers and magazines of the period to understand public sentiment on this issue (i.e.)

- New York Times Index
- Readers Guide to Periodical Literature
- PAIS Bulletin
- International Index

Appendix A

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Historical Paper

**Title I**  
*Grants to the States for Old Age Assistance*

Provided grants to the states for financial assistance to needy aged.

**Title II**  
*Federal Old Age Benefits*

Set up the federal “Social Security” program of old age benefits based on wages earned before age sixty-five.

**Title III**  
*Grants to the States for Unemployment Compensation Administration*

Provided federal payment for the administrative expenses of state programs for unemployment compensation.

**Title IV**  
*Grants to the States for Aid to Dependent Children*

Provided for grants to the states for financial aid for needy dependent children.
Appendix B

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Social Security Term Paper
Framework for Policy Analysis - According to Prigmore and Atherton

I. CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO CULTURAL VALUES

A. How the policy is related to contemporary 'style'.
B. How the policy contributes to equity and justice.
C. How the policy compares with social work values.
D. How the policy compares with important values in society.

II. DIMENSIONS OF INFLUENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

A. How is the policy politically acceptable.
B. Is the policy legal?
C. How does the policy satisfy relevant interest groups.

III. KNOWLEDGE CONSIDERATIONS

A. Is the policy economically feasible and economically superior to other alternatives?
B. Is the policy workable?
C. Is the policy efficient?
D. Will the policy generate other problems?

PLEASE REVIEW FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT CHAPTERS 2 AND 3 IN PRIGMORE AND ATHERTON, SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY: ANALYSIS AND FORMULATION.

APPENDIX C

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GROUP SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS/POLICY FORMULATION PAPER

Paper must utilize the following format for problem analysis:

I. THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM ITSELF

A. Definition of the Problem

1. What for example does the problem mean.
2. Who suffers from the problem? In what ways? Identify "risk groups", e.g. single-headed households, unskilled workers, and isolated elderly.

3. Who defines it as a problem? Why? Who says it is a problem, why do they think so?

4. Who does not define it as a problem? Why not? Is it due to ignorance of the situation, to personal values or ideology to indifference, to belief in the futility of trying to resolve the problem?

5. Who are the key decision makers, individuals and groups that presently control the distribution of power and resources that effect the problem?

II. CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM

1. What are the social structural sources of the problem? e.g. distribution of power, wealth and status, political ideologies, societal values and norms, existing policies and programs designed to deal with the problem.

2. What are the sources inherent in the individual who shares the problem? e.g. knowledge, skills, health, personal values.

3. How much verified knowledge is there about the causes of the problem?

III. CURRENT OPERATIVES - THE ACTUAL

A. Social Policies and Programs

1. What are the policies and programs that have been formulated to deal with the problem?

2. If one looks at what these policies and programs are actually doing, rather than what is claimed, how is the problem really being defined?

3. Are the results of these policies and programs being evaluated? If not, why not? If yes, are findings being utilized?

4. Based on the best information about effectiveness, are these policies and programs likely to reduce, increase, or leave the problem unchanged?

IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS

A. What is the most desired goal in respect to the problem? This is a statement of the ideal, e.g. "Adequate Health Care for the Poor."

B. What are achievable objectives? These should be stated in operational, measurable terms. Objectives can be specified in relation to the total problem, some aspect of the problem, the total target and risk population, or a proportion on sub-group of that population.

C. What are the interventions, at both the structural and individual levels that will achieve the stated objectives?
V. **ACTION CONSIDERATIONS**

A. What institutions, organizations, and decision-makers are primarily responsible for resolving the problem?

B. What are the major sources of support for achieving the desired goals and objectives? e.g. constituencies, media, influential individuals, public support.

C. Conversely, what are the major sources of resistance to effecting change?

D. What kinds of knowledge is needed in order to effect change?

E. What strategies must be employed to effect change, e.g.
   1. **Consensus strategies** - public information, changing attitudes and values.
   2. **Political strategies** - negotiations, compliments.
   3. **Conflict strategies** - confrontation, protest.

F. Are these actions and strategies consistent with professional values?

VI. **POLICY FORMULATION PROPOSAL**

Recommend a proposed policy that you feel will be effective in addressing a social problem area.

* This Framework is a modification of Mr. Rosenberg and Stein Sarnott Framework which appears in Social Work and Social Problems, Nathan Cohen, ed (New York N.A.S.W., Pub. 1964).