

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT WILMINGTON
DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL WORK**

**SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS (SWK 335) 3chs
Fall 2009**

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Nelson Reid
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Class time: 330-6pm Tuesdays LH108

OFFICE HOURS: for students in SWK 435, 9:15-11:00 am, Monday and Friday

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

COURSE PURPOSE:

This course will review the development of American social welfare policy and involve the student in current issues of social welfare programs and policy. The course will provide a basic overview of American social policy and program development in such areas as poverty and income maintenance, employment, housing, health care, and social service organization. Throughout emphasis will be placed on the understanding of policies and programs in the social, economic and political context and the effect of these policies and programs on individuals and society.

A major objective of the undergraduate policy course is to develop the student's ability to "think" in policy terms, to develop a capacity to use policy language and policy concepts, to be able to read, understand, and utilize policy literature, and to identify critical policy issues. This will allow the student to incorporate a program and policy analytical approach into the role of the generalist practitioner, in preparation for a fully professional responsibility. The features of this analysis include the typical dimensions of descriptive policy analysis: nature and cost of the social problem addressed, value considerations, actors involved, character of the intervention, goals and measurable objectives, economic cost and funding, structure of service delivery, and impact. Broad use of policy literature and published research relative to social welfare policy and service outcomes is included.

The course includes lecture and discussion, written assignments, and tests as well as

regular student participation. Students will be encouraged to develop a specific policy focus, such as poverty, health, mental health, child welfare, housing, social insurance, international policy development, etc. and to become our resident “expert” in the policy area chosen.

Throughout there will be an emphasis on the role of social welfare policy in addressing problems of distribution, which result from the accepted operations of the economy, and social and political order as well as elements of injustice, oppression, and social exclusion.

This course is consistent with the Council on Social Work Education Curriculum Policy Statement for BSW programs and includes content related to UNCW program objectives, including those related to the impact of social policy, oppression and discrimination, global social welfare development, the impact of values, critical thinking and effective communication.

TEXT: Karger, Midgley, Kindle and Brown (2007) Controversial Issues in Social Policy 3rd Ed. Allyn and Bacon 1

Base historical reference: Reid, Social Welfare History
<http://www.uncw.edu/swk/documents/socialwelfarehistory.pdf>

Base reference: Terry Mizrahi and Larry E. Davis. (2008) Encyclopedia of Social Work 20th Ed. *National Association of Social Workers* Oxford University Press. 2008 : <http://O-www.oxford-naswsocialwork.com.unccllc.coast.uncwil.edu/?authstatuscode=202>

WEB SITES we will frequently use:

- <http://www.rgu.ac.uk/publicpolicy/introduction/index.htm>
- www.urban.org
- www.rand.org
- <http://www.newamerica.net/>
- <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>
- WWW.CENSUS.GOV/

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BASIC OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to prepare the social work practitioner to deal with policy issues at the organizational, programmatic, and governmental level by developing a general knowledge of American social policy and its development and a systematic, knowledge based process of analysis and proposal.

The emphasis throughout will be on the students ability to call upon an array of policy related information from governmental and non governmental sources and to use that information in a

focused and sound way in constructing descriptive policy and program analytical papers. These papers are defined as “policy briefs” for the purpose of this course.

The course reflects the BSW program objectives adopted by the social work faculty, specifically objective #1 which includes “critical thinking”. Critical thinking involves a consideration of the of the social , economic, and cultural context of policy, the underlying assumptions and values in policy issues, the selection and use of data in policy arguments, the clarity of objectives in policy, and the probability of effective evaluation of policy outcomes. Objective # 2 requiring students to have broad understanding of the “social and cultural” aspects of the U.S. is expressed in the course content and in every “policy brief” assignment which, in every case, require attention to issues of policy history and the social context in which policy develops.

In addition objective # 7 concerned with student understanding of “oppression and discrimination” is reflected in virtually every aspect of the course. It is impossible to understand policy without consideration of the idea of justice and the way that idea is manifested in political expectations and democratic processes. Objective #8 concerning social welfare and professional history is likewise infused throughout the course but is also very specifically dealt with in weeks 4and 5.

Social policy is influenced by ideas and, increasingly, in the last 40 years by research. Thus objective # 10, “research based knowledge” is also reflected in course content. Lastly, of course, objective #13, the “impact of social policy” is reflected in the course with a strong emphasis throughout the course on the real consequences of social policy for people and the identification of “winners and losers” in social policy options.

Over the course students will:

- Understand the historical development and design of American social welfare.
- Review the current major policy issues in selected social welfare policy areas.
- Utilize a descriptive policy analytical structure in understanding policy options.
- Describe selected social policy issues and programs.
- Understand the role of social and demographic differences in shaping U.S. social policy.
- Locate and understand popular constructions of social problems and policy issues in newspapers and magazines.
- Locate and utilize properly the social welfare policy literature, data and program information, including academic books, journals, Internet, and selected databases.
- Write and present appropriately researched and cited material on a current policy and program issues in “policy brief” format.

- Work with other students in developing policy presentations in group format.

Prerequisites:

SWK 235 Introduction to the Social Welfare System
 PLS 101 American National Government

THIS COURSE MEETS ONCE PER WEEK: Tuesdays at 330 pm Leutze 108. Missing one class is the equivalent of missing an entire week of content.

The classes will typically include a 10 minute break approx 4:40 and will end at 5:45. Individual consultation available after. Any in class tests will be given in the 330-430 pm hour.

SCHEDULE

DATE/ TOPICS

READINGS

NOTE: WEB SITE RESOURCES WILL BE UPDATED AS THE SEMESTER PROCEEDS! PLEASE CHECK EMAIL REGULARLY

Written assignments will be posted by email at regular intervals.

**Week 1 25 August: Intro and Basic Concepts of Social Policy
 Setting up policy focus**

- <http://www.rgu.ac.uk/publicpolicy/introduction/index.htm>
- www.urban.org
- www.rand.org
- www.newamericaf.net

www.mdrc.org/announcement_hp_43.html.

<http://www.manhattan-institute.org/>

<http://www.hoover.org/>
<http://www.ips-dc.org/>
<http://www.ppionline.org/>
<http://www.realclearpolitics.com/>

www.publicagenda.org

Typical policy reports:

<http://www.rand.org/publications/CT/CT185/CT185.pdf>

<http://www.urban.org/Template.cfm?Section=ByTopic&NavMenuID=62&template=/TaggedContent/ViewPublication.cfm&PublicationID=8600>

<http://www.urban.org/publications/411504.html>

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/pub_14.pdf

Week 2 1 Sept: Development of American Social Welfare: English Poor Law and Colonial America

Reid, Social Welfare History

<http://www.uncw.edu/swk/documents/socialwelfarehistory.pdf>

[The workhouse](#)

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/antisaloon/menu.html>

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Week 3 8 Sept: Early American Almshouse Movement through COS and Social Darwinism

<http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/profiles/sumner.htm>

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3837/is_200307/ai_n9242995/print (Jennifer Turner, Almshouses in Mass)

Reid, Social Welfare History

<http://www.uncw.edu/swk/documents/socialwelfarehistory.pdf>

Week 4 15 Sept: Progressivism and the U.S. Social Welfare State and the Development of the Social Work Profession

Film: The Orphan Train

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/charities1908/charities1908.html> (NC Board of Public Charities, 1908)

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/rbannis1/Progs/Progsprim.html>

<http://www.naswdc.org/>

<http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/>

Reid, Social Welfare History

<http://www.uncw.edu/swk/documents/socialwelfarehistory.pdf>

Week 5 22 Sept: Controversial Issues: Debate 2, 8, 5, Immigration, Affirmative Action, and War on Drugs

Week 6 29 Sept: Depression, New Deal and Social Insurance thru 1950's

<http://newdeal.feri.org/texts/default.cf>

<http://www.ssa.gov/history/history.html>

<https://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/200507capretta.htm>

Reid, Social Welfare History

<http://www.uncw.edu/swk/documents/socialwelfarehistory.pdf>

Week 7 13 Oct: Controversial Issues: Debate 1 and 4, Social welfare and Market Economy and National Health Insurance

Week 8 20 Oct: 1960's and War on Poverty

Film: The War on Poverty

<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/>

<http://www.brookings.org/dybdocroot/es/wrb/publications/pb/pb28.pdf>

Reid, Social Welfare History

<http://www.uncw.edu/swk/documents/socialwelfarehistory.pdf>

Week 9 27 Oct: Welfare Reform, Privatization, and the Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush years

<http://pantheon.yale.edu/~jhacker/>

Reid, Social Welfare History

<http://www.uncw.edu/swk/documents/socialwelfarehistory.pdf>

Week 10 3 Nov In class test on American Social Welfare History (one hour, approx)

Week 11 10 Nov The Obama Policy Agenda

http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/urban_policy/

<http://www.npr.org/news/specials/2009/obamatracker/?sc=gaw&qclid=ClqOuj-LnJwCFcZM5QodrQ6-ew>

Week 12 17 Nov Controversial Issues: Debate 7 and 11, Same-sex Marriage and Abortion Rights

Week 13 24 Nov Controversial Issues: Debate 8 and 6, Welfare Reform and Asset Based Programs

Week 14 1 Dec Last class

ASSIGNMENTS:

Most assignments for this course are of the ‘take-home’, “policy brief” variety and are designed to test your ability to locate, comprehend, and utilize social welfare related information from various sources, including national newspapers, academic journals, governmental agencies, reports and monographs, and the Internet. Such assignments involve the writing of papers approximately three to five pages in length. Assignments and dates will be provided electronically through email with relevant resource links, due dates and format requirements. An in-class test may be utilized to test basic facts and concepts.

The short policy papers involve, for example, the use of newspaper sources and social issue polling data to illustrate the student’s understanding of the “popular” understanding of social problems and policy issues (usually the NYT’s and Public Agenda Online) or legal reasoning as illustrated in Supreme Court decisions that have policy implications using Findlaw and concentrating on cases like King v. Smith, Goldberg v. Kelly (both benefits rights cases) or Donaldson v. O’Connor (right to treatment). An additional short paper may involve the student in using historical sources illustrating selected aspects of American social policy history.

Finally, there is a longer policy analysis paper submitted at the end of the term. This paper based on the student’s choice of topic, and involving the student’s individual work, incorporates all of the elements noted above and organizes the paper into sections that provide:

1. A description of the social problem context of the policy including current and historical data illustrating indicators of progress or decline. Popular understanding of the issue is considered as is the consequences and costs of the problem and the “do nothing” option.
2. A history of the contemporary issue identifying the major points of past policy development, including relevant court cases, and the consequences of those policy developments on the problem addressed, the people involved, and the evolution of the definition of the issue.

3. A description of the policy options currently being proposed (at least three, including the current policy or non-policy in place).
4. A model for the analysis of the policy options, providing specific bases for the selection of one policy option over another.
5. The analysis carried out with conclusion and recommendations.

In completing the assignment, referencing of sources should follow APA format.

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html#Handling%20Quotes%20In%20Your%20Text

Sources must include current and historical data, public policy reports from appropriate sources, governmental agency reports where appropriate, and relevant statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions as well as materials from the interest groups involved.

Social Policy on the Web

The Web offers a growing range of on-line resources in Social Policy, and they are usually fairly easy to access and use. This section offers a brief guide, with links to key sources. Following the external links on this syllabus will open a new window in your browser, so that you will still have access to this page.

Some of the sites here are meta-links: they offer a gateway to a large number of connected sites.

If you have problems with any of the links, please let me know.

- <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/>
- <http://www.brookings.org/>

- <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/databank/index.html>
- <http://www.publicagenda.org/>
- WWW.NCGA.STATE.NC.US/
- <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/iss/pubpolicy.htm>

Social Policy in the United States

- The [United States government](#) has introduced a 'gateway' site which allows access to every level of government.
- The [Institute for Research on Poverty](#) is a major source of poverty information and analysis and offers a long list of links to US organisations engaged in welfare issues.
- The [Almanac of Policy Issues](#) has themed pages on a range of topics in US social policy.
- The [Electronic Policy Network](#) similarly covers a range of topics.
- The [Smart Library on Urban Poverty](#) has a group of classified, short articles on issues in US social policy.

Social Policy in the European Union

- [European Union](#)
- [European source materials](#)
- [European documents on social protection](#)
- [Social Policy in the European Union](#)
- [European Observatory on Health Care Systems](#)
- [European Social Welfare Information Network.](#)

International sources

- [Governments on the Web](#) has links to government sources around the world.

- The US [Bureau of Labour Statistics](#) and the [WTO](#) have links to national and international statistics worldwide.

Several international organisations produce cross-national statistics. They include:

- The United Nations Development Programme's [Human Development Report](#)
- The World Bank's [World Development Indicators](#)
- The World Health Organisations's [World Health Report](#).

Social policy in developing countries

In addition to the [World Bank](#) and [UNDP](#), try:

- [Global Issues site](#) This is an exceptionally well-written and presented site, covering poverty and development among other issues. It has useful links to a range of sources.
- [CROP](#) This is the International Social Science Council's Comparative Research Programme on Poverty. The website is limited but it has links to recent on-line documents and some conference papers.
- The International Fund for Agricultural Development has published a [report on rural poverty](#).
- [Unesco MOST Program](#) MOST is a 'clearing house' for material on poverty and development.
- The [New Zealand Digital Library](#) has a collection of on-line documents on development.
- An extensive collection of online [readings on hunger, poverty and economic development](#), created by Richard Robbins at SUNY Plattsburgh.
- The Global Policy Forum discusses a range of issues, including [international social policies](#).

Social Policy in the United Kingdom

Most searches begin with the list of [British Government agencies](#); central departments like the [Department of Health](#) or the [Department of Work and Pensions](#).

- [The Guardian](#) reports current news on social policy in the UK and makes it available in a neatly classified format. There are specialised sets of links on [social security in the UK](#) and [health policy in the UK](#).
- [Policylibrary.com](#) carries briefings on issues, and links to online papers from all the think tanks.

- CareandHealth.com has a wide ranging coverage of health and social care, including a resource bank on social work law and policy.
- Statistics on poverty in the UK are available at the [New Policy Institute](http://NewPolicyInstitute.org) site. [Oxfam GB](http://OxfamGB.org) also have material on poverty in the United Kingdom.
- Links to documents about the NHS are held at [South Bank University](http://SouthBankUniversity.org).

US and UK Historical sources include:

- [The workhouse](http://TheWorkhouse.org)
- <http://www.archives.gov/>
- http://www.ssa.gov/data_research.htm
- <http://newdeal.feri.org/texts/default.cfm>
- [Historical texts on line](http://HistoricalTexts.org)
- [British Pathé News.](http://BritishPathéNews.org)
- [National Archive](http://NationalArchive.gov) (UK)

Other countries

Sites dealing with national social policies in countries that may be of interest::

- [Canada](http://Canada.org): Canadian Social Research Links offers a very wide range of material.
- [Germany](http://Germany.org) : Gerhard Bäcker's site (in German) links to other German social policy sites.
- [Japan](http://Japan.org): Social Security in Japan: towards a Japanese model of the Welfare State, by Naomi Maruo.

Other Useful SOCIAL POLICY Background sites:

- [World Wide Web Resources for Social Workers](http://WorldWideWebResourcesforSocialWorkers.org)
- [Social Policy Virtual Library](http://SocialPolicyVirtualLibrary.org)
- [Social Sciences Information Gateway](http://SocialSciencesInformationGateway.org)

- [Information for practice](#)
- [sociology resources](#)
- <http://www.policy.com/>
- <http://www.intellectualcapital.com/>
- <http://www.childrensdefense.org/>
- <http://www.hoover.org/>
- <http://epn.org/>
- <http://www.manhattan-institute.org/>
- <http://www.heritage.org/>
- <http://www.ospl.state.nc.us/sdn/>
- <http://hyperfind.org/>
- <http://www.epionline.org>
- <WWW.NAA.ORG/HOTLINKS/INDEX.ASP>
- <WWW.FEDSTATS.GOV>
- <WWW.NCEXCHANGE.ORG/NCJUSTICE>
- <WWW.UNCP.EDU/SOCIOLOGY/SW/NCSSA.HTML>
- <WWW.NCINFO.IOG.UNC.EDU/NCACDSS>
- <WWW.NCJUSTICE.ORG/WRIN>
- <WWW.WELFAREINFO.ORG>
- <WWW.STATE.NC.US/DHR/DSS/WRKFIRST.HTM>
- <WWW.NCWRE.ORG>
- <WWW.STATEPOLICY.ORG>
- <WWW.HANDSNET.ORG>
- <WWW.NCCHILD.ORG>
- <WWW.CHILDRENSDEFENSE.ORG>

METHODS TO ATTAIN OBJECTIVES:

The primary learning format will be lecture, discussion and policy based classroom activities that involve all students as active learners. Class lectures and exercises are based on the understanding that all readings assigned for that topic have been completed prior to class. It is also anticipated that each student has experiences and points of view that will enrich class discussions. The Instructor will be responsible for organizing and presenting primary course material, assisting any student with course-related material and assignments, and for assessing student progress. The student in SWK 435 will be responsible for attending all classes, facilitating his or her own learning and that of others in class, working cooperatively in sharing ideas, making observations, and asking questions. Of course, all assignments must be turned in a timely and professional fashion, i.e., Word-processed, spell and grammar checked, properly formatted, and cited where needed.

AHC:**Conformity to the University Academic Honor Code is basic to academic integrity.**

“As a student at The University of North Carolina Wilmington, I am committed to honesty and truthfulness in academic inquiry and in the pursuit of knowledge. I pledge to uphold and promote the UNCW Student Academic Honor Code.”

ATTENDANCE:

Regular attendance and full participation is expected. More than one absence requires written explanation.

GRADING:

A final letter grade based on a 100-point scale will be given upon completion of the course. Your total final grade score includes points for assignments, quizzes, and/or presentations. Bonus points will be added to the final grade total based upon quality of participation. Participation is defined as regular class attendance, observable preparation for class, and active participation in class discussions and exercises.

NOTE: There will be +/- grades given in this course.
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SWK435 SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR REQUIRED PAPERS

Abramovitz, Mimi. *Regulating the Lives of Women*. Boston: South End Press, 1988.

Axinn, June and Herman Levin. *Social Welfare: a History of the American Response to Need*. New York: Longman, 1997.

Baker, Paul J. and Anderson, Louis E. *Social Problem: A Critical Thinking Approach*. Belmont, Ca.: Wadsworth, 1987.

Berger, Peter L. and Thomas Luckmann. *The Social Construction of Reality*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday and Co., Inc., Anchor Books, 1967.

Beverly, David A. and McSweeney, Edward A. *Social Welfare & Social Justice*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1987.

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Budd, Edward C. (ed.) *Inequality and Poverty*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1967.

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- Figucira-McDonough, Josefina, "Policy Practice: The Neglected Side of Social Work Intervention," *Social Work*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (March 1993), pp. 179-188.
- Fisher, Robert. "Political Social Work," *Journal of Social Work Education*, Vol. 31, No 2. (Spring/Summer 1995), pp. 194-203.

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- Freire, Paulo. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. New York: The Seabury Press, 1974.
- Frey, Gerlad A., "A Framework for Promoting Organization Change", *Families In Society*, Vol. 71 No. 3, (March 1990) pp 142-147.
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- social Welfare*, Vol. XX, No. I (March 1993). pp. 71 - 85.
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