

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

COURSE/UNIQUE NUMBER: SW 323K/62410

INSTRUCTOR: MONICA FAULKNER, PH.D., LMSW

SEMESTER: SPRING 2011

OFFICE NUMBER: 3.212CB

MEETING TIME: T, TH 12:30-2PM

OFFICE PHONE: (512) 471-7191

MEETING PLACE: SSW 2.112

OFFICE HOURS: T, TH 2:00-3:00

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SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND ISSUES

(W- CONTAINS A SUBSTANTIAL WRITING COMPONENT; REQUIRED BSW COURSE)

I. Standardized Course Description

This course is the second course in the social policy curriculum area. Prerequisites include Government 310L and 312L (or their equivalents), an introductory economics course, and admission to the social work major. This course is designed to provide students with the ability to analyze contemporary social welfare policy issues and programs and to understand the relationship between social policy and social work practice. The course focuses on the historical, political, economic, and other social conditions that influence policy development in the United States. Specific policy areas that are discussed are those in which social workers play major roles: income maintenance (with a focus on social insurance and public assistance), health, mental health, child welfare, and aging. Policy issues and programs are addressed as they affect majority groups as well as populations-at-risk (e.g., children, people of color, people with disabilities, women, GBLTs) with a particular emphasis on social and economic justice. Students learn to use policy analysis tools in order to understand how policy influences practice and planning decisions and how social workers can influence social welfare policy.

II. Standardized Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand significant historical events and persons that influenced the field of social work and social welfare policy; (PB 25)
2. Analyze the connections between the history and contemporary structures of social policy; (PB 25)
3. Understand the impact of economics, politics, and social values on the identification of social problems and policy formation in the United States and the ways that issues of diversity (such as culture, class, gender, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, and age) have been addressed; (PB 25)
4. Apply conceptual frameworks for analyzing the development of social welfare policy; (PB 25)
5. Define key concepts in social welfare policy (e.g. universal, residual, public assistance, social insurance, cash, in-kind); (PB 25)
6. Understand the major policies that form the foundation of social welfare policy in the U.S.; (PB 25)
7. Apply relevant research frameworks for evaluating the effects of social welfare policy on national, state, and local populations and economically vulnerable sub-groups; (PB 25)
8. Analyze the impact of social welfare policy in terms of social and economic justice and the promotion of social work values; (PB 25)

9. Discuss trends in comparative international social policy; (PB 25)
10. Understand roles social workers play in the formation of social policy and the effects of social policies on social work practice; (PB 25 and PB 26)
11. Exercise policy advocacy skills at the legislative and organizational levels. (PB 26)

The School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, we engage in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS). Several required courses in our curriculum are part of this ongoing assessment, including this course. Below is a list of the specific Educational Policies (EP) and Practice Behaviors (PB) that are assessed in this course. The complete EPAS can be optioned from your Student Handbook.

EP2.1.8 Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.

PB25 Analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies that advance social well-being

Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

Assignment: Mid-term exam, final exam, policy group project

PB26 Collaborate with colleagues and clients for effective policy action

Objectives 10 and 11

Assignment: Mid-term exam, final exam, policy group project

III. Teaching Methods

This class is conducted using a variety of teaching methods such as lectures, videos, guest speakers, experiential activities and group discussions. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to each class period. Class instruction is designed to encourage student participation and input.

IV. Required Readings

a. Textbook

Dinitto, D.M. (2011). *Social Welfare: Politics and Public Policy* (7th Ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

b. Group topic book

Students will be assigned groups based on their interest in various policy topics. Students are required to read the book corresponding to their group topic.

c. Additional readings

Additional readings from other books and journal articles may be assigned. Any additional readings will be available on UT Blackboard.

V. Course Requirements

Group Project	
Individual group reflection	15%
Activities worksheet	10%
Paper draft	10%
Final paper	20%
Presentation	10%
Mid term exam	15%
Final Exam	15 %
Class participation (Can drop two absences in case of emergency)	<u>5 %</u>
	100%

UNDERGRADUATE GRADING SCALE

100 - 94 = A

93 - 90 = A-

89 - 87 = B+

86 - 84 = B

83 - 80 = B-

79 - 77 = C+

76 - 74 = C

73 - 70 = C-

69 - 67 = D+

66 - 64 = D

63 - 60 = D-

59 and below = F

1. Policy group project. Students will work in small groups to explore a policy issue in depth. Members of the group will be required to read an additional assigned book related to their topic. Each group member will be required to complete a book reflection paper and attend three legislative events. The entire group will complete a policy analysis paper and presentation. Additional information on this assignment will be provided in class.
2. Exams. There will be a mid-term exam and final exam covering the readings, class lectures, guest speakers and class videos. Exams are not cumulative. If you are unable to take an exam on the assigned date for any reason other than an emergency, you must notify the instructor at least one week in advance of the test date.
3. Class participation. Students will receive five points for class attendance, class participation and professional conduct. Attendance will be taken every class period. A student may miss two classes without penalty. For each additional class missed, one point will be deducted from the class participation grade. In addition, students who inappropriately use cell phones, computers or any other technological device during class will have one point deducted from their participation grade each time the behavior occurs. If all participation points are deducted from a student's class participation grade and continued absences and/or class disruptions occur, additional points will be deducted from the student's final grade in the same manner in which they were deducted from the class participation grade.

4. Extra Credit Points. Up to three points may be obtained for attendance at approved events related to social welfare issues. Information about approved events will be posted on Blackboard. One point can be earned for each event. Points will be added to the student's final grade. Attendance at these events must include at least two hour participation at the event. Students must bring a copy of the event program signed by the speaker or an event organizer to verify attendance. Evidence from event attendance should be turned into the professor as soon as possible after the event. All attendance materials must be turned in to the professor by the last class day in order to receive extra credit points. Participation in these events cannot be simultaneously counted as an activity for the student's group policy project.

VI. Class Policies

1. *Class Attendance*. Class attendance is required every class period for the entire class period. Attendance will be taken each class. It is the student's sole responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each class. Students are allowed to drop two absences due to unforeseen circumstances. Any class material missed due to a class absence is the students' sole responsibility.
2. *Class participation*. Students are expected to complete the readings prior to class, and should be well prepared to participate in discussions and experiential learning assignments. Failure to demonstrate through discussions that one has completed the readings will be considered in assigning the class participation grade.
3. *General assignment requirements*. All assignments must be typed, be double spaced and have one inch margins. References/sources used in papers must be in APA format and be academic/scholarly sources. If questions about the credibility of a reference arise, consult with the instructor. The instructor is available to assist students in proof reading and formatting papers. However, students must contact the instructors 14 days before an assignment is due to arrange for assistance. The instructor is also available by email to answer questions about assignments. Students should submit questions or requests for clarifications at least 24 hours before an assignment is due. If an assignment is due in less than 24 hours, the instructor cannot guarantee a timely response.
4. *Assignment due dates*. Students will be penalized 5 points for each calendar day that an assignment is late. UT does not allow Incompletes (grade of X) to provide additional time to complete assignment. Students will be informed of any changes in assignments, due dates, and other class content. If an assignment is due on a date the student cannot attend class or during a time when a student is having difficulties printing a paper, papers may be emailed to the professor by the start of that day's class.
5. *The University of Texas Honor Code*. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.
6. *Professional Conduct in Class*. The professor expects students to act like professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and

opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism. Professional conduct also includes timely arrival to class, respectful behavior during class and appropriate use of technology. No cell phone use, ipod or other devices are permitted during class. Computers may only be used for taking notes or relevant in class activities. Any inappropriate use of computers for emailing or internet usage is not permitted. Professional conduct includes respectful and meaningful efforts to participate in group projects. Failure to display professional conduct may result in a deduction from attendance points.

7. *Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty.* Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>).
8. *Documented Disability Statement.* Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.
9. *Religious Holidays.* By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.
10. *Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students.* Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.
11. *Safety.* As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.
12. *Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL).* If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership

among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

13. *Emergency Evacuation Policy*. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:
 - a. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
 - b. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
 - c. In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
 - d. Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

VIII. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	T	1-18	Introduction	Syllabus
	Th	1-20		Introduction
2	T	1-25*	Politics & the policy making process	Ch.1
	Th	1-27		
3	T	2-1	Analyzing social policy	Ch.2
	Th	2-3		
4	T	2-8	History of social welfare policy	Ch.3
	Th	2-10*		Finish ½ group book
5	T	2-15	Poverty	Ch. 4
	Th	2-17		
6	T	2-22	Social Insurance	Ch. 5, 6
	Th	2-24		Finish group book
7	T	3-1	Public Assistance	Ch. 7
	Th	3-3		
8	T	3-8	Mid-term exam	
	Th	3-10		Exam
9	T	3-15	SPRING BREAK	
	Th	3-17		
10	T	3-22	Workforce development	Ch. 9
	Th	3-24*		
11	T	3-29	Healthcare	Ch. 8
	Th	3-31*		Activities & interviews due for each person
12	T	4-5*	Family Policy	Sawhill et al.
	Th	4-7		
13	T	4-12	Protecting vulnerable populations	Ch. 10
	Th	4-14*		Paper draft due
14	T	4-19*	Immigration	Ch. 12
	Th	4-21		
15	T	4-26*	Social justice	Ch. 11
	Th	4-28		
16	T	5-3	Group Presentations	Presentation; final paper due
	Th	5-5		Presentation
	Sa	5-14 (2-5pm)	Final Exam	Location TBA

*Class will meet in Utopia