SPRING 2016
Course Title: Social Welfare Policy Analysis
Course Prefix: SOWK Course No.: 3123 Section No.: P01

Department of Social Work | College of Arts & Sciences

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Office Hours: MW: 10 am-11am; 12-1pm; 3:30-5pm
F: 10 am-11am; 12-1pm; 2 pm-5pm
Virtual Office Hours: M-F: 8am-5pm

Course Location: W R Banks 209
Class Meeting Days & Times: MW 9-9:50am
      F

Catalog Description:
Study of the history, philosophy, structure and functions of social welfare services. Include an examination of policy-making processes and models, and effects of legislation on social work practice. Utilizes an interdisciplinary approach including social, political, legal, economic, and administrative.

Prerequisites:
Professional Foundation Prerequisite: HIST 1313, HIST 1323, POSC 1113, POSC 1123, Social/Behavioral Science, PHIL 2023, SOWK 2113, admission to program. Co-requisites: SOWK 3133, SOWK 4123. This course is restricted to social work majors and others by special permission
Co-requirements:

**Required Text:**

**Recommended Text/Readings:**

See course units of study for required readings

**Access to Learning Resources:**
PVAMU Library:
- phone: (936) 261-1500;
- web: [http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/](http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/)

University Bookstore:
- phone: (936) 261-1990;
- web: [https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d](https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d)

**Course Goals or Overview:**
1. Introduce you to social work profession, its values, fields of practice and societal role.
2. Examine philosophies of social welfare provision and the resulting practices.
3. Survey the range of social welfare policies and programs and their impact on populations at risk for oppression and marginalization.
4. Study of the role of social work in promoting social and economic justice.
5. Introduce you to the use of professional resources in research and writing.

**Course Outcomes/Objectives**
At the end of this course, the student will:

1. Describe the profession of social work and its fields of practice.
2. Explain the values of social work.
3. Apply the values of social work to societal problems.
4. Explain the history of the social work profession.
5. Recognize the causes of social problems.
6. Identify major social welfare responses to social problems.
7. Differentiate between traditional, conservative and liberal approaches to social problems.
8. Describe the impact of major social welfare policies and programs on disadvantaged populations.
9. Define the role of social work in striving to establish and maintain social and economic justice.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Note: See Program Outcomes in True Outcomes

Exams – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material
Exercises – Written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material
Projects – assignments designed to measure ability to apply presented course material
Class Participation – daily attendance and participation in class discussions (instruments will vary slightly depending on the course)

Grading Matrix (points will vary according to instructor’s grading system)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Value (points or percentages)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination #1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination #2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination #3</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy/Social Issue</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Class</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>
Grade Determination:
A = 100 – 90 pts;
B = 89 – 80 pts;
C = 79 – 70 pts;
D = 69 – 60 pts;
F = 59 pts or below

Course Procedures

A. Examinations
1. There will be three major examinations. Examinations are multiple choice and true/false questions.
2. The final exam will be a short answer/essay format and will cover material from the semester.
3. Students will be given the opportunity to take a make-up examination only if prior approval has been obtained from the instructor for an absence due to compelling reasons. Students who fail to take the examination on the scheduled date without prior permission will receive a grade of “zero” for the examination.

B. Assignments & Projects
1. **Group Policy Analysis** A group paper and project applying a policy issue and analysis process.
   The group project is developmental in nature and has 3 parts. A group presentation is part of the final grade.

   **Part A:** This assignment requires each group to actually engage in the policy analysis process. Each group must choose a social policy or piece of social welfare legislation for analysis. Each group must identify an area of social policy analysis for the group project. Please note that the “lack of something” is not a social policy – it may be a social problem, but not a social policy.

   **Part B:** Each group must apply a policy analysis model to the social policy selected. The project should focus on current social policy and suggestions for change based on the analysis. Groups should examine positives and negatives in terms of effects of the policy and/or change on client systems. This discussion must include an assessment of effects related to social and economic justice, diversity, and social work values and ethics. The group must identify appropriate strategies for making any recommended changes and assess the resources that may be needed to make the changes. In this analysis it is extremely important to support the policy analysis and conclusions with data from research articles. The group is expected to support the analysis with a literature review in which references are cited appropriately (minimum of 15, non-textbook sources). The paper should be professionally written and approximately 15-20 pages in length, excluding references and title page.

   **Part C:** Annotated Bibliography of Sources. In the course of preparing the policy analysis, documentation must be identified to support the analysis. Groups are required to prepare a list of their
source material including relevant social indicators and research data to support their analysis. A list of these sources with a two to three sentence annotations will be submitted.

2. **Class Exercises/Writings** Short quizzes, low stake writings, and/or class exercises may be given to help students bring to mind the homework reading they did or to explore their thoughts about the topic for today.

**Course Requirement Due Dates**

- Examination #1 Date: 02/12/2016
- Examination #2 Date: 03/11/2016
- Examination #3 Date: 04/06/2016
- Final Examination
  - Date: Final Exam Schedule
- Public Policy/Social Issue Paper Date: 04/10/2016
- Public Policy/Social Issue Presentations Date: 04/11/2016--5/02/2016 (subject to change)
- Class Exercises/Writings Date: TBA
References


MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNALS OF SOCIAL POLICY

American Behavioral Scientist (ABS)
Journal of Social Issues
Journal of Social Policy
Journal of Social Science Research
Policy Review
Policy Sciences
Policy Studies Journal
Policy Studies Review
Social Forces
Social Policy
Social Thought

JOURNALS OF POLICY ANALYSIS AND POLITICS

Evaluation & Program Planning
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPAM)
Journal of Policy Modeling
Law & Policy Quarterly
Policy & Politics

SOCIAL WORK/SOCIAL WELFARE JOURNALS

AFFILIA Journal of Women and Social Work
Administration in Social Work
Journal of Social Work Education
Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare (JSSW)
Public Welfare
Social Service Review
Social Work

JOURNALS ADDRESSING SPECIALIZED AREAS OF INTEREST

Children and Families

Child Abuse & Neglect
Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal
Child & Youth Services
Child Welfare
Children and Youth Services Review
Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services
Family Relations
Journal of Family Issues
Journal of Marriage and the Family

Gerontology
The Gerontologist
Journal of Applied Gerontology
Journal of Gerontology

**Health Policy**

AIDS and Public Policy Journal
AIDS Weekly
American Journal of Public Health
Health & Social Work
Journal of Community Health
Journal of Health Politics, Policy, & Law
New England Journal of Medicine
Social Work in Health Care
Social Science & Medicine

**Mental Health Policy**

Administration and Policy in Mental Health
Community Mental Health Journal
Hospital & Community Psychiatry

**Justice Policy**

Crime & Delinquency
Journal Of Criminal Justice
The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology
Juvenile and Family Court Journal
16 WEEK CALENDAR

Week One and two: Introduction and overview of the course. Review chapter one.

Chapter (s): Reading: The Policy Based Profession
Chapter 1: Popple & Leighninger, Ideological differences and attitudes in social work and social welfare and a review of:
- An introduction to social work
- Dual targets of SW
- Professionalism

Week Three and four: Social Welfare Policy Analysis and Exam 1
Topic
- The many meanings of policy analysis
- Methods

EXAM 1

Chapter (s): Reading: Chapter 3: Popple & Leighninger,

Self study
- Understand the usefulness of a framework for policy analysis.
- Understand the factors contributing to the viability of a policy proposal.
- Students will understand how to determine the feasibility of a policy proposal.
- Students will gain exposure to a variety of resources critical to policy analysis.

Week five and six: Social/Economic Analysis
Topic
- Delineation of policy under analysis
- Facts related to problem
- Theory of Human Behavior
- Social Values

Chapter (s): Chapter 5: Popple & Leighninger,
Week seven: Topic  
Research/Writing Clinic

Self-study  
Prepare to do in-depth research:  
- On your chosen policy analysis  
- An outline of the policy analysis process

MID TERM EXAM

Week Eight: Topic  
Politics and Social Welfare Policy

Chapter (s):  
Chapter 11: Popple & Leighninger,

Self study  
Prepare for discussions on the following prompts:  
- What are the similarities and differences between market rationality and bureaucratic rationality?  
- Why do the authors link implementation of public policy with public support?  
- Why has the promise of government program evaluations not been fulfilled?  
- What can be done to reverse the declining involvement of social workers in the formulation of social policy?  
- In what ways are the skills required for political practice consistent with the skills required for direct practice?

Week nine  
Spring Break

Week ten: Topic  
Taking Action: Policy Practice for Social Workers

Chapter (s):  
Chapter 12: Popple & Leighninger,

Self-study  
Prepare for discussions on the following prompts:  
- Analytical Skill: Program Evaluation  
- Interactional Skills  
- Political Skills

THIRD EXAM
Week eleven and twelve: Topic Conclusion and Research/Writing Clinic

Chapter (s): Chapter 13: Popple & Leighninger,

Self study: Prepare for discussions on the following prompts:
- The bottom line is the bottom line
- Compassion and protection
- Ideology

Week thirteen and fourteen: Class presentations

Week fifteen: Class presentations

Week sixteen: Final Exam

University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook): Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook): You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered
information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

**Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)**
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

**Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):**
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Attendance Policy:**
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class. Students will be marked as tardy 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. Students will receive an absence for every third tardy.

**Late Assignment Policy:**
Assignments are due on the date specified in the course syllabus, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. No assignments submitted after the due date will be accepted unless prior approval was received. Assignments submitted under the instructor’s door will not be accepted, regardless if the assignment was submitted on the due date.

**Student Academic Appeals Process**
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor’s assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.
Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:
- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9
- 56K modem or network access
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 8X or greater CD-ROM
- 64MB RAM
- Hard drive with 40MB available space
- 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins
- Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
  - Sending and receiving email
  - A working knowledge of the Internet
  - Proficiency in Microsoft Word
  - Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
  - Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette): students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.

Technical Support: Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

Communication Expectations and Standards:
All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours.

You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following my receipt of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.