I. COURSE DOMAIN AND BOUNDARY

This course introduces students to the concepts, history and development of social welfare, social welfare institutions and social policy within the United States. Content includes the scope of social welfare policy development and systems of service, the funding authority and patterns of service delivery, and how political and social ideologies influence policy development. This review includes investigation of local, state, federal and international levels and the understanding that policy is a function of social political and economic context and transitions. The evolution and current status of the profession of social work is described as it interfaces with social welfare development, policies and practices. An analytic framework is utilized to identify trends and assess gaps in policies and programs especially as they impact on minorities, women and other vulnerable groups. Reform is discussed in terms of the policy alternatives and the need for social work involvement is political arenas, advocacy groups and as a part of organizational change efforts in order to advance social and economic justice.

II. Competencies

1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly
2. **Apply social work principles to guide professional practice***
3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments
4. Engage diversity and difference in practice
5. **Advance human rights and social and economic justice***
6. Engage in research-informed research and practice –informed research
7. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment
8. **Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services***
9. Respond to contexts that shape practice
10. Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
11. Analyze the impact of the urban context on a range of client systems, including practice implications***
III. LEARNING OUTCOMES/
    Benchmarks

A. Show basic knowledge of political processes and social work involvement in political
   activities, advocacy groups, and/or organizational change, as part of their professional
   identity. (1A)

B. Comprehend the historical evolution of social work as an emerging profession engaged in
   the promotion of social welfare and social justice. (2B)

C. Assess policy alternatives that address current gaps in service delivery assess policy
   alternatives that address current gaps in service delivery. (3A)

D. Comprehend the historical evolution of social work as an emerging profession engaged in
   the promotion of social welfare and social justice. (3B)

E. Develop skills necessary to participate in political processes, political activities,
   advocacy, and/or organizational change that can lead to social welfare policy reform and
   promote social and economic justice. (5A)

F. Develop skills necessary to participate in political processes, political activities,
   advocacy, and/or organizational change that can lead to social welfare policy reform and
   promote social and economic justice. (5B)

G. Demonstrate the skills necessary to analyze social welfare policies utilizing an analytic
   framework (e.g., Gilbert & Terrell) that incorporates scientific research, professional
   social work values and societal beliefs and values as they apply to policy choices
   concerning eligibility (who), type of benefit (what), delivery system (how), and source
   and type of funding (financing). (6A)

H. Analyze the historical development of social welfare from the poor laws to the welfare
   state viewed dynamically as a function of social, economic, and political changes. (8A)

I. Analyze the political process and its influence on the formulation of social welfare policy
   and social work practice. (8B)

J. Show basic knowledge of political processes and social work involvement in political
   activities, advocacy groups, and/or organizational change, as part of their professional
   identity. (9B)

K. Identify trends in the development of the social welfare system and a broad range of
   income maintenance, health, and housing programs that will serve as a knowledge base
   for social work practice, particularly as it relates to urban settings. (11A)

IV. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The exams, written assignments and/or in-class exercises, participation and preparedness
are designed to measure how well each student meets the course competencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>95-100 A</th>
<th>90-94 A-</th>
<th>87-89 B+</th>
<th>83-86 B</th>
<th>80-82 B-</th>
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V. TEXTS/REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbooks for SW 7720 are the following:


Two additional texts are useful to provide background on policy analysis. These books are recommended texts for SW 7720:


VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

The initial focus of this course is to provide a historical overview of the development of social welfare policies and the profession of social work. The course is also designed to prepare students to systematically analyze social problems and to gain understanding of the social welfare system in the U.S. The establishment of social policy through legislative action will be reviewed and the ways that policy issues are brought to the attention of decision makers through research, social conflicts, and powerful social events will be emphasized. The role of discrimination, oppression and inequality in the establishment and implementation of social welfare policies and services will be discussed.

The four units covered in this course include: the historical development of social welfare policy and services and the development of the profession of social work; a description and analysis of the organized social welfare system at the federal, state and local level; and the nature and scope of current social problems. Emphasis is given to the social welfare policy issues of social and economic justice, diversity, populations at risk, and social work ethics and values.

VII. COURSE OUTLINE

Below is a suggested course outline that uses the required text. Instructors may alter the sequence and add additional readings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Historical conceptualization of social welfare; colonial America...Indoor relief</td>
<td>Trattner—chapters 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The civil war... settlement house movement</td>
<td>Trattner—chapters 5-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mental health movement...Social Work and Welfare</td>
<td>Trattner—chapters 9-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Depression and new Deal ...War on Welfare</td>
<td>Trattner—chapters 13-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Social Justice and Social Workers</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Social Justice and Social Workers</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Government’s Role</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Government’s Role</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Policy analysis and Policy Practice</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Policy analysis and Policy Practice</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 9&amp;10</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>Barusch—chapters 14&amp;15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Course wrap-up</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VIII. SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENTS

1. Exams/Quizzes on Current Policy and how social policy is apparent within service delivery systems (e.g. current eligibility criteria for programs or services).

2. Students will write a comprehensive essay (5-6 pages) which reflects varying opinions in regards to Social Work’s attitude toward assisting those in need.

IX. REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT

**Assessment of US Social Welfare Policy Project**

Students will prepare a 15-20 page (not including title page, tables, figures and references) paper describing the historical development of a social welfare issue of their choice. The assignment may be done individually or in groups. Outline for the paper:

A. Select a social welfare issue/problem discussed in class that is traceable from the Colonial Era to the present.
B. Discuss how the issue impacts members of vulnerable populations (choose two).
C. Present an overview of how the issue has been defined overtime and when and why the issue’s definition changed over time.
D. Discuss how and why policy toward the issue changed over time, identifying how the definition of the issue affected policy.
E. Discuss the current state of policy in regards to the issue, and factors that led to it.
F. Project future trends that may affect the issue and policies that might be implemented as a result.
G. Interview one advocate or legislator regarding their opinion of current policy concerning this issue.

H. Assess information on how another country besides the US addresses this concern and how successful/unsuccesful this strategy is.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


